

On Wednesday, PKI gained 0.35% in the interbank market and settled at Rs293.88 with an increase of Rs1.02. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said that the organization is only asking Pakistan to tax the rich and protect the poor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of
Succession Certificate by M.
Sadia Sher with regards to
moveable & immovable assets
of deceased Ms. Noor Tajeta
Begum citizen number
1730145596348 has been
received. Following are declared
as legal heirs.

1.Sadia Sher (Daughter)

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

PID/(I) 1855/23
JINCHER PESHAWAR SADA MEGA
CENTER PESHAWAR SADA



Govt to address issues of all universities: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): The 15th session of the Senate of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan was held at the Governor House in Peshawar on Thursday under the leadership of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali.

The meeting was attended by key figures, including the Minister for Education, Muhammad Qasim Jan, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq, Additional Secretary Education Department, Javed Iqbal, and Muhammad Ayaz Khan Additional Secretary Establishment, among others. Representatives from the Higher Education Commission and other Senate members were also present.

During the session, the minutes of the university's previous meeting were approved unanimously. The meeting also saw the approval of the university's draft statutes, which covered various aspects,

including the university's powers and authorities, disciplinary rules, ministerial staff, faculty members, administrative officers' appointments, and pay scales, among others.

Senate members engaged in detailed discussions regarding certain objections raised by some members regarding the promotion process of ministerial staff from Grade 1 to 16. They also discussed appointments, promotions, and pension procedures for TTS and regular faculty members.

Vice Chancellor emphasized that the university's statutes, under the supervision of the Higher Education Department and the Establishment Department, were drafted with the aim of improving the university's administrative and educational standards. The Senate's approval of these statutes marked a significant step toward achieving this goal.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, addressing the gathering, stressed the importance of collaboration and learning from each other's perspectives to achieve betterment in any organization.

He mentioned his efforts to address financial and administrative issues in all universities during his 10-month tenure and expressed the hope that higher education institutions would emerge from their challenges.

Governor also urged universities to encourage employees to register complaints related to their performance, and those complaints should be forwarded to the relevant employees.

He emphasized the importance of seeking students' feedback and addressing any complaints related to lectures or the performance of staff members.

He believed that this

practice would enhance the overall functionality of the university. Regarding pension issues in universities, he suggested that all universities collaborate with insurance companies to establish a better system for pension contributions.

This would not only benefit retired employees but also provide financial assistance in cases of illness or death during service, ultimately reducing the burden on universities.

Governor highlighted his efforts, along with the cooperation of Provincial Minister for Education, Muhammad Qasim Jan, and his team, to navigate universities through crises and improve educational standards.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to work together for the betterment of the educational landscape in the region.

Meanwhile, various delegations from different districts of the province also met with the Governor during separate meetings, discussing issues related to education, healthcare, electricity, and other essential needs, seeking his support for their resolution.

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Governor assured cooperation to the delegation and said that authorities would be informed about their woes adding that he would soon visit Upper Dir to meet them.

He urged Sultan Khel and Pinda Khel tribes to promote unity and mutual tolerance among their people and work to strengthen the country.

Later a delegation of

Baluchistan traders called on KP Governor and informed him about their problems. The delegation was led by Mir Muhammad Zubair, Shah Zaman Bangalzai and Haji Asif Kakar. Governor listened to problems of traders and assured them his cooperation.

Meanwhile, Bishop Humphrey Sarfaraz Peters also called on KP governor and discussed with him improvement and construction work of Edwards College Peshawar.

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Governor for promoting scenic places of KP to boost tourism industry

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Thursday highlighted the abundance of tourist attractions in KP and said that proper introduction of scenic places of the province to world can be used to boost tourism as an industry.

He was talking to 35 member delegation of Upper Dir that was led by former provincial minister, Shafiullah Khan. The delegation comprised elders including former MPA, Malik Behram, Arifullah, Ali Khan and Malik Badshah Din.

The delegation also informed governor about

issues of Sultan Khel and Pinda Khel tribe and expressed their concerns and reservations relating to forests, irrigation and mineral departments.

Delegation members also urged governor to convey their problems to concerned authorities keeping in view their sacrifices. They also expressed gratitude to governor and invited him to visit their areas.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor said that whole province including Upper Dir and Malakand Division is richly endowed with natural beauty and proper projection of these beautiful areas would not only boost tourist

activities but would also help creating opportunities of growth for locals. He urged locals to use modern technologies and digital media to aware world about their areas that are beautiful and still unexplored.

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PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan addressing newly inducted students of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Science and Technology.

Meeting takes decisions for implementation of NAP

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting regarding the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) held here on Thursday with Commissioner Peshawar Division, Mohammad Zubair in the chair.

The participants of the meeting agreed on joint and coordinated efforts of district administration, police and Pakistan Army for the elimination of extortions, narcotics, illegal cell phone SIMs and prevention of hundi-hawala business.

Those who attended the meeting were included Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all five districts of the division, District Police Officers (DPOs), administrative officers of sensitive agencies, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and Pakistan Tele-Communication Authority (PTA) while Commander 102 Brigade and Capital City

Police Officer (CCPO) attended the meeting as special guests.

Talking to the participants of the meeting, Commissioner Peshawar Division, Mohammad Zubair directed for guaranteeing the implementation of decisions taken during a meeting of the provincial apex committee held on September 14, 2023 with the Caretaker CM KP Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair and all agencies were directed to give names of their focal persons within a period of 24 hours.

Necessary directives were also issued to all concerned authorities to prevent extortion as per National Action Plan. PTA was directed to ensure the prevention of the sale of the cell phone SIMs through illegal means while directives were also issued for monitoring of telephone

calls received by traders and industries for payment of extortion and provision of a peaceful environment to the trading community.

The meeting also decided to take immediate steps for the eradication of narcotics especially from the education institutions and for this purpose proposals were sought from police and other agencies.

For the elimination of the illegal business of hundi-hawala, the representative of the State Bank of Pakistan was directed for simplification of the procedure of sending and receiving of cash amounts from inside and outside the country and immediate implementation of directives in this regard.

The DCs of all five districts of the division were directed to take immediate steps for the prevention of the illegal sale and purchase

of weapons and illegal use of both legal and licensed weapons. Similarly, the DCs were also directed for formal verification of all concerned documents to prevent the circulation of fake documents and contacting of the concerned organizations for their immediate verification.

During the meeting, the Excise Department was directed to ensure the registration of unregistered autorickshaws and motorcycles as soon as possible and stern action against unregistered vehicles.

A whatsapp group was also formed for making mutual coordination among the agencies more effective and strong. The Commissioner directed all agencies to dispatch the names of their focal persons within 24 hours and also convened next weekly meeting on coming Saturday.

Rural Youth Summit contributes to empowering youth in digital age



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The three-day Rural Youth Summit came to a resounding conclusion with the enthusiastic and exuberant participation of women community members from the Pakistan Community Support Project (PCSP) implementation areas. The female

students from the universities and colleges particularly based in Khyber, Peshawar, Nowshera, and the adjoining areas were also in the attendance. The RYS is a collaboration of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the World Bank to provide a transformative platform for young people, both men

and women, to explore and enrich their future development opportunities.

The RYS team comprising the PCSP and World Bank representatives designed the event that comprised engaging panel discussions and mentoring sessions with key experts to enlighten the youth about the boundless potential of digital technology, including opportunities to startup their own businesses. A special focus was given to the empowerment of women, with female speakers sharing their inspiring stories. One of the keynote speakers, Samar Khan, a professional cyclist, and founder of Samar Camp, inspired the female audiences with her journey and stated, "Everything is possible if we pursue our

dream. There is no distinction between men and women, and all of us are equally capable".

Several women role models, public influencers, startup owners, and social changemakers were invited on the third day who spoke to the audiences regarding their personal journey with reference to the experiences, challenges, and opportunities that they have had. The speakers included a renowned list of women leaders from different sectors including Shamama Arbab co-founder Euro Industries, Aasia Khan the caretaker minister for Social Welfare, Ayesha Khan from Hashoo Foundation, Kiran Shah from KSB Calligraphy, among other eminent speakers and experts.

SUIT holds exhibition

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology in Peshawar hosted the Inter-Universities Project Exhibition/Competition-2023 in collaboration with the Private Chartered Universities Forum-KP and the Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA) of KP.

The event featured an inaugural ceremony led by the Vice Chancellor of Sarhad University, Prof. Dr. Salim ur Rehman, and a closing ceremony presided over by Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, the Provincial Minister for Higher Education.

All nine member univer-

sities of the Private Chartered Universities Forum-KP, including Sarhad University, Abasyn University, City University, CECOS University, Gandhara University, Qurtuba University, Iqra National University, Northern University, and Preston University, collaborated to organize this event.

This event marked a significant milestone as it was the first time in KP's history that all private sector universities united to showcase their Final Year Projects across various disciplines.

Each university presented its ten best projects, resulting in a total of 90 projects on display.

The competition was divided into four categories: Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences, Computer Science & IT, and Management Sciences & Social Sciences.

A panel of experts from public sector universities served as jury members and assessed the projects in their respective fields.

Prof. Dr. Qasim Jan awarded prizes to the top projects in each category. During their interactions with participants, the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of promoting science and technology.

They highlighted that

quality education is crucial for competing with developed nations and encouraged students to concentrate on their studies to become valuable members of society.

Additionally, they advised teachers to engage their students in creative activities to bring honour to the country.

The Chief Guest also toured project stalls from various universities and commended the high quality of the projects developed by final-year students in various disciplines. The Chairman of HERA presented a university shield to the Chief Guest as a token of appreciation.

Minister visit PDMA headquarters

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser, the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Social Welfare, Special Education, Women Empowerment, and Prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paid a visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) headquarters.

During this visit, Director General PDMA, Jannat Gul Afridi, provided a comprehensive briefing to the caretaker provincial minister regarding the various divisions and the performance of PDMA. Several PDMA directors and officers were also in attendance.

In his briefing, DGP PDMA Jannat Gul Afridi mentioned that PDMA KP annually prepares Monsoon Contingency Plans, Heat Wave Plans, and Winter Contingency Plans in collaboration with stakeholders. These plans classify sensitive districts and ensure that relief materials are pre-positioned in these areas.

Furthermore, during the briefing, it was highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced significant losses due to floods in 2022. However, due to improved strategies and systems, over four lakh people were successfully relocated to safe areas.

PDMA, in partnership with district administrations, also constructed 184 pre-monsoon campsites to assist flood-affected individuals.

Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser commended the Provincial Disaster Management Authority's performance, acknowledging its timely provision of information and services during natural disasters and emergencies throughout the province.

She praised PDMA and related institutions for not only providing advance notice to people before floods but also ensuring their safe relocation and offering financial support to those affected. She emphasized the need to enhance the system's functionality to ensure timely assistance to the public and reiterated their commitment to working for the welfare of the people through government institutions.

Solarization of churches, temples' renovation Peshawar district govt allocates Rs65m

PESHAWAR (APP): The district government of Peshawar has allocated a hefty fund of Rs65 million for solarization of Churches in the city besides renovation of worship places of minority communities.

This was said by Mayor Peshawar, Zubair Ali while talking to media person here on Thursday after inauguration of renovation work at Peshawar Press Club.

Talking to newsmen, Mayor Zubair Ali said that he was giving special attention to minority community and in this regard had started face lifting of different Churches, Temples and Gurdwaras.

A hefty amount is allocated for solarization of Churches on which work is completed in most of places, he reiterated, adding, the district government has decided to award 1000 scholarships to deserving students for free studies and among these around 50 students will be selected from

minority and 50 from religious seminaries.

He said the government has also announced cash award schemes for position holder students to encourage them by giving prize of Rs150,000 to first, Rs100,000 to second and Rs50,000 for third position holder.

Similarly, teachers were also encouraged by announcing laptop scheme for those whose students showed excellent performance.

The Mayor said public sector schools lacks basic facilities like laboratories and for this purpose steps are being taken to equip them with modern needs.

Earlier while inauguration of PPC facelift, Zubair Ali announced applying tiles and marble in the front portion and within the premises.

He also issued directives for provision of two electric water coolers for Press club and provision of necessary playing kits and accessories for journalist community.



District government, he continued, has also chalked out a plan of giving honorarium to senior columnists and writers who are now not able to continue writing due to health issues.

He asked president Peshawar Press Club, Arshad Aziz Malik to decide the amount of honorarium and inform the district government.

On this occasion, Zubair Ali also announced a cash grant of Rs500,000 for Peshawar Press Club.

KMC and KTH organized grand CPC

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Department of Pathology, Khyber Medical College and Khyber Teaching Hospital, organized a grand CPC on "Assessment of Hematological profile in fiber illness on Thursday at Khyber Medical College Final year lecture theatre hall.

The guest of honor was Prof. Dr. Ejaz Hassan Khan Vice Chancellor Ghandhara University. Dr. Ejaz stated that grand CPC is a new approach to treating the disease in an effective manner with the help of other specialties who will provide different perspectives regarding the disease.

Dean KMC Prof. Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb graced the event as chief guest and appreciated the role and efforts of Dr. Muhammad Idrees as Chairman Pathology Department and also for organizing such a fantastic line-up of speakers.



Moreover, he said this activity is also good for social interaction among the faculty members.

Chairman Pathology, KMC/KTH Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees shared an enlightening talk as a speaker and was a true highlight of our event, leaving our audience inspired and equipped with valuable skills. He also urged the importance of pathologists in facilitation of clinical diagnosis through laboratory services.

Esteemed Speakers were Asst. Prof. Saira Nasr Malik - Pathology, Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tariq - Medical Oncology, Associate Prof. Dr. Sabahat Amir - Chairperson Pediatrics, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Fahad Khan - Medicine.

Their expertise and insights have left an indelible mark on today's Grand CPC, and we are deeply thankful for their presence. Your contribution has truly enriched our Healthcare Professionals.

BRT opens new Chamkani to Malik Saad route

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit System, known as Zu Peshawar, achieved another milestone on Thursday with the inauguration of its new route, DR-4B connecting Chamkani to Malik Saad station via Ring Road.

Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister, Zafar Ullah Khan attended the inaugural ceremony of the new route as chief guest.

This much awaited addition to the Zu Peshawar network brings the total number of routes to 14, further enhancing the city's public transportation infrastructure. The inauguration event, held at the BRT Chamkani Station, was attended by Secretary Transport, Zia Ul Haq, Chief Executive Officer TransPeshawar Dr. Tariq Usman and other officials.

Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan emphasized the importance of efficient and accessible

public transit in promoting sustainable urban development and improving the lives of the residents of Peshawar.

This route will consist of a total of 19 stops namely Chamkani, Sardar Garhi, Chughal Pura, Government Primary School, Pir Zakori Bridge, Motorway Bridge, Kamboh Adda, Pahari Pura, Kabutar Chowk, MMC Hospital, Wazir Colony, Abasyn University, Patang Chowk, Shaheed Tahseen Chowk, Charsadda Adda, Eidgah, Shahi Bagh, Bacha Khan Chowk and Malik Saad Shaheed.

A spokesperson for TransPeshawar told media, "the route will be especially beneficial to the people living on Ring Road, as well as students of the universities in this area. This route is expected to serve as a vital artery for commuters, connecting these two crucial areas of the city

while reducing travel times and congestion on the roads. With the operationalization of this, Zu Peshawar continues to revolutionize the way people move in Peshawar, offering a reliable and eco-friendly transportation alternative."

She further added, "Zu Peshawar caters to approximately 300,000 passengers daily, making it a lifeline for the city's residents and commuters. The new route is expected to further enhance the accessibility and convenience of public transportation, contributing to the city's sustainable growth."

Inauguration ceremony included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the presentation of souvenirs to key dignitaries. Guests also had the opportunity to visit the Control Centre, gaining insights into the technology and operations that make Zu Peshawar a modern and efficient public transit system.



In brief

DPO condoles with martyrs family F.P. Report

MIRAN SHAH: District Police Officer (DPO) North Waziristan visited the house of martyred constable Farman, recited Fatiha Khawani and prayed for the high status of the deceased. While briefing the media, Tariq Khan Dawar said that DPO Rokhanzeb Khan also met the father and children of the martyr. On this occasion, the district police chief said that the police is an equal participant in their grief and if the family of the deceased faces any kind of problem, their doors will always be open for them. There are equal participants in this watch. Shaheed Constable will provide all possible cooperation with Farman's children. Special care will be taken for their children's welfare. May Allah forgive the late constable and grant patience to his family.

FIA recovers vehicles, arms

HYDERABAD (PPI): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday raided the house of a customs inspector in Hyderabad and recovered four smuggled non-custom paid vehicles, arms and cash. The raid was carried out in the Heerabad area of Hyderabad. The customs inspector was arrested, and investigations against him were launched. A case was also registered against the accused. The FIA team recovered 19 short guns, 33 rifles, pistols and cartridges from the house during the raid. Four non-custom paid vehicles, 1kg of gold ornaments, Rs500,000 cash and dozens of mummified animals were also seized during the raid. "It will be determined in the investigation whether the customs inspector is involved in smuggling or not," the FIA authorities said.

MEPCO imposes over Rs 5.5m

MULTAN (INP): Multan Electric Power Company was fined over Rs 5.5 million over power pilferers after detection of 1,28,000 units during a crackdown while 71 cases have been registered against them. XEN, Muhammad Wasim talking to reporters said on Thursday that 2.4 mln have been recovered so far for stealing electricity. He informed that as many as 20 pilferers were caught red-handed adding that over Rs 3.1 mln have yet to recover, and a total of seven cases are yet to be registered. Rs 11 bln tube well defaulters of Kissan Ittehad are in the Vehari division, Mr Wasim disclosed. The operation will continue till nabbing of the last power pilferer, he concluded.

DC for planting saplings Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmatullah Wazir on Thursday planted a sapling in Government High School No. 3 in connection with the plantation drive here. The District Forest Officer, District Education Officer, Principal Government High School No. 3, officers and teachers of the education department participated in the plantation ceremony. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the students and teachers to plant saplings in schools, colleges and other places during the plantation campaign to expand the green areas which is also good for human health. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmatullah Wazir urged the students to play their role in making the plantation drive successful and protect plants in their areas so that the atmosphere in Kohat could be made healthy.

OPD suspended on fourth consecutive day at DHQ hospital



F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Outdoor Patient Departments (OPDs) in District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ), Landi Kotal suspended its services consecutively on the fourth day on Thursday in protest against malpractices of the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the health center.

The protest sit-in was initiated in front of the administration block under the banner of Grand Health

Alliance (GHA) although causality and gyny units were opened to deal with any emergency. Doctors and paramedical staff of the hospital were of the opinion that harsh behavior and corrupt practices of the MS compelled them to boycott their official duties in protest against him. Until and unless transfer of the MS, they will not join their duties, they remarked.

Meanwhile, continued agitation added problems to the visiting patients includ-

ing women and children. Abdullah, an Afghan national from Jalalabad, Nangarhar province of Afghanistan said that he brought his illing children to DHQ, Landi Kotal to get treatment for them but ironically, OPDs of the health center were closed. They returned back across the border without getting cured, he added. It is to be mentioned here that DHQ Hospital, Landi Kotal has approximately 700 OPDs daily.

Irregularity in probe not to be tolerated: RPO

F.P. Report

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Muhammad Sohail Choudhary said that irregularity in investigative matters is not tolerated at all. When such cases come to notice, strict action is taken. He further said that the accountability process in the police is fast and very strict. Delivering justice on merit should be the motto of a police officer.

Inspector Akhtar Islam's appeal was suspended for increment of one year, Inspector Muhammad Zulfikar's two appeals were

approved for salary reduction by two stages and service forfeiture for one year. Inspector Muhammad Yaqoob's charge sheet has been changed to one-year increment withholding of demotion salary.

The appeals of Sub-Inspector Shahbaz Hussain, Taj Muhammad and Maqbool Hussain were accepted. Sub-Inspector Khalid Naveed's appeal changed the demotion pay two stages to a fine equal to one month's salary. Two appeals of Assistant Sub-Inspector Yasin Sajjad, Muhammad Razzaq, and Ejaz Hussain were

approved. Rejected two appeals of Constable Asad Javed and Muhammad Maqbool.

Later, the RPO has awarded certificates of appreciation to SHO of Cantt Police Station Mehtab Alam and Moharr Cantt Muhammad Mursalin. It may be recalled that during the visit of the RPO to the Cantt police station, he was praised for cleanliness, attendance, hawalat and maintenance of the building. On which he has awarded the two officers with certificates of appreciation today.

Plan of Hindukush landscape finalized

F.P. Report

CHITRAL UPPER: To finalize the management plan of Hindu Kash landscape, a one-day stakeholder consultation workshop was organized in Chitral in which more than 55 stakeholders including women from different sectors participated.

Representatives from the Wildlife Department, Forest Department, Livestock Department, Agriculture Department, and other government and non-government agencies as well as local community representatives were also involved.

DFO of Wildlife Division Chitral Farooq Nabi and Director of Agriculture Research Station Dr. Abdul Rauf besides Dr. Shoaib Hameed of Snow Leopard Foundation, RPM Chitral Jamiullah Shirazi, Dr.

Safirullah of the Livestock Department, and Ijaz Ahmed of the Forest Department attended the event.

The community representatives expressed their views about the management plan. He said that the snow leopard is a very important animal in the ecosystem of this area and its presence in a natural environment is a guarantee of its health.

He said that the absence of snow leopards in this ecosystem for the past several years is a cause for concern and indicates that we have disturbed the balance of the environment. For Nature and Dr. Ali Nawaz, Dr. Shoaib Hameed and Dr. Jafaruddin of the Snow Leopard Foundation worked on the plan, which is an important milestone in the history of conservation of the snow leopard

and its environment.

The participants took keen interest in the details of the work plan and expressed views through their views and comments on its content and community representatives voiced their concerns which will be incorporated before finalizing the plan so that it be fully reflective of stakeholders' aspirations and actionable. The organizers welcomed these suggestions and concerns and assured to incorporate them into the plan.

Earlier, former Inspector General of Forests Pakistan Dr. Syed Mahmood Nasir gave a detailed presentation on the Hindukush Management Plan and highlighted its various aspects including its aims and objectives, conservation obstacles and challenges and recommendations.

Students protested against closure of public library

F.P. Report

SHAHDAKDIT: School and college students along with civil society representatives staged a protest in front of the main gate of the Shahdadt library against the closure of the library established by the municipal committee administration in Shahdadt. They were carrying placards on which slogans of restore the library and provide facilities to the students were written.

In order to get admission in the institutions and get a job, the entrance test is being prepared in the library, while after the protest for the provision of facilities in the library, the municipal committee administration has given orders to close the library in Shahdadt, which is a public and private school. There is complete abuse

and injustice to the students of the colleges, as the students and female students have suffered the worst problems due to the closure of the library.

Therefore, the lack of clean and sweet water for drinking should be eliminated immediately and steps should be taken for the facilities of the students.

Youth killed, 13 injured in road mishap: As a result of collision between a road bike and a van in Shahdadt last day, more than 14 people were seriously injured on the side of the motorcycle rider.

A motorcyclist who was going to Shahdadt was hit hard, as a result of which the motorcyclist, 15-year-old Abdul Waheed Kahusu, died on the spot, while more than 14 riders were killed when the wagon fell into the ditch.

Mal Mandi road opens

F.P. Report

BANNU: On the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Bannu Manzoor Ahmed Afridi, the tarpaulin work on Mal Mandi Road was completed and the road was opened for traffic, on Thursday.

It is remembered that the road of this mall was in bad shape for a long time, and Deputy Commissioner Bannu Manzoor Ahmed Afridi released emergency funds to rebuild the road.

On this occasion, on the instructions of DC Bannu Manzoor Ahmed Afridi, contractor Haji Inamullah Khan along with the CEO of a well-known business company Malik Junaid Khan and Nazar Ali Khan inspected the road.

Fire destroys a market in Lower Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: More than a dozen shops turned to ashes when fire broke out in one of the Chakdara markets here on Thursday. The Rescue 1122 fire fighters along with fire brigades from Timergara and Bathkela reached the site but the fire could not be extinguished on time, residents said. They said that a gas cylinder at a shop owned by one Khair Muhammad and Sanaullah went off because of a gas leak due to which the fire broke out.

The residents said that gas cylinders exploded frequently due to which local volunteers and fire fighters were unable to put out the flames. Some of the local youths saved valuables in the adjacent shops before the fire flames reached there. The fire flames within no time engulfed the adjacent shops mostly of clothes and grocery stores and destroyed the whole stock. The Rescue 1122 fire fighters struggled hard to overcome the flames but by then the fire had turned the stock into ashes.

The power supply to the Chakdara city was also disrupted due to the fire. The Anjuman Tajirani Chakdara president Khwaja Faizul Ghafoor while expressing his grief over the incident demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to establish a separate Rescue 1122 center in Adenzai tehsil. Talking to local journalists at Chakdara, the traders' body president said the incident had inflicted a loss of millions of rupees on the shops' owners. He demanded the government and the district administration to compensate the affected traders.

14 students along with driver injured

F.P. Report

BUNER: As many as 13 students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) along driver injured when their vehicle fell into ravine near Beshonay village on way to the school from Dokada village.

The driver was injured critically and shifted to Peshawar while the girls student transported to THQ hospital Pacha Pir Baba and then shifted to DHQ hospital Daggar where they were admitted. Rescue 1122 sources said. Some of locals were of the view that the driver was over-speeding while some of them said it was due to failure of the brake.

However, the Pir Baba Police have registered case and investigating to find out the real cause behind the accident. Locals were rushed the spot and helped rescue operation and also went to hospitals for blood donation and carrier services as well.

Its pertinent to mention here locals were expressed dissatisfaction in the conditions of school busses and demanded administration for fitness certificates and appealed the schools colleges and university buses divers for careful driving and avoiding over-speeding and negligence during driving.

Dir scouts arranges free medical camp

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: A free medical camp was organized by the 185 Wing of the Security Forces Dir Scouts, camp was organized in Suripau Maidan, a remote area of Dir Lower.

A free medical camp was organized in Suripau Maidan, a remote area of Dir lower. The military and civil doctors examined hundreds of patients, including men, women, children, and provided them with medicines for free, while the patients' sugar, ECG and Other tests were also conducted and the citizens expressed their happiness for organizing the free medical camp and expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Army and the 185 Wing of Dir Scouts and demanded to organize this type of medical camp for the future.

ATC grants BBA to 125 PTI's workers

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Mardan has granted Bail before Arrest (BBA) to 125 activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Thursday. This decision comes after three cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act were registered against them. During the court proceedings in Mardan, the legal team, including advocates Riyaz Paindakhel and Jawad Khan, passionately presented their case. Their efforts led to the favorable outcome of pre-arrest bail being granted to the majority of PTI members facing legal action.

The hearing in Mardan was presided over by Judge Syed Ubaidullah Shah in the Anti-Terrorism Court. It is important to note that out of the total 127 PTI members involved in the case, 125 have been granted pre-arrest bail. Unfortunately, one member was absent during the proceedings, and another had already been taken into custody.

However, it's worth mentioning that not all PTI members found themselves on the winning side of the court's decision. Haroon Ejaz, a PTI member, had his pre-arrest bail plea

rejected by the Mardan court. This decision was a stark contrast to the relief granted to the majority of his fellow party members.

The granting of pre-arrest bail is seen as a significant legal victory for PTI members and their legal representatives in Mardan. It ensures that these individuals will not face immediate arrest while allowing them to defend themselves against the charges brought under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

As the legal proceedings continue, the outcome of these cases will be closely watched by both the PTI members and the broader community in Mardan. The legal representation provided by advocates such as Riyaz Paindakhel and Jawad Khan has played a pivotal role in securing this pre-arrest bail for the majority of the PTI members involved.

Transgender opposes crackdown against Kunda mafia: During the operation against Kunda mafia in Mardan city, the transgender attacked the WAPDA team with stones, the lineman's leg was broken, the superintendent was also injured, the police came to the field and the

transgenders saved their lives by begging.

According to the details, action is being taken against the Kunda mafia in the city. Wapda officer said that WAPDA officials have been called from nearby districts and other sub-divisions to crack down on electricity theft. At the time of the incident, a special team was engaged in operations in New Adda, a common area of Cantt Sub-Division and Turu Sub-Division.

The transgender attacked the WAPDA team when the WAPDA team cut off the direct electricity connection from the transgender balakhanas, the eunuchs gathered and attacked the team with stones and also called colleagues from other balakhanas for help. In the meantime, the area became Maidan Karzar and the Superintendent of Par Hoti Sub-Division Arif Khan fell from Pathrao While the leg of Fazal Manan belonging to Shabqadr was broken after the incident, a heavy police force reached the spot and detained several transgenders, but later the transgenders saved their lives by pleading.

Admn crackdown against edible items in Mardan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: In a concerted effort to combat hoarding and ensure the fair distribution of essential commodities, the district administration of Mardan has taken decisive action. This operation has led to the sealing of warehouses containing urea, cooking oil, and rice.

Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mardan, Captain Retired Abdul Rahman, the Additional Assistant C o m m i s s i o n e r Headquarters, Junaid Khalid, led a thorough inspection of various warehouses in Parhoti. This initiative comes as part of a broader campaign against hoarding, which aims to curb practices that can lead to price manipulation and scarcity of essential goods.

During the inspections, the authorities diligently reviewed the records of purchases and sales of essential items within the godowns. These records were subsequently submitted to the Food Department for scrutiny. Shockingly, it was discovered that more than 100 tons of cooking oil and over 200 tons of rice

were stored in one warehouse without the necessary details being submitted to the Food Department.

In response to this blatant violation, the Additional Assistant C o m m i s s i o n e r Headquarters, Junaid Khalid, issued stern directives to the owners. They were given a one-day ultimatum to provide all stock-related information to the Food Department. Failure to comply with this directive would result in rigorous legal action.

On another front, the district administration's campaign against hoarding also targeted the urea market in Parhoti. This operation aimed to ensure transparency in the distribution of urea, a critical agricultural input. Several warehouses were thoroughly inspected during this phase.

During these inspections, it was revealed that three warehouses were storing urea without submitting the requisite details to the Agriculture Department. As a result, these warehouses, operated by Asad Traders, Attaulah Shah, and Saeed Murad, were sealed due to the apparent stockpiling of

urea. The owners of these warehouses were promptly apprised of the situation and issued stringent directives. They were given until noon the following day to furnish comprehensive stock information to the Agriculture Department. Failure to meet this deadline would result in the initiation of rigorous legal proceedings.

The district administration's actions against hoarding underscore its commitment to maintaining fair and transparent markets for essential goods and inputs. By curbing hoarding practices, these efforts aim to ensure that the people of Mardan have access to vital commodities without undue price hikes or scarcity.

As the operation continues, the district administration remains steadfast in its resolve to promote equitable access to essential goods and uphold the principles of fair trade in the region. The people of Mardan can expect further actions to ensure the availability and affordability of these essential commodities.

PULSEP digitalization ensure transparency

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Land Administration Specialist of World Bank Dongkyu Kwak and Director General Punjab Land Authority Saira Umar visited Hafizabad to review Pilot Digitalization Project launched under Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement Project (PULSEP) to digitalize land of all villages of the district. Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Umar Farooq Warraich, Project Director Asim Saleem, ADCR Intiaz Ali Baig, AC Munawar Hussain and officers of (PULSEP) were also accompanied by them.

While giving briefing on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warraich informed that under this project, the land record of the district is being made computerized under latest computerized digital system which is a revolutionary and ideal programme of its nature. He told that with the completion of this project, ownership of every foot of land would be determined obviously and all record would be made computerized.

He apprised that revenue teams of district administration with collaboration of PULSEP teams were engaged to survey of all villages transparently. Land Administration Specialist of World Bank Dongkyu Kwak appreciated computerization and digitization work. He said that this project would be proved the best project in its nature I to sell, purchase

and distribution land and of property in future. He along with Saira Umar and Umar Farooq Warraich inspected computerization centre and land record centre Hafizabad and reviewed different facilities being provided to people.

As many as 45 development projects continued: The Punjab government is spending more than 38 billions of rupees to completed 45 development projects in the district Hafizabad for providing better communication, educational, health, education, recreational and municipal facilities to the people.

This was stated by the Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warraich while addressing the meeting of District Development Committee Hafizabad. The pace of work on ongoing development projects was reviewed in the meeting. Deputy Director Development and district heads of different department attended the meeting.

DC directed the officers to ensure timely and according to specification completion of the projects so that people of the areas could get benefits of government expenditure earliest. He said that a state of the art museum with the cost of Rs.55 million was being constructed at Hafizabad to preserve national and local heritage and to provide awareness to new generation about history.

He also said that construction work on Gujranwala to Kot Sarwar Motorway Interchange via

Hafizabad was completed in the great extant and with the completion of this mega project, the better communication facilities would be available to the people of western, central and eastern Punjab. The Deputy Director Development informed the meeting that construction work on establishment of University of Hafizabad, building of District Headquarter Hospital Hafizabad, Trauma Centre Hafizabad, construction of roads, sewerage, sports, water supply projects are underway while these all ongoing projects would be completed according to specification. He told that technical team was monitoring on ongoing projects to ensure use of quality material and timely completion of the projects.

AGEGA holds protests in favor of their demands: On the call of All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA), employees of different departments protested against anti-employees policies of the caretaker government led by Chairman AGEGA Hafizabad Muhammad Nasir Amin, President (AGEGA) Muhammad Naeqeb Nishat, leaders of teachers' unions Ch. Riaz Ahmad Tatar, Aqeel Azad, Asghar Ali Hanjra, Riasat Ali Raoun and Muhammad Rafiq.

They were demanded to withdraw leave encashment amendment notification, deduction in pension and other benefits of employees and privatization of government schools.



S Korean leader warns Russia against weapons collaboration with North

UNITED NATIONS (AP: South Korea's president sounded a warning to fellow world leaders about the recent communication and possible cooperation between North Korea and Russia, saying any action by a permanent UN Security Council member to circumvent international norms would be dangerous and "paradoxical."

Speaking before the UN General Assembly, Yoon Suk Yeol invoked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit last week to Russia, which is one of the five permanent members of the council, the UN's most powerful body. Kim met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's far east. The two said they may cooperate on defense issues but gave no specifics, which left South Korea and its allies - including the United States - uneasy.

"It is paradoxical that a permanent member of the UN Security Council, entrusted as the ultimate guardian of world peace, would wage war by invading another sovereign nation and receive arms and ammunition from a regime that blatantly violates Security Council resolutions," Yoon told fellow leaders on the second day of the UN General Assembly's annual gathering of leaders. He had been expected to raise the issue. Yoon said that if North Korea "acquires the information and technology necessary" to enhance its weapons of mass destruction in exchange for giving conventional weapons to Russia, that would also be unacceptable to the South.

"Such a deal between Russia and the DPRK will be a direct provocation threatening the peace and security of not only Ukraine but also the Republic of Korea," he said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The Republic of Korea, together with its allies and partners, will not stand idly by." South Korea has expressed support for Ukraine, which is fighting a war against the 2022 Russian invasion of its territory. At the G20 summit in India earlier this month, Yoon said Seoul would contribute \$300 million to Ukraine next year and - eventually - a support package worth more than \$2 billion. "The nuclear and missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pose not only a



direct and existential threat to the peace of the Republic of Korea, but also (are) a serious challenge to peace in the Indo-Pacific region and across the globe," Yoon said in his speech.

Foreign experts speculate that Russia and North Korea were pushing to reach arms transfer deals in violation of Security Council resolutions. Both countries are in major disputes with the West, and both are under international sanctions. While Russian-North Korean cooperation is feared to fuel Russia's war efforts in Ukraine, it has also encouraged unease in South Korea, where many think a Russian transfer of sophisticated weapons technologies would help North Korea acquire a functioning spy satellite, a nuclear-powered submarine and more powerful missiles. South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Chang Ho-jin summoned the Russian ambassador to Seoul, Andrey Kulik, and urged Moscow to immediately stop its military cooperation with North Korea, which he said would have a "very negative impact" on its relations with the South.

North Korea has been increasing

its nuclear arsenal for years, ratcheting up tensions in the region as it threatens to use nuclear weapons in conflicts. It regularly conducts missile tests, particularly in the past year. In response, Yoon and US President Joe Biden in April agreed to expand joint military exercises, increase the temporary deployments of US strategic assets and launch a bilateral nuclear consultative group.

The Korean Peninsula was split into the US-supported, capitalistic South Korea and the Soviet-backed, socialist North Korea after its liberation from Japan's 35-year colonial rule at the end of the World War II in 1945. The two Koreas remains along the world's most heavily fortified border since they end of the 1950-53 Korean War. The two countries technically remain in a state of war 70 years after an armistice was signed. Kim, North Korea's leader, oversees an autocratic government and is the third generation of his family to rule. He was preceded by his father, Kim Jong Il, who died in 2011, and his grandfather Kim Il Sung, a former guerrilla who established the state.

Japan's rapid mily build-up a worry for Okinawans

TOKYO (Reuters): Japan's rapid military build-up is worrying residents of the Okinawa islands close to Taiwan, their governor said Thursday, further straining already fraught ties between the region and the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo. Kishida unveiled a plan in December to double Japan's defence spending over five years in a bid to deter China from using military force against Taiwan that could also threaten its territory.

Much of that build-up will be in Okinawa, which has been at odds with the central government for decades for allowing a heavy US military presence there. "Without explaining things to residents, and without winning their understanding, they've made a plan and are rushing to implement it," the governor, Denny Tamaki, said in an interview. "We must never allow people in Okinawa to go through the same horrible experience that we went through" in World War Two, he added.

Up to a third of Okinawans died in that conflict, some at the hands of Japanese troops, during a bloody US campaign to take the islands, leaving a lingering resentment against Tokyo. The strategic value of Okinawa, however, is rising as concern about recent China's military activity grows in Washington and Tokyo. Beijing fired missiles into the sea near Okinawa last year after a visit to Taiwan by Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives. Tamaki, the son of a US Marine and a Japanese mother, spoke from Geneva via video link. He was visiting the Swiss city to address the United Nations Human Rights Council in a bid to garner international support for his opposition to a Japanese plan to relocate US military units from the Futenma air station in Okinawa's densely populated south to a base in Henoko in the north. Many of those living nearby oppose the expansion, which includes the construction of a runway over a coral reef. Tamaki wants the government to move the US troops elsewhere in Japan instead. "Many people in Japan say there's nothing wrong with a military build-up in Okinawa, but Japan's security is an issue for all of Japan and is an issue everyone should think about," Tamaki added.

Russian strikes cities from east to west Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP): Air alerts sounded again and again in Kyiv and residents headed to shelters early Thursday morning, as a massive Russian attack on at least six cities across Ukraine killed at least two people, started fires and wounded at least 21. In the southern city of Kherson, near the front lines, two people were killed dead and at least five injured after a strike hit a residential building, said regional Governor Oleksandr Prokudin.

Seven people were injured in Kyiv, including a 9-year-old girl, reported Mayor Vitalii Klitschko, and some residential and commercial buildings were damaged. At least six strikes hit the Slobidskyi district of Kharkiv, damaging civilian infrastructure damaged, said regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov. The city's mayor added that two people had been sent to hospitals. Seven were injured and at least one person was rescued from under rubble in Cherkasy, in central Ukraine, according to Ihor Klymenko, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. An industrial zone was hit in western region of Lviv, damaging buildings were damaged and starting a fire, but no information on casualties was immediately available.

Klymenko added. Regional Governor Vitalii Koval reported strikes in the city of Rivne in the northwest region of the same name, without immediately providing details.

Ukraine, Russia and tense UN encounter that almost happened - but didn't

UNITED NATIONS (AP): It was a moment the diplomatic world was watching for - but didn't get. In the end, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov avoided staring each other down across the UN Security Council's famous horseshoe-shaped table. Zelenskyy left before Lavrov arrived.

The near-miss was somewhat to be expected. Yet the moment still spoke to the UN's role as a venue where warring nations can unleash their ire through words instead of weapons.

The choreography also underscored the world body's reputation as a place where adversaries sometimes literally talk past each other. Zelenskyy denounced Russia as "a terrorist state" while Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia sat facing him near the other end of the table's arc. As Zelenskyy launched into his remarks, the Russian looked at his phone, then tucked the device away. Zelenskyy left before Lavrov's arrival, which came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was accusing Russia of having "shredded" key provisions of the UN Charter.

Lavrov, in turn, reiterated his country's claims that Kyiv has oppressed Russian speakers in eastern areas, violating the

UN charter and getting a pass on it from the US and other western countries. Across the table was Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, his eyes on his phone during at least parts of Lavrov's remarks. (Blinken, for his part, took handwritten notes.) If there was no finger-pointing face-off, the atmosphere was decidedly prickly. Before Zelenskyy's arrival, Nebenzia objected to a speaking order that put the Ukrainian president before the council's members, including Russia. (Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, the meeting chair, retorted: "You stop the war, and President Zelenskyy will not take the floor.") Zelenskyy had been in the same room, but hardly eye to eye, with a Russian diplomat during the Ukrainian leader's speech in the vast hall of the UN General Assembly, which this week is holding its annual meeting of top-level leaders. (Russian Deputy Ambassador Dmitry Polyansky later said, wryly, that he'd been focusing on his phone and "didn't notice" Zelenskyy's address.) Before that, Zelenskyy last encountered a Russian official at a 2019 meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

There's a long history of delegates walking out on rival nations' speeches in the council and other

UN bodies, and it's not unusual for speakers to duck in and out of Security Council meetings for reasons as simple as scheduling. The group's member countries must have a presence during meetings but can fill their seats with any accredited diplomat. Ukraine isn't a member but was invited to speak. Ahead of the meeting, Zelenskyy suggested that UN members needed to ask themselves why Russia still has a place on a council intended to maintain international peace and security.

There have been verbal fireworks - by diplomatic standards, at least - during the council's scores of meetings on the war. And even the seating chart was a sticking point last year when Lavrov and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba both attended a council meeting that, like, happened alongside the General Assembly's big annual gathering.

The two foreign ministers had no personal interaction at that 2022 session, which Lavrov attended only briefly, to give his speech. But beforehand, a placard marking Ukraine's seat was moved after Kuleba apparently objected to its placement next to Russia's spot. This time, the two countries' seats were separated from the start.

‘Stop the war’ and Zelenskiy need not speak

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters): It was to be Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's first in-person appearance at a UN Security Council meeting on Moscow's invasion of his country when Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia objected to him taking the floor at the start of the meeting. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, serving as president of the tense session, responded with a gibe at Moscow, which has long said the invasion does not amount to a war but was a mere "special military operation".

"I want to assure our Russian colleagues and everyone here that this is not a special operation by the Albanian presidency,"

Rama, known for a piercing sense of humor, said to muted laughter across the room. "There is a solution for this," Rama continued, addressing Nebenzia directly: "If you agree, you stop the war and President Zelenskyy will not take the floor." Nebenzia did not agree. He went on to say the session was a show and criticized Rama for what he said was making politically charged statements rather than acting as a neutral guardian of procedure. After the session, Zelenskyy thanked Rama on social media, saying the Albanian, who is both an artist and former basketball player, "showed the world how to correctly handle Russia, its lies, and its hypocrisy." In seeking to justify its inva-

sion, Moscow has said Ukraine's ambitions to integrate with the West - including NATO - pose a threat to Russia's national security, an assertion that Kyiv and its allies deny as a baseless pretext to attack.

When given the floor after the back-and-forth, Zelenskyy asked Russia be stripped of its veto right as one of five permanent members of the post-World War Two UN Security Council as punishment for attacking Ukraine. Appearing in the room after Zelenskyy left, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov defended Moscow's use of the veto as legitimate, accusing Kyiv and the West of selectively following principles of the 1945 UN Charter only when it suits them.

Haitian gangs call for armed overthrow of PM

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters): Haiti's most powerful gang leader called for the armed overthrow of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, urging Haitians to take to the streets against the unelected government in the latest escalation of a country undergoing humanitarian crisis. Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier, a former police officer who now heads a powerful coalition of gangs that controls large parts of Port-au-Prince, led his group of armed men on a march through the capital, blocking roads and banging drums.

"We are launching the fight to overturn Ariel Henry's government in any way," gang leader Cherizier told Reuters.

"Our fight will be with weapons." He added that "demonstrations in all working-class neighborhoods" would take place daily against Henry's government, which he said had no legitimacy. Haitian gangs, which frequently engage police in gun battles and profit from activities such as extortion and drug trafficking, have grown in strength since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise. The assassination created a power vacuum, with Prime Minister Ariel Henry governing on an interim basis since. Henry has pledged to hold elections once security is re-established, and has called for international help in fighting the gangs. "The international commu-

nity cannot continue to do this in Haiti," Cherizier said. "If the international community has nothing to do with (Moise's) death, they must not support Ariel Henry."

Cherizier also said that residents of the densely populated Carrefour Feuilles neighborhood who left their homes because of gang violence would soon be able to return and live in peace. The threat from Cherizier comes as Kenya assesses leading a multinational United Nations-backed force to help Haiti's under-gunned police fight the gangs. More than 19,000 people have been displaced from the capital in recent weeks due to the outbreak of armed violence, according to UN estimates.

Colombian leader summons intense oratory for a bleak warning

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Colombian President Gustavo Petro delivered an ominous prophecy with grandiose language, painting a grim picture of what lies ahead if nations fail to swiftly redesign the way humans live on this planet. "It has been a year in which humanity lost and without hesitation has advanced the times of extinction," he said in his speech at the UN General Assembly. "It would seem as though the global leadership has made enemies with life."

Eloquent oratory is a skill Petro often deploys. Lately, he has done so to project himself as a global leader on climate change - and to reproach others for failing to fully heed its peril. He stole

the show at Brazil's Amazon Summit in July, calling on his oil-producing neighbors to abandon fossil fuels, and asserting that allowing continued drilling while calling for a green transition is tantamount to being in denial. At the UN, he said that what he called "the crisis of life" has already begun, as signaled by migration of climate refugees, and warned that in the coming half-century, their numbers will reach 3 billion. His country, today covered by lush forests, will transform to desert, he said, and its people will decamp en masse, "no longer attracted by the sequins of the wealth, but by something simpler and more vital: water." Petro said mankind has "dedicated

itself to war," which has distracted attention and resources from development goals and climate change, which he called "the mother of all crises."

His speech at times resembled literary prose, particularly his characterization of the migration flow. In the Spanish-language transcript submitted, the word "Life" is capitalized frequently through the speech. "It has started from the farthest corners of the planet, from the last places, a silent march of people of different cultures that mix along the way, as a painting of infinite hues," he said. "The colors mix along the unstoppable march, a multitude of all colors advance by trails, oceans and jungles.

Swedish court upholds prison sentence for Turkish man

STOCKHOLM (AP): A Swedish appeals court upheld a 4 1/2-year prison sentence for a Turkish man who was found guilty of attempted extortion, weapons possession and attempted terrorist financing, saying he was acting on behalf of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party. However, the Svea Court of Appeal said Yahya Güngör should not be deported after serving his sentence, reversing the lower court's ruling.

"Since a possible expulsion is not too far in the future, the Court of Appeal considers that it is reasonable to believe that the obstacle will remain at that time," the appeals court said, citing threats the man would face if deported to Turkey because of his ties to the party, also known as PKK. In July, the

Stockholm District Court said he would be expelled from Sweden after serving his sentence and banned from returning. It was the first time that a Swedish court has sentenced someone for financing the party. PKK has waged an insurgency in southeast Turkey since 1984 and is considered a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

In May, Sweden tightened its anti-terrorism laws, a move expected to help gain approval for the Nordic nation's request to join NATO. The revised laws include prison terms of up to four years for people convicted of participating in an extremist organization in a way that is intended to promote, strengthen or support such a group. The following

month, Güngör, a Kurd, was charged with attempting to extort money in Stockholm in January by pointing a revolver at a restaurant owner, firing in the air and threatening to damage the restaurant unless he received funds the following day. Güngör has denied any wrongdoing. The lower court said the investigation into the case showed "that the PKK conducts a very extensive fundraising activity in Europe using, e.g., extortion of Kurdish businessmen." Last year, Sweden and neighboring Finland sought protection under NATO's security umbrella after Russia invaded Ukraine. Finland joined the alliance earlier this year but Sweden, which abandoned a long history of military nonalignment,

is still waiting to become NATO's 32nd member.

New entries must be approved by all existing members, and Turkey has so far refused to ratify Sweden's application. It said this was because Sweden has refused to extradite dozens of people suspected of links to Kurdish militant organizations. Turkey also has criticized a series of demonstrations in both Sweden and Denmark at which the Quran, Islam's holy book, was burned. At a NATO summit in Vilnius in July, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country would drop its objection to Sweden's membership after blocking it for more than a year. However, the Turkish parliament must still ratify the application, as must Hungary.

El Salvador's leader, criticized internationally for gang crackdown

UNITED NATIONS (AP): El Salvador President Nayib Bukele trumpeted the success of his gang crackdown during his speech at the UN General Assembly, crediting his administration's will against international criticism over human rights violations. Bukele said that if El Salvador had listened to external critics - including some at the United Nations - the tiny Central American country would again be the murder capital of the world. "Today, I come to tell you that that debate is over," Bukele said. "The decisions we took were correct. We are no longer the world death capital and we achieved it in record time. Today we are a model of security and no one can doubt it. There are the results. They are irrefutable." More than

72,000 people have been arrested under a state of emergency Bukele requested in March 2022 after a surge in gang violence. The special powers that Congress granted Bukele suspended some fundamental rights such as access to a lawyer and being told the reason for one's arrest. Critics say that there is no due process, and thousands of innocent people have been swept up in the security blitz. More than 7,000 have been released for lack of evidence of gang ties.

In March, the UN human rights office expressed concern over the year-long crackdown, noting widespread human rights violations, thousands of unsubstantiated arrests and dozens of in-custody deaths. But at home, Bukele's security

policies are very popular. They will likely be the centerpiece of his campaign for re-election next year, something prohibited by El Salvador's constitution but allowed by court justices selected by his supporters in the Legislative Assembly. As Bukele noted, Salvadorans can walk without fear in their neighborhoods and allow their children to play outside without the oppressive fear of gang recruitment and violence.

In 2015, El Salvador was considered one of the world's most violent as it recorded 6,656 homicides, or about 106 per 100,000 people. So far this year, the National Civil Police have registered 146 homicides through Sept. 18, more than 72% below the same period last year. El Salvador's newfound security has drawn

more international visitors and is beginning to attract Salvadorans who moved away long ago to escape the violence, he said. Bukele mentioned the Central American and Caribbean Games that El Salvador hosted in June and the upcoming Miss Universe competition that will come to El Salvador in November, as well as international surfing competitions that Bukele has promoted. "We know that much still needs to be done to achieve it," he said, "but we are on the path to reaching our goal of reversing the massive exodus of Salvadorans, a result of all of the mistaken policies of the past and the civil war, and arriving at our dream of having inverse migration, that more Salvadorans return than those who leave."

Chechen leader's Telegram channel says he is ‘alive and well’

MOSCOW (Reuters): The official social media channel of Ramzan Kadyrov, strongman leader of Russia's Chechen Republic and strong ally of President Vladimir Putin, showed a video of him and dismissed social

media reports that he was in poor health. When asked about the reports, which alleged that the 46-year-old had been treated at a Moscow hospital, the Kremlin said this week that it had no information on the subject.

But a video posted on Kadyrov's Telegram channel showed him sitting at the bedside of a man said to be "our dear UNCLE Magomed" Abdulkhamidovich Kadyrov and kissing him on the hand and head. It was not clear

when the video had been shot. "Praise be to the Almighty, I am alive and well and I don't understand at all why there should be a fuss even in the case of my illness?" read the posting, purportedly written by Kadyrov himself.

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After Abraham Accord, the Moses-Aaron reunion in making

A unique and highly deplorable situation surrounds the Muslim Ummah, as its most sensitive and vital issues attached to Muslim countries are being decided, and materialized by the powerful Western nations who always stab Ummah in the back. It was a surprising news item for the global community and shocked Muslims around the globe when US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to work together toward a landmark agreement to forge diplomatic relations between Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Biden-Yahu summit that happened after a week-long struggle of Israeli diplomats in Washington, Biden took a traditionally mild view of the deteriorating security situation and oppressive measures of the Israeli government in the West Bank and Gaza, along with a vague reference to the so-called two-state solution of Palestine issue. However, Biden expressed annoyance over Netanyahu's far-right government's controversial judicial overhaul plan which is purely an internal matter of Tel Aviv's regime and has no direct impact on Israel's relations with the United States or any other nation thus Biden's reluctance to his meetup with Netanyahu was nothing more than a political stunt to mollify millions of Muslim voters ahead of Presidential election that scheduled to be held in November next year.

The United States of America and its unlawful child had long established their monopoly in the greater Middle East and North African (MENA) region by tactful exploitation of regional issues and the use of divide and rule policy. During the early sixties, Washington forged a nexus with Tel Aviv and gave a Policeman role to Israel in the Middle East by providing massive economic and military assistance over the past decades. Until then, Israeli leaders implemented their strategic plans and gained regional supremacy by using the American crutches and the White House's diplomacy. Meanwhile, American leaders have played the role of Israeli pawns in the Middle East. Historically, the Camp David meetup, the Oslo Agreement, and the so-called Abraham Accord, all mechanisms were aimed at protecting Jew's interests, undermined the Palestine cause, and frustrated Arab nations in the region.

Previously, US far-right nationalist President Donald J. Trump handed over a magnificent gift to the Jewish state in the shape of Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital along with normalisation of trade and diplomatic relations with four important Muslim states including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. Presently, American rulers had taken up the agenda for a breakthrough in the bilateral relations between Israel and the leading Muslim state of Saudi Arabia, which would not only assimilate the Jewish state in the Middle East region but completely push the Palestine issue to the back burner. In that context, the ploy of the two-state solution and Palestine's freedom from Israeli occupation would die forever, while the idea of greater Israel would achieve a landmark success toward its realization.

Historically, Washington's continued support for Israel had caused great concerns in the Arab countries who gradually ceased their hopes in the US and forged deep political and economic links with Russia and China. Over the past years, the geopolitical environment in the greater MENA region has changed significantly as Washington lost its stakes in the Middle East while Beijing and Moscow increased their economic and political influence in the area. Presently, a tug of war is continuing between the Russo-China alliance and the US-led Western bloc to consolidate their influence in the Middle East, while the Asian bloc is comparatively better suited to Gulf states yet Arab leaders fell victim to Western ploy and failed to assess the situation until and unless it clumped hard on their heads. The Biden administration is resolutely working to forge normal relations between Riyadh and the tiny Jewish state. The extent of the success of the Biden administration was so evident that recently a two-member Israeli delegation paid an announced state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the first event of its kind over the past seven and half decades of inception of the state of Israel.

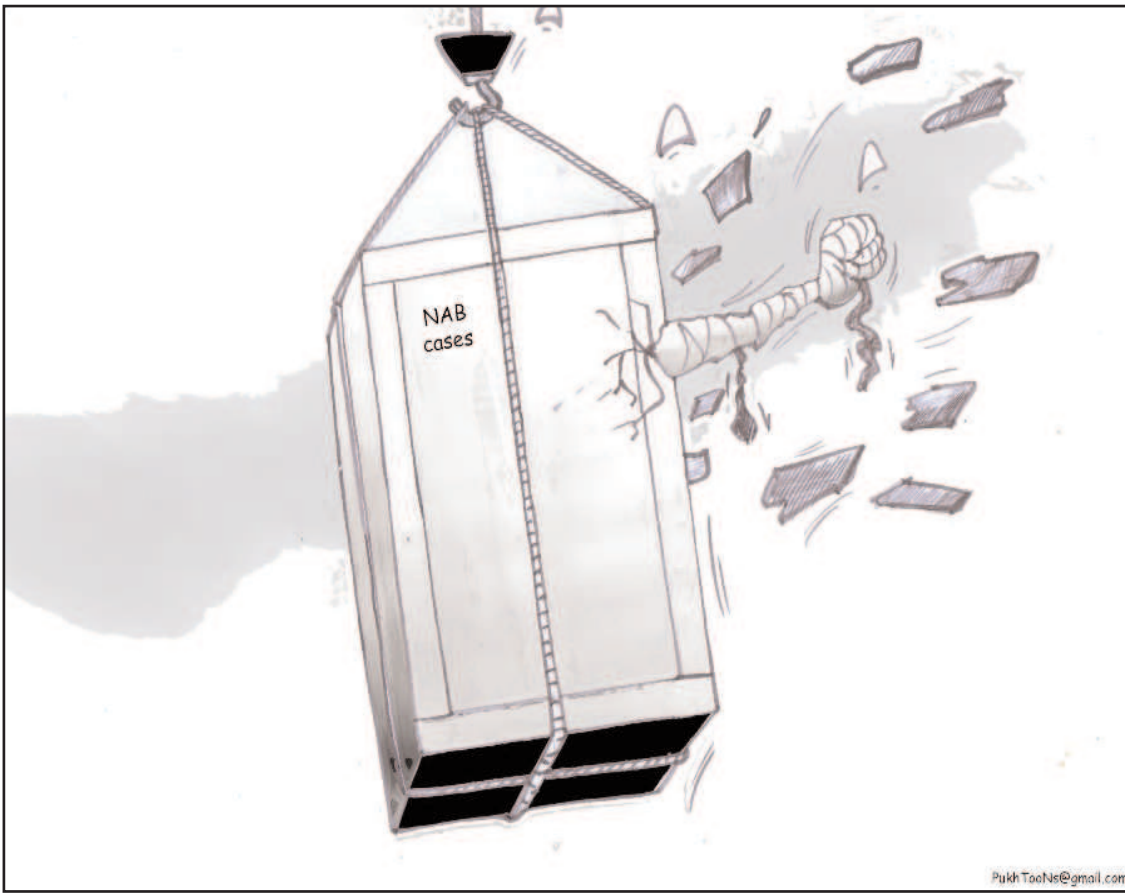
Awfully, the Jew-Christ nexus against the Muslim Ummah is in full swing and several powerful Muslim states have been sabotaged over the past decades. The Trump administration has made history through the Abraham accord, while Biden's team was determined to comprehend the Moses-Aaron reunion in the coming months. Biden has invited Israeli leader to the white house late this year which might come with another victory for Israel and one more setback for Muslim Ummah in modern history.

NAB laws, and myth of Mahmood-o-Ayaz

THE National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday sent back-references against politicians to Accountability Courts after the Supreme Court struck down some sections of the amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) by the PDM coalition government last year. Previously, the PTI Chairman Iman Khan filed a petition in the apex court against the amendments introduced by the coalition partners to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), which provided significant relief to various senior politicians including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, former president Asif Zardari and former finance minister Ishaq Dar whom under trails cases were withdrawn by the NAB authorities few months back.

The accountability of public office holders and government officials is of great importance for the promotion of democracy and consolidation of political, social and economic gains in any society. The successive governments had made recurrent attempts to curb corruption and promote a responsive and transparent accountability system in the country. For the first time in the country's history, former President General Pervaiz Musharraf introduced the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), which calls for nationwide accountability of public office holders, politicians, government servants and business leaders and common citizens presumably involved in malpractices and damage to the national exchequer. After approval of the legal code, the powerful anti-corruption watchdog launched a nationwide accountability campaign and put a large number of people spent years in prison over mere allegations of corruption and misconduct.

Things moved on with staunch criticism of NAB's aggressive investigations and pretrial and unceasing arrests of accused that mostly ended up in plea-bargains or release of the individuals because of faulty investigations and insufficient evidence of crimes. Previously, the PTI government exempted businessmen and bureaucrats from NAB's trail to encourage trade and motivate public employees on service delivery. The PDM coalition government brought some relaxation in NAB's laws in a bid to extend some relief to senior politicians, which was challenged by the PTI Chairman when he was not well versed with the highhandedness of wardens and untidy living conditions in prison. The reversal of NAB amendments had brought a majority of the past rulers in a single rank and one file. As of now, Sharif to Makhdoom and Zardari to Niazi all have to equally face court hearings and summary trials. The similarity of pain might prompt some tolerance and accord among the worst foes and that phenomenon can bring some positivity in national politics in the future.

**Journalism can't leave climate crisis to Netflix and Billie Eilish**

Mark Hertsgaard & Kyle Pope

IN much of what we see, hear, and read, the climate crisis has become inescapable. On Netflix, Don't Look Up spent weeks as the most-streamed movie ever. Pop star Billie Eilish sings about hills burning in California. At the bookstore, climate fiction has become a genre of its own, while Jeff Goodell's *The Heat Will Kill You First*, a harrowing nonfiction account of what life on a warming planet will mean, is entering its second month on the New York Times Best Sellers list.

But where is journalism in all of this? Despite our living through the hottest summer in history, as well as wildfires, tropical storms and crazy-hot oceans, the news media continue to be outdone by the rest of popular culture when it comes to covering the most urgent story of our time.

Inexplicably, climate change remains a niche concern for most mainstream news outlets. In the United States, most TV coverage of this summer's hellish weather did not even mention the words "climate change", much less explain that the burning of oil, gas, and coal is what is driving that hellish weather. Too many newsrooms continue to see climate as a siloed beat of specialists. There are, of course, notable exceptions. The Guardian newspaper, the AFP news agency, and Al Jazeera itself are three news organisations that have long delivered science-based, abundant, comprehensive coverage of the climate crisis as well as its solutions.

But as excellent as they often are, they are among the outliers; much of the rest of media - particularly television, which, even in today's digital era, remains the leading source of news globally for the largest number of people - struggle to find their climate footing. We wish it were otherwise. As founders of Covering Climate Now, a global journalism collaboration formed to break the "climate silence" that long prevailed in the media, we have been working to help our colleagues throughout the news business amp up their coverage of the climate story.

In 2019, the media's climate silence began to break, and in the past four

years, we have seen encouraging successes. In the United States, major outlets, including The Washington Post, now treat climate change as a subject to cover every day, and not solely as a weather story. Telemundo 51, a Spanish-language TV station in Miami, is pursuing an "all of newsroom" approach that encourages reporters on every beat to talk about climate change, including its solutions. Overseas, France's Televisions (France's counterpart to Britain's BBC) has jettisoned traditional weathercasts in favour of a daily "weather-climate bulletin" where viewers can track global warming in real time as an eight-digit electronic counter shows how much today's temperatures exceed the preindustrial average.

Yet while dramatic changes in climate have made increased news cov-

That means, for instance, learning lessons from how the media covered COVID-19, also a sprawling, complicated story dictated by science. Nobody in the media debated the need to dedicate resources to helping audiences understand COVID-19 and then playing the story big. Most outlets ran multiple stories every day, which helped even casual news consumers understand that something important was happening.

erage of extreme weather unavoidable, explaining the climate connection to extreme weather is a different task. Linking changes in the weather to the decisions being made by industries and governments that have overheated the planet is where news coverage needs to end up. As journalists, we have to do better. The broad, general public needs to understand what is happening, why it matters, and, above all, that they can fix it - for example, by voting, by not buying unsustainable products, and by talking to friends and family about doing the same.

Journalism is at its best when it effectively explains and connects the dots between seemingly disparate events. That means, for instance, learning lessons from how the media covered COVID-19, also a sprawling, complicated

story dictated by science. Nobody in the media debated the need to dedicate resources to helping audiences understand COVID-19 and then playing the story big. Most outlets ran multiple stories every day, which helped even casual news consumers understand that something important was happening. Journalists grounded our coverage in science, but we did not silo it on the science desk: We covered the pandemic as a health story, a politics story, a business, education and lifestyle story. And we talked not only about the problem but also about its solutions, whether masking and social distancing or vaccinations.

Climate coverage could take the same approach. In every newsroom in every community, climate change needs to be thought of not as a beat, but as a through line involving everything we do. No corner of the

newsroom is exempt - not business or culture, not sports or city hall. On the national level, journalism has to figure out how to make climate change central to our politics coverage. Next year will bring elections in the US, the United Kingdom, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Egypt that will have profound effects on the prospects for global climate action.

Can politics reporters and editors scale back their fixation on horserace coverage and instead provide the kind of coverage that voters need to make informed choices? Election coverage should help audiences understand what the candidates will do about the climate crisis if elected, not just what they say. It should hold candidates accountable by asking them not - as

Fox did at the first US Republican debate last month - whether they believe in climate change but rather, "What is your plan to deal with the climate crisis?"

Overall, we also need much more and better coverage of climate solutions. Our colleagues at the Solutions Journalism Network have rightly criticised news coverage that only talks about what is wrong. Telling the whole story also requires examining how that problem might be fixed. What else does "more and better" climate coverage mean? We expect some answers to emerge this week at "Climate Changes Everything: Creating a Blueprint for Media Transformation," a conference at the Columbia Journalism School in New York cosponsored by Covering Climate Now; our founders, the Columbia Journalism Review and The Nation; our lead media partner, The Guardian; and the Solutions Journalism Network.

Reporters and editors from news outlets around the world - large and small, commercial and non-profit - will chart a course for how journalists everywhere can tackle the climate story in ways that drive attention and impact and highlight solutions and justice. The assembled journalists will draw lessons and inspiration from some of the best climate coverage of the past year, as exemplified by winners of the 2023 Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards, which were just announced. (The conference will be livestreamed and recordings will remain available.)

With the planet on fire, more and better news coverage is itself an essential climate solution. Only when the general public understands what is happening, why, and what needs to be done can large enough numbers of people compel governments and corporations to change course. Many news outlets have made significant progress in recent years. But the news industry as a whole is still not matching the scale of the crisis with the kind of coverage that is required. Until that happens, journalism is letting down our readers, viewers, and listeners - and letting Netflix and Billie Eilish handle a job that is ours.

Aljazeera

War in Ukraine revealing a new global order

Nathalie Tocci

IT came as an unpleasant surprise to many in Europe and North America that so many countries - many more than the 30 or so that abstained in UN votes condemning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine - refused to go along with sanctions on Putin's Russia. Forty countries sanction Russia, but two-thirds of the world's population live in countries that do not.

The geopolitical split over Russia's war on Ukraine emerged starkly again at the recent G20 summit in India in early September. A consensus could only be reached on a watered-down statement that referred to the "war in Ukraine" without mentioning Russia's aggression. This is not to say that countries who sat on the sidelines all back Russia's invasion and don't subscribe to Ukraine's territorial integrity. The G20 statement, in fact, explicitly rejected the use of force in violation of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, it does mean that they consider this to be a European war in which they have no stake, while still suffering its consequences in terms of food and energy security. It means they would prefer the war to end quickly, even if not necessarily justly; and it means they are unwilling to pay a price to ensure the respect for international law.

It was eye-opening then to take part, during a recent trip to Indonesia, in a global "town hall" debate in Jakarta on the theme of rebuilding bridges between the global north and south. As a global north voice on the panel, alongside Indian and South African colleagues and after China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, delivered a blistering attack on Europe and the US, I was asked "Why does the west now take a greater interest in the global south?" The bluntness of the question got me thinking.

The questioner was right. The term "global south" is suddenly cropping up at almost every gathering in the west. But it is also increasingly used in the south too. Loosely, it includes what used to be called developing countries, and many formerly colonised nations. It includes economic powerhouses such as China and India, mid-sized powers such as Turkey, Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and poor countries that struggle to make their voices heard. The group is so heterogeneous that it begs the question of whether it makes sense to consider it as such at all. Yet these countries share a sense that their independent voices should be heard rather than being shaped or determined by the west. To be heard, they are building and expanding organisations, such as the recent Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit enlarging the grouping to admit Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

They are taking stronger positions, the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) going as far as suggesting a military intervention in response to the coup in Niger (although little action

has followed). They want to be seen as international peace-builders: African leaders, including those from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, the Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Uganda, travelled to Kyiv and Moscow to press for peace and continued grain exports; while Saudi Arabia hosted representatives of more than 40 countries in Jeddah to discuss the principles for ending Russia's invasion. The west pays greater heed than it used to also because the global south matters more in international relations. As the Indian scholar Amitav Acharya points out, there is a distinction between the "power south", which represents the engine of global growth, and the "poor south". The crucial question is how to ensure that the latter also has a voice. The International Monetary Fund has forecast that Asia is poised to drive 70% of global growth this year, with India and China alone covering about half of the total.

Countries in the "power south" are carving out a role in the world through diplomacy, transactional relationships and "multi-alignment" in different organisations. India, for example, is a member of the China-led Brics, but also of the Quad (with Japan, the US and Australia). Aspiring to be a leader of the global south, it steered the G20 towards greater inclusivity by inviting the African Union into the group. Saudi Arabia has just signed up to the Brics, and despite its atrocious human rights record is in talks with Washington over a strengthened security partnership and normalised ties with Israel. Turkey is a Nato ally but has maintained strong relations with Russia, and seeks to revive the grain deal from which Moscow pulled out. Countries in the global south will play increasingly crucial roles in decarbonising the global economy, given their share of critical natural resources. Europe imports much of its lithium and cobalt from Chile and the Democratic Republic of the Congo respectively, while China has a near monopoly on the extraction, processing and production of many more critical minerals. Finally, the war in Ukraine has forced the west to stop ignoring the global south. Russia's invasion has brought to the surface accumulated global anger and resentment towards European countries and the US, whether for centuries of colonialism and neocolonial practices, or for the double standards western countries have so often displayed towards the violations of rights and law in different parts of the world.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine will at some point end. But the north's awakening to the geopolitical power of the southern hemisphere is not - as some of those with me in Jakarta said they feared - a fleeting moment. Some believe the war has made international relationships more fraught and conflicted. I disagree; the war has allowed fossilised resentments to surface. This may not necessarily lead to easier relationships in the future, but perhaps to more honest ones.

The Guardian

US House Republicans set to hold first Biden impeachment hearing

Katherine Gypson

REPUBLICANS in the US House of Representatives are set to hold their first hearing next week in the impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden. But with a very slim majority in the lower chamber of the US Congress, it appears unlikely Republicans will be able to pass the articles of impeachment needed to trigger a trial of the president in the US Senate.

The House Oversight Committee next Thursday will investigate allegations Biden improperly used his position as vice president to help his son Hunter's foreign business dealings. Republicans also allege Biden used his official office to coordinate those efforts and was protected from investigations into those claims by his own administration. "These allegations paint a picture of a culture of corruption," Speaker of the

House Kevin McCarthy told reporters last week while announcing the launch of the inquiry.

Multiple Republican-led House committees investigated the allegations for months prior to the launch of the inquiry and did not find any evidence supporting those claims. Rep. Jerry Nadler, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, said during a hearing Wednesday that Republicans "have wasted countless taxpayer dollars on baseless investigations into President Biden and his family. Desperate to find evidence for an absurd impeachment and desperate to distract from the mounting legal peril facing Donald Trump."

Chief among House Republicans' claims of corruption is an allegation that then-Vice President Biden pushed for the removal of Ukraine Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin in 2015 because of

Shokin's investigations into Burisma, the Ukrainian company whose board membership included Hunter Biden.

In a memo to reporters, the White House noted that years of independent reporting and an investigation by the House Foreign Affairs Committee found that Biden committed no wrongdoing and was carrying out a policy developed by the US State Department and carried out by the International Monetary Fund. Additionally, the White House said evidence shows Biden pushed for Shokin to be harder on corruption and that the Ukrainian prosecutor general was not investigating Burisma. The two-step process for removing federal officials from office is laid out in the US Constitution. In the first step of the process, the

US House of Representatives must pass articles of impeachment by a majority vote. Republicans only hold a slim majority in the US House of Representatives, with 221 Republicans, 212 Democrats and 2 vacancies. Many Republicans from more moderate districts have expressed concerns about impeaching Biden, particularly heading into a presidential election year.

In an opinion piece published by the Washington Post this week, Rep. Ken Buck, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, wrote, "Republicans in the House who are itching for an impeachment are relying on an imagined history." House Speaker McCarthy can only afford to lose a handful of Republican votes or risk failure on a vote to

impeach Biden.

McCarthy is facing difficulties within his own party passing a spending bill that will fund the government past a September 30th deadline. If disagreements within the Republican party remain, the US government will shut down.

"Extreme House Republicans are already telegraphing their plans to try to distract from their own chaotic inability to govern and the impacts of it on the country."

Staging a political stunt hearing in the waning days before they may shut down the government reveals their true priorities: to them, base-

less personal attacks on President Biden," White House Spokesperson Ian Sams said in a statement. If the US House of Representatives is able to pass articles of impeachment, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer will be in charge of deciding when and if the Senate holds a trial of Biden. Schumer has called the charges "absurd" and could decide not to hold a trial, where the Democratic majority would almost certainly never attain the two-thirds majority required to convict the president and remove him from office.

VOA

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Global disorder on display at UN’s gathering of world leaders

Dr. Abdel Azizi Aluwaisheg

DIGNITARIES from the UN's 193 member states have descended on New York this week to take part in the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, which has been an annual event since the organization was founded in San Francisco in 1945. As the world shakes off its pandemic-imposed travel restrictions, this year's 78th session appears more crowded than ever. About 140 heads of state or government are in attendance, while 40 more delegations are headed by vice presidents, deputy prime ministers or foreign ministers. Still more nations come, led by lesser officials, in addition to hundreds of organizations that also take part in these convocations. Scores of speeches mark this week, amid dozens of important side events that aim to take advantage of the presence of so many luminaries.

However, despite the large numbers, there is no hiding the fact that the world body is in trouble because of superpower tensions. It is conspicuous, for example, that many great power leaders have decided to skip the UN gathering this year. In fact, only President Joe Biden of the five permanent UN Security Council members is here. The leaders of the other four - China, France, Russia and the UK - are not.

The geopolitical disorder is most evident in the Security Council, the UN's most powerful body, where the five permanent members enjoy the right to veto any decision they do not like. This translates into paralysis these days, in light of the intense rivalry between its members. By tradition, Brazil speaks first at the General Debate. The US speaks next. Biden's focus was Ukraine, which he mentioned about 10 times in his speech. He pushed the assembled leaders to support Kyiv, asking them: "If we allow Ukraine to be carved up, is the independence of any nation secure?" If the UN's core principles are flouted, he said, "can any member state in this body feel confident that they are protected?" The US is working hard to put the Ukraine cause center stage at international gatherings, but there are signs that support for that cause is somewhat flagging. A CNN poll indicated that a majority of

Americans oppose more US aid for Ukraine. Dissent is especially pronounced among conservatives. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was met with thunderous applause when he took the stage and proceeded to give a dramatic

rights abused; families torn apart; children traumatized; hopes and dreams shattered ... Beyond Ukraine, the war has serious implications for us all. Nuclear threats put us all at risk. Ignoring global treaties and conventions makes us

He said that its invasion was "in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. It has unleashed a nexus of horror: lives destroyed; human rights abused; families torn apart; children traumatized; hopes and dreams shattered ... Beyond Ukraine, the war has serious implications for us all. Nuclear threats put us all at risk. Ignoring global treaties and conventions makes us all less safe. And the poisoning of global diplomacy obstructs progress across the board." In the opening speech, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva struck a more conciliatory and positive tone. He appeared to be trying for a comeback as the pre-eminent leader of Latin America and spokesman for the Global South as a whole - a role he enjoyed in his first two terms as president between 2003 and 2010.

15-minute speech, lambasting Russia and appealing passionately to the UN audience for help. Polish President Andrzej Duda recalled Adolf Hitler's invasion of his country in September 1939 and said that Poland understands the tragedy of Ukraine better than any other. "Today, the victim is Ukraine. Tomorrow, it could be any one of us," he said. Despite his convincing show of support for Ukraine, there were reports of disagreement between the two allies, especially around the handling of the grain export crisis. In addition, Duda is facing rising dissent from right-wing groups at home that are opposed to his support of Ukraine.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also weighed in with some surprisingly sharp remarks on the Ukraine war and criticism of Russia's role. He said that its invasion was "in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. It has unleashed a nexus of horror: lives destroyed; human

all less safe. And the poisoning of global diplomacy obstructs progress across the board." In the opening speech, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva struck a more conciliatory and positive tone. He appeared to be trying for a comeback as the preeminent leader of Latin America and spokesman for the Global South as a whole - a role he enjoyed in his first two terms as president between 2003 and 2010. Since returning to power in January, he has tried to regain that glory, traveling to some 20 countries and meeting with 50 heads of state, while repeating the slogan "Brazil is back." This reflects his determination to reclaim his old role, but times are different now, with the heightened geopolitical tensions between China and the US, as well as the Russia-Ukraine war. He keeps trying to strike a balance between the opposing camps - last month in South Africa during the BRICS Summit, earlier this month

in India during the G20 gathering and again on Tuesday at the UNGA.

While the jury is out on how Lula can strike a balance in the new cold war, he is nevertheless an effective advocate for climate action and for giving developing nations a greater role in multilateral organizations and the global economy. The words of the grandfatherly 77-year-old resonated with many in the audience and they gave him the treatment normally afforded to rock stars, especially the representatives of developing nations, who are more concerned with livelihoods than superpower rivalry. During the Cold War of old, US-Soviet rivalry nearly made the UN irrelevant. Now, the UN is trying very hard to immunize its economic and humanitarian missions from superpower tensions. Developing countries, which represent the majority of UN members, rely more than rich nations on UN help and they fear that tensions could reduce the organization's ability to play that role. Civil society groups, which rely on the UN to promote their various agendas, are also concerned about the political paralysis spilling over to other areas. This is the challenge facing the organization.

Guterres warned he may not be able to meet that challenge, saying the world was "inching ever closer to a great fracture in economic and financial systems and trade relations; one that threatens a single, open internet; with diverging strategies on technology and artificial intelligence; and potentially clashing security frameworks." He called for the reform of what he called the "dysfunctional, outdated and unjust international financial architecture." While Guterres has been criticized in the past for being alarmist, this year his scathing remarks struck a chord with most present in the General Assembly Hall. In one part of his speech, he lamented the neglect and disregard for civilians in so many conflicts. Referring to the devastating floods in Libya, he said: "The people of Derna lived and died in the epicenter of that indifference - as the skies unleashed 100 times the monthly rainfall in 24 hours ... as dams broke after years of war and neglect."

Arab News

Could Derna tragedy trigger a national reconciliation in Libya?

Mohamed Chebaro

EVERYWHERE in the flood-stricken eastern Libyan city of Derna, there is a feeling of absolute tragedy for those lost, a feeling of dread for those missing and a sense of despair for those who survived. However, though divided, the governing forces of Libya have agreed to put their differences aside for now in order to deal with the calamity that has hit their country. But will Libya's fate as a failed state change in a way that will unleash its potential to rebuild itself or edge closer to offering its people stability and working institutions that could oversee their well-being and prosperity and ward off future predictable disasters?

It has been more than a week since nature, maybe compounded by global warming, and neglect - the failure of the pre- and post-revolution authorities to maintain flood barriers and dams - combined to leave this long-neglected part of Libya prone to the wrath of flash flooding caused by Storm Daniel. Thousands are dead and many more are missing after the torrent flattened entire neighborhoods before the entire population of the city - estimated to be more than 120,000 - could take the necessary measures to flee or shield themselves.

Derna lies in a wadi 900 km east of the capital Tripoli and, like any Mediterranean city, is prone to seasonal storms like Daniel, which bear the features of tropical cyclones and hurricanes and are known as "Medicanes." While scientists usually avoid making any direct link between individual weather events and long-term climate change, Storm Daniel is yet another storm of the type we should expect to see more of. Its devastating effects match with the EU's climate-monitoring service Copernicus' repeated warnings that rising global sea

surface temperatures are driving record levels of heat across the globe, with 2023 likely to be the warmest in human history. And climate change-linked extreme weather events tend to be deadliest in strife-torn and poor countries that lack good infrastructure, early warning systems and strong emergency response services, exactly like what happened in Derna. Derna's infrastructure is dilapidated, with many buildings put up over the last decade flouting basic planning regulations. The city also suffered from a lack of preparation for unanticipated disasters such as this one, which has transformed it into a vast cemetery.

Derna's disaster was also the result of more than a decade of bloody battles and power struggles between Libya's various forces, which are allied to rival domestic, regional and international actors. They inherited the country from the late dictator Muammar Qaddafi, who ruled the country for more than 40 years, but they have failed to find a consensus to share power and the vast oil resources of a relatively homogeneous country, which is now considered a failed state due to its limitless number of militias and political actors. Libya is currently ruled by two main rival administrations, one based in Tripoli in the west, which is the so-called Government of National Unity, and another that controls large parts of the flood-ravaged east of the country and is controlled by the military strongman Khalifa Haftar. A ceasefire agreed in 2020 did at least bring to an end an attempt by the troops of the old national armed forces to reunify the country, after it failed to capture the capital Tripoli.

In the absence of a domestic consensus, and amid an international vacuum on the multilateral level

due to the complicated geopolitical divisions that were made more prominent after Russia invaded Ukraine, the Libyans in Derna can only hope for help to bury their dead, find some of their missing and maybe enough donations to repair some destroyed key infrastructure, such as reconnecting the stricken region to clean, unpolluted water. Like under Qaddafi, Derna has suffered from neglect. It was seen by the previous regime as a hotbed of dissent. After Qaddafi's removal, the area suffered from being in the hands of Daesh. Later, the group's affiliates were driven out by force by Haftar. But as in every failed state suffering from civil strife, infrastructure investment lurked at the bottom of the list of priorities. Derna has now paid the price for this.

Disasters often bring people together and one hopes this one might push the rival parties and their backers - from Russia, Turkiye, Egypt, the Gulf states and beyond - to put their differences aside and redouble their efforts to unify Libya in a way that better protects the country and its people from future calamities. Libya does not lack resources. It is not poor, like so many other unfortunate failed states in the region. If the Libyan power-brokers manage to set aside their differences and unify their efforts not only to rebuild Derna, but all parts of their nation, then the country might be able to turn this disaster and the subsequent suffering into an opportunity.

Many have said that what the world witnessed in Libya last week was an example of how a small natural disaster can dramatically impact a failed state. Libyans are now at a crossroads, with an opportunity to turn this disaster into a catalyst to refocus efforts to bring to an end the country's years of violence, destruction and discord, and find a path to reconciliation and stability.

Hunter Biden isn’t the only first son with problems

Alexis Coe

PRESIDENTIAL history is lousy with ne'er-do-well sons. John Quincy Adams was the earliest exception and the widely-admired Beau Biden the most recent, but for much of America's nearly 250-year history, First Sons have been embarrassing their fathers-but until now, virtually none of them were considered grist to sway a presidential election.

Republicans are betting that President Joe Biden's other son Hunter, the first wayward offspring of a sitting president to be charged by the Justice Department, will cost his father dearly in the political arena. American history tells us a different story: Bad presidential sons are as old as the nation itself, yet political opponents have never thought weaponizing them would win an election. If voters want the American Experiment to continue, they should view this unprecedented situation with alarm: Our democracy only functions when we play by the same rules. If there is evidence that a sitting president, a former president, a presidential candidate, a presidential heir or anyone else, has committed a crime, he or she should be held accountable. But in modern America, one party has just shown us that no one is above the law. The other appears to believe in an eye for an eye-but if they come up short, an eye for an heir will do just fine.

One founding father did try to warn us about this sort of thing. In his 1796 Farewell Address, George Washington cautioned

"friends and citizens" against political parties "sharpened by the spirit of revenge." It was clear even then that he was worried future generations might not heed his warning. To be fair, this founding father was used to being ignored by younger generations. Washington, the subject of my last book, played Sisyphus to John (Jacky) Custis, his step-son, for 22 of his 26 years. "I never did in my Life know a Youth so exceedingly indolent, or so surprisingly voluptuous," Jack's tutor, Reverend Jonathan Boucher, wrote to George Washington. But that was before Wash, Jack's son, was born. Washington described Wash, who he raised while president, as having "almost unconquerable disposition to indolence in every thing that did not tend to his amusements." In addition to gambling, drinking and womanizing, historians believe Wash fathered at least 10 children with enslaved women.

Washington anticipated some ill effects power-hungry political parties could do to our democracy, but even he couldn't have imagined his successors in office-Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe, who Washington blamed for the rise of partisanship during his presidency-would target his family. The same was true for Madison. It was common knowledge that Madison's reckless step-son, John Payne Todd, was jailed on several occasions for debt and guns. "I pity our Good Brother Madison," John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1817. "You

have tried your game of robbery long enough," Mary, Abraham Lincoln's widow, wrote to Robert, their only surviving son, after a year-long campaign to free herself from the asylum he'd damned her to. Robert, who wanted to be seen as Lincoln's heir apparent, was determined to be the center of attention at the 10-year anniversary of his father's assassination. He set her up for trial on insanity charges (which required a jury trial in Illinois) in a kangaroo court that was so appalling, the public rallied around Mary-and turned on Robert.

And in the modern era, not much has changed. When George H.W. Bush was president, both of his sons made news. George W. Bush was best-known for partying, but Neil Bush was sued by federal regulators for allegedly violating conflict-of-interest regulations and failing to act to stop improper loans when he was the director of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan. But he was allowed to settle out of court. And that's the way it usually goes. I could write articles about all the presidents' daughters, too. "I can do one of two things," Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying about his attention-grabbing 19-year-old daughter. "I can be President of the United States or I can control Alice Roosevelt. I cannot possibly do both." Patti Davis, Ronald Reagan's daughter, protested her father's administration, wrote a tell-all autobiography and posed for Playboy.

I could fill a book with the sad and sordid tales of the presidents'

bad relatives, but in particular, their sons. It'd be much easier than to sleuth through a presidential archive, which can yield few revelations-or none at all. But the sons, who take up very little space in those archives, are comparatively cheap thrills. My fan base might welcome a fun, fast book-before completely turning on me. Devoted students of history would object to wasting precious time and resources on a nothingburger scandal about a president's unelected son. That's what social media is for.

If Hunter Biden dominates the news during the 2024 race while former President Donald Trump stands trial in multiple courtrooms, it won't be good for the Republican agenda, either. If Hunter fails to beat the gun charges using a Second Amendment argument, a favorite of conservatives, it'll open the door to more gun reform. And it'll expose another threadbare lie, too: Trump, who has been indicted four times while (in addition to denying wrongdoing) while whining about being targeted by political enemies, can't credibly claim to be tough on crime-but Biden can. If I were his biographer, I know just what I would write: Unlike his immediate predecessor in office, who sought to bend the Justice Department to his will, President Joseph P. Biden is so deeply committed to equal justice that he empowered that department to pursue anyone they believed had broken the law-including his only surviving son.

CNN

Shanghai a ghost city a figment of imagination

Lin Shujuan

SITTING in an office in downtown Shanghai and writing a rebuttal of the rumors that China's largest city has turned into a ghost town seems like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Rebutting such absurd claims is simple: open the window, use your mobile phone camera to click a few random photographs, upload them on social media platforms, and your job is done.

In fact, many have done a better job by clicking photos and videos of Shanghai's immensely busy streets to rebut "independent journalist" Michael Yon's tweet on X (formerly Twitter) on Monday. Yon's tweet features three photos, which appear to show desolate roads and an empty Starbucks outlet in Shanghai's Lujiazui financial area, one of the city's most prosperous areas. Yon said the photos were taken by a friend on Monday and indicate "deep trouble" for the Chinese economy. Yon doesn't live in Shanghai or know the city well enough to have the knowledge of how a specific location looks like at a specific time of the day or night. Only office employees working in the area, some of whom

can be seen in the photos, know it's not a good idea to take the overpass on a sunny, smothering hot morning on Monday to see or show what the city actually looks like.

Ji Chun, a lawyer whose office is located at Shanghai World Financial Center, said the office buildings in the Lujiazui financial area are interconnected by overpasses, like the one featured in the photos, and many underpasses. Moreover, only local drivers and residents know the Pudong entrance to Yan'an East Road Tunnel has been closed to traffic and pedestrians since Oct 24, 2022, when the Pudong Avenue Tunnel, a major underground thoroughway nearby, was opened to traffic. Hence the empty street during office hours - which seemed weird to Yon and his traveling friend.

An empty Starbucks, with not even one barista, at 9 am may be an indicator of a slowing economy. But that is not necessarily the case with Shanghai, which has more than 8,000 coffee shops which can deliver coffee to customers within minutes of receiving online orders. At least 10 coffee shops, including

three Starbucks outlets, are located within a radius of less than 300 meters from where Yon's friend took the photos. Besides, it's not the right time for coffee or, to better put it, to sneak out for a cup of coffee when most people have just arrived at the office to start work. For those with an urgent need for caffeine, an online order is a better choice.

And yet Yon and his friend didn't care to think before jumping to a conclusion based on what they chose to see. Yon's friend didn't even bother to include the busy pedestrian crossing below the overpass. Nor did Yon care to question the obvious but something the photos don't show. When his friend sent him the photos and told him the Chinese economy is "in deep trouble", Yon swallowed it hook, line and sinker and shared them on X.

Of course, the tweet has struck a chord with many. In his report published in Newsweek, Andrew Stanton said that many residents have disputed the notion that Shanghai has turned into a ghost town. Yet it didn't stop Stanton

from agreeing with what Yon wrote on X. Stanton has introduced new evidence, which seems more "convincing", citing economists' concerns that China's economic growth has slowed down after the country lifted COVID-19 prevention and control measures, regardless of the fact that China's economy has since continued to recover. In the first half of the year, China's GDP grew by 5.5 percent year-on-year, significantly faster than last year's 3 percent, and the International Monetary Fund has forecast that China's economy will grow by 5.2 percent this year, and its contribution to global economic growth will increase to one-third of the total.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning cited the statistics at a regular news conference on Tuesday in response to global concerns over the Chinese economy. "It seems that various 'China collapse theories' appear every once in a while, but the fact is that China's economy has not collapsed. On the contrary, the 'China collapse theory' has repeatedly collapsed," she said. That's the message for Yon and his friend.

The China Daily

Myanmar coup

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

JAKARTA this month played host to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and its associated meetings, which included the East Asia Summit and dialogues with partner nations. Unfortunately, the four-day event was marred by ongoing internal discord within the bloc concerning Myanmar's military coup in 2021. This discord has allowed the junta in Myanmar to perpetuate violence and foster transnational criminal activities, casting a shadow over the proceedings.

Compounding the challenges, the absence of several prominent leaders from key ASEAN partner countries, including China's Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, further contributed to a sense of dampener, with Myanmar at the center of the transformation. One key factor that allowed ASEAN to maintain its traditional approach toward Myanmar during the Rohingya crisis was the fact that most refugees fled to Bangladesh, which is not a member of the organization. Nonetheless, there were exceptions, as tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees arrived by sea on the shores of ASEAN member countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. These two countries had previously raised concerns about Myanmar within ASEAN forums, but these efforts encountered resistance. Now, Indonesia is leading the way in adopting a new approach, primarily triggered by the coup in Naypyitaw.

In contrast to the outright condemnation and demands for a complete reversal of the situation voiced by the US and the EU, Indonesia has opted for a more nuanced and promising strategy. President Joko Widodo said in February he would send a top general to Myanmar in the hope of showing the junta how it can successfully transition to democracy, as it had initially promised during the coup. This approach holds several advantages. Firstly, it merely holds the Myanmar military accountable to its own commitments. The military's justification for the coup was "electoral irregularities" in the 2020

significant challenges in repatriating them. The responsibility for this failure does not lie with Indonesia, which currently holds the rotating chairmanship of ASEAN. Instead, the root of the problem lies within ASEAN itself - a predominantly economic and trade-focused alliance, whose member states have limited commonalities. ASEAN has long adhered to a strict policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of its member states. This commitment to noninterference has been evident even in the face of recent events in Myanmar, where the military conducted operations against the Rohingya minority, affecting about 1 million civilians. However, this stance is now facing a critical juncture, with Myanmar at the center of the transformation. One key factor that allowed ASEAN to maintain its traditional approach toward Myanmar during the Rohingya crisis was the fact that most refugees fled to Bangladesh, which is not a member of the organization. Nonetheless, there were exceptions, as tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees arrived by sea on the shores of ASEAN member countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. These two countries had previously raised concerns about Myanmar within ASEAN forums, but these efforts encountered resistance. Now, Indonesia is leading the way in adopting a new approach, primarily triggered by the coup in Naypyitaw.

One of the strongest voices for action from ASEAN was Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who emphasized the vital need for the implementation of the five points of consensus brokered by ASEAN. He pointed out that the Myanmar conflict has repercussions not only for its own population but also for neighboring countries like his own. During his address at the leaders' retreat held as part of the summit, he highlighted that Malaysia currently hosts more than 200,000 refugees from Myanmar. He observed that the majority of these refugees are innocent victims and noted the

polls and its stated intention was to conduct a "fair" rerun of the election. The possibility of having ASEAN observers present would significantly enhance the credibility of the election compared to one conducted solely by the military, thus potentially sidestepping accusations of "political interference" in Myanmar's internal affairs, both by Indonesia and ASEAN as a whole. Secondly, it provides an exit strategy for the military government without requiring it to admit fault or wrongdoing. This makes it more likely that it would accept this approach, as opposed to the Western demand for it to relinquish power. It would allow the military leaders to save face - a crucial factor - and may also shield them from potential legal and constitutional consequences for orchestrating the coup. This path would enable them to step away from direct military governance in Naypyitaw without immediate fear of imprisonment once civilian government is restored.

Lastly, this move leverages the collective weight of ASEAN to exert pressure on the military government to relinquish power, potentially proving to be the most effective means to achieve this goal while ostensibly upholding the principle of noninterference. In practice, this approach would undoubtedly be viewed as interference, since it is widely expected that fair elections would favor parties opposed to the military, primarily the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Especially if ASEAN observers are involved, calling for fair elections is, in essence, a call for an NLD government. Consequently, ASEAN is becoming politicized and emerging as a champion of democracy in Southeast Asia. While this marks a significant departure from its traditional stance, it may ultimately be viewed as a positive development.

Over time, ASEAN may explicitly acknowledge and embrace this new political role. The outcome of this initial effort remains uncertain, but it is a commendable and well-executed step in the right direction.

PSX turns around, gains 312 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around on Thursday and gained 312.55 points, showing a positive change of 0.68 per cent, closing at 46,202.13 points against 45,889.58 points the previous day. A total of 172,158,686 shares valuing Rs5.345 billion were traded during the day as compared to 129,372,427 shares valuing Rs3.639 billion the previous day.

As many as 327 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 195 of them recorded gains and 102 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 30 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were SEARLR2 with 25,210,712 shares at Rs0.15 per share, Maple Leaf with 15,320,162 shares at Rs29.78 per share, and WorldCall Telecom with 7,596,267 shares at Rs1.15 per share.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs200.00 per share price, closing at Rs8050.00, whereas the runner-up was Premium Textile with a Rs28.36 rise in its per share price to Rs406.46.

Unilever FoodsXD witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs1,155.00 per share closing at Rs20,100.00, followed by Colgate Palm with a Rs17.94 decline to close at Rs1,387.72.

Rupee gains Rs1.11 against US Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed 13th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.11 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs292.77 against

Hyundai SANTA FE: A new SUV era



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Hyundai Nishat Motor (Private) Limited (HNMPL), the fastest-growing automotive manufacturer in Pakistan, is set to make waves in the country's automotive landscape with the imminent launch of the highly anticipated Hyundai SANTA FE. Marking their 5th locally assembled Completely Knocked Down (CKD) model, HNMPL continues to redefine the automotive industry in Pakistan.

Building on the remarkable success of their previous models, such as the Sonata, Elantra, and Tucson, the Hyundai SANTA FE promises to usher in a new era of excellence in the SUV segment. With a focus on advanced features and cutting-edge technology, this remarkable vehicle is poised to change the SUV landscape and emerge as a true competitor in the SUV market.

Embracing the global

vision of sustainability and innovation, HNMPL has taken significant steps by establishing a state-of-the-art Hybrid facility. This strategic move enables them to introduce a locally assembled D-SUV hybrid vehicle to the Pakistani market, underlining their commitment to environmentally friendly solutions and a brighter, greener future for Pakistan.

The Hyundai SANTA FE embodies a harmonious blend of luxury, safety, sleek design, and an array of amazing features. It is meticulously crafted to cater to the diverse needs of Pakistani consumers, delivering outstanding performance whether navigating the urban streets or driving on rugged terrains.

As the official launch of the Hyundai SANTA FE draws near, the CEO of HNMPL, Hasan Mansha expressed the significance of this milestone for the company and the Pakistani market. "We are committed

to bringing new and innovative products to the Pakistani market," said Hasan Mansha. "The launch of the Hyundai SANTA FE underscores our dedication to enriching the automotive experience of Pakistani consumers and expanding our footprint in this dynamic market."

The anticipation surrounding the Hyundai SANTA FE launch is palpable, and excitement is building across the nation. As the official launch draws near, car enthusiasts and consumers are excited about the unveiling of the Hyundai SANTA FE.

Hyundai Motor Company and Hyundai Nishat Motor (Private) Limited together have adopted a vision towards Progress for Humanity by doing the right thing for humanity. Hyundai is committed to minimizing environmental impact through progressive and proactive environmental management activities.

Building tax capacity: PHHSA: Govt urges to adopt holistic approach

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA), Shahzad Ali Malik, on Thursday, emphasized the urgent need for governments to adopt a holistic and institution-based approach to build tax capacity with a focus on leveraging core domestic tax policies.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he called upon the government to implement bold reform plans and focus on tax base broadening through the rationalization of tax expenditures, more neutral taxation of capital income, and better use of taxes, said a news release issued here.

He said this multi-

pronged approach, over the long term, can balance equity and efficiency considerations.

He said the government must improve the design and administration of core domestic taxes—value-added taxes, excises, income taxes, and corporate income taxes. Shahzad Ali said revenue in low-income countries for instance could be doubled by limiting preferential treatments and improving compliance without increasing standard tax rates.

The widespread adoption of digital technologies would result in higher revenue collection and narrow compliance gaps, he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik said

to improve the institutions that govern the tax system and manage tax reform that requires adequate staffing to forecast and analyze the impact of tax policies on the economy.

He said greater professionalization of public officials working on tax design and implementation, and better use of digital technologies to strengthen compliance, transparency and certainty in how policy and administration are translated into legislation.

He urged the government to carefully prioritize and coordinate reforms across government agencies because the broader institutional context matters.

Court Notice

In the court of Saqib Khan Senior Family Court Cavit Judge, Bannu, Mst: Shazmeena etc vs Aamir Sohail etc.Family suit No.156/FC, Instituted on 04-09-2023 Next date of hearing: 07-10-2023 To: Aamir Sohail son of Mir Alam jan R/O Malikhel Janikhel Tehsil and District Bannu presently Abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 07.10.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this court.

Oil prices dropped

ANKARA (APP): Oil prices declined more than 1% on Thursday over demand concerns as the US Federal Reserve (Fed) held its key interest rate steady and forecast fewer cuts next year.

International benchmark crude Brent traded at \$92.36 per barrel at 10.31 a.m. local time (0731 GMT), a 1.25% loss from the closing price of \$93.53 a barrel in the previous trading session on Wednesday.

The American benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded at the same time at \$88.50 per barrel, down 1.29% from the previous session's

close of \$89.66 per barrel.

Both benchmarks recorded the steepest falls of the month, having reached 10-month highs on supply concerns after Saudi Arabia and Russia extended curbs until the end of the year.

On Wednesday, prices declined as investors profited from high price levels before the US Fed's announcement, which was in line with market expectations.

The FR maintained its benchmark interest rate on Wednesday but hinted that another increase is likely this year due to persistently high inflation and a robust economy.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, MSC Tai II, ECO, Sea Bird and Al-Dayyan carrying Containers, Steel coil, Wheat and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Chem Sea-1, Al-Jasra and Beks Halil with Chemicals, LNG and Wheat also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on Thursday.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, Ulriken and Constantinos left the port on Thursday morning, MSC Tai II, ECO and N-Horn are expected to sail on Thursday.

Cargo throughput of 109,375 tonnes, comprising 95,843 tonnes imports cargo and 13,532 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,423 Containers (627 TEUs Imports and 796 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 08 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, LRI Charm, Starry, Oak and Chem Sea-1 & two more ships, Oak and CMA CGM Ivanhoe carrying Mogas, Palm oil, Chemicals, Coal and Containers are expected to take berths at FOTCO, LCT, PIBT, EVTL and QICT respectively on Thursday.

NPO, FCCI meets to tackles issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Dr. Khuram Tariq on Thursday held a meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Productivity Organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry to address Pakistan's economic challenges and explore effective solutions for economic rejuvenation.

The meeting was convened to address critical issues pertaining to Pakistan's current economic situation, analyze the factors contributing to the country's economic challenges, and explore productive solutions to rejuvenate the nation's economy, according to a news release issued here.

President FCCI expressed his profound concern about the state of the Pakistani economy, highlighting the need for a comprehensive understanding of why it has encountered difficulties in recent years.

He emphasized the importance of initiating extensive training programs at the grassroots level as a fundamental step towards fostering economic growth and development in Pakistan.

"To ensure the future prosperity of Pakistan, we must begin by nurturing the potential of our nation from the very grassroots. This means investing in training, skill development, and education at all levels of society. Only through a well-rounded and skilled workforce can we hope to overcome the challenges that have plagued our economy," he added.

Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry underscored the organization's commitment to addressing the productivity deficit in Pakistan and its role in steering the country towards progress.

The CEO highlighted NPO's ongoing efforts to enhance productivity and efficiency in various sectors, emphasizing their dedication to working collaboratively with government bodies, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to achieve economic revitalization.

"The NPO is actively engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at improving productivity and fostering economic growth. We believe that sustainable development is contingent on enhancing our nation's productivity levels, and we are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to make this vision a reality," he remarked.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to forging a strong partnership between FCCI and the NPO, with a shared goal of developing innovative solutions to address Pakistan's economic challenges and pave the way for a more prosperous future.



ISLAMABAD: MD/CEO of OGDCL Ahmed Hayat Lak and Pro-Rector RIC, NUST Dr. Riaz exchanging documents after signing strategic partnership.

OGDCL and NUST forge strategic partnership

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development to address critical Exploration and Production (E&P) issues, the Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) have forged a strategic partnership to drive innovation, research, and educational excellence in Pakistan's energy sector.

OGDCL and NUST have signed a Document of Understanding (DoU), ushering in new opportunities for innovation, research,

and educational excellence in Pakistan. The DoU was signed by Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, CEO of OGDCL, and Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector RIC representing NUST, in a ceremony attended by officials from both organizations.

This collaboration marks the beginning of an exciting journey aimed at addressing critical E&P issues while fostering a culture of innovation and research excellence within Pakistan.

The formal signing ceremony took place at NUST and was followed by visits to the School of Natural Sciences & Engineering

Newly appointed Chief Collector Customs meets businessmen

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed Chief Collector Customs KP, Saeed Akram held a meeting with business community representatives and assured of early resolution of issues hindering smooth sailing of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The customs top official was meeting with businessmen who called on his office under the leadership of President Frontier Customs Agents Association, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi.

Zia congratulated Saeed Akram on his appointment and expressed the hope that he would give due consideration to the problems being faced by the business community of the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi who holds the office of

Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) apprised Collector Customs about the delay in clearance of trucks carrying goods at the Torkhem check post.

He said due to the season of fresh fruits, a large number of trucks crossing the border and slow scanning is causing a delay in clearance. Due to the closure of the border for nine consecutive days, a large number of goods-laden trucks were already gathered at the Torkhem making long queues on both sides of the border.

The rush of trucks at the border has also caused a delay in clearance of around 1500 empty containers coming back from Afghanistan to Pakistan, inflicting losses on businessmen under the head of detention charges, Zia added.

Zia said the accumulation of trucks at Torkhem border has also caused a shortage of empty trucks and the fare for transportation of 40-foot containers from Karachi to Afghanistan has been increased from Rs. 1,60,000 to Rs. 400,000.

He also demanded an expedition of construction work by NLC and completion of the project within its stipulated time of June 2023.

Zia Sarhadi said since the Azhakhel dry port is not operational and exporters are sending their consignments in private trucks as a result of which all exportable items including gems, marble, handicrafts,

Japan keen to develop trade ties with Pakistan, says Ambassador

SIALKOT (INP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada has said that Japan is keen to boost trade ties and enhance trade volume with Pakistan.

He said this while addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and delegations of various leading firms from Japan and Sialkot business community.

The Japanese ambassador stressed the need for making all-out sincere efforts to strengthen mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Japan. He said that

Sialkot is famous for its production of soccer balls and others. The ambassador said that both nations had been supportive to each other and last year the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

He said that potential of Pakistan economy was huge and his country was interested in finding more opportunities. He said that 80 Japanese companies were doing business in Pakistan and 80,000 workers were working in these companies in Pakistan. He said that there were so many international competitive companies working in Sialkot. He said that famous prestigious companies including trading companies and logistic companies present here in the

FTO for growing role of regionalism in globalization transformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said the concept of globalization is undergoing a transformation, with regionalism playing an increasingly prominent role.

Speaking at a seminar on "Globalization shifting to Regionalization" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, said a news release issued here, Meher Kashif said this

shift is driven by a combination of economic, political, and technological factors and it will be fascinating to see how these developments continue to shape the world in the coming years.

Globalization, for decades, has been characterized by the interconnectedness of economies across the world, he added.

He said it brought about a remarkable era of international trade, cultural exchange, and technological advancement.

However, as we move further into the 21st century, we are witnessing a noticeable shift in this paradigm. In his thought-provoking address, he said another aspect of this transition is the changing political landscape.

Nationalism and protectionism have gained traction in some parts of the world, challenging the principles of globalization.

Political leaders and policymakers are increasingly

uplift of the country through its industrial produce that is exported to all parts of the world.

The SCCI president said that top cricket and hockey brands hail from Sialkot and the city produces sports goods, surgical instruments, textile apparel, and leather goods for top brands of the world. The city could be termed the "House of Brands" and is open to trade with the top in business. Malik said that there are countless points of connection and cooperation but trading partnership should underpin our shared cooperation. "I am pleased to mention that Japan is one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan with our bilateral trade standing at \$1.23 billion with Pakistan's exports of goods and services at \$260 million."

Organizations like the European Union, ASEAN, BRICKS and the African Union are gaining prominence and reshaping global trade dynamics.



In brief

Murray wins Zhuhai C'ships opener

LONDON (Agencies): Britain's Andy Murray defeated Chinese wildcard Ye Cong Mo to win his opening match of the Zhuhai Championships. The former world number one battled "very humid" conditions to beat Mo 7-5 6-3 and reach the last 16. "It was a very, very fast court," he said. "My opponent played a solid level at the beginning of the match and pushed me while I was trying to adjust to the conditions." "Once I managed to get ahead at the beginning of the second set, I felt a bit more comfortable but it wasn't easy and a lot of the players have said the same thing." The opening set was competitive and on serve until Murray broke the Chinese wildcard in the final game to edge the set 7-5. Murray then fought off four break points in his first two service games in the second set, before breaking for a 3-1 lead and maintaining the advantage. He served his 10th ace in the match to win on his first and only match point. It was the 36-year-old's first match since helping Great Britain reach the quarter-finals of the Davies Cup. He will now face Aslan Karatsev, who beat Murray in their only career meeting at the 2022 Sydney Classic final.

Rain washes out first ODI

MIRPUR (Agencies): Incassant rain washed out the first one-day international (ODI) between Bangladesh and New Zealand in Dhaka on Thursday. Match officials declared the game abandoned after rain halted the New Zealand innings at 136-5 in 33.4 overs. Will Young was the highest scorer for New Zealand with 58 off 91 balls and shared 97 runs with Henry Nicholls for the third wicket to help the visitors recover from 2-16. Bangladesh earlier won the toss and elected to bowl first, but rain stopped New Zealand's first innings for more than two hours after just 4.3 overs. Mustafizur Rahman dismissed Finn Allen for nine and Chad Bowes for one in successive overs after play resumed. The rain truncated the game into a 42-overs-a-side contest. Young and Nicholls repaired the damage, before Mustafizur broke their partnership by trapping Nicholls leg-before for 44. Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed soon removed Young and Rachin Ravindra to halt New Zealand's progress. Young earlier survived on 18, as Bangladesh decided against reviewing an appeal for lbw against the batsman. Tom Blundell and Cole McConchie were batting, both on eight when rain stopped New Zealand's innings for a second time. Mustafizur finished with 3-27, while Nasum claimed 2-21. The second and third ODIs will be played at the same ground on September 23 and 26. New Zealand will be looking to win their first ODI series in Bangladesh in 15 years, having lost all seven matches to the hosts in the previous two series respectively in 2010 and 2013 but they will be without their key players including Tim Southee. Bangladesh, who are yet to name their ICC Men's World Cup squad, also rested key players including regular captain Shakib Al Hasan. This series will be the last for both Bangladesh and New Zealand before the World Cup starts in neighbouring India on October 5.

Naila Kiani becomes first Pakistani woman to summit Mount Manaslu



KHAPLU (Agencies): Naila Kiani has become the first Pakistani woman to climb Mount Manaslu, the world's eighth highest mountain at 8,163 meters (26,781 feet) in west Nepal, the Alpine Club of Pakistan said on Thursday. Kiani is the first and only Pakistani woman to summit nine peaks higher than 8,000 meters, including Broad Peak (8,047m), Annapurna (8,091m), K2

(8,611m), Lhotse (8,516m), Gasherbrum I (8,068m), Gasherbrum II (8,035m), Nanga Parbat (8,125m), and Mount Everest (8,849m). "Naila Kiani has successfully reached the 8163-meter peak of Mount Manaslu in Nepal," the Alpine Club said in a statement. Kiani is a Pakistani banker living in Dubai and a mother of two. She

received viral fame in 2018 after her wedding photos from K2 basecamp were widely shared on social media. She received the Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's third-highest civilian award, for climbing Mount Everest successfully in May. "Congratulations PAK-ISTAN.. Congratulations Naila...", the climber's X account said on Thursday morning. "Never think that anything is impossible. I started mountaineering only two years ago," Kiani told private channel in an interview last month. "I don't have anybody in my family who has any connection with mountaineering, and within two years, I am the fastest among Pakistani males and females who climbed all Pakistani peaks in two years and eight overall mountains."

16-member bridge team to represent Pakistan in Asian Games

LAHORE (APP): A 16-member Pakistan bridge contingent (10 males and six females) including 11 players and five officials will participate in the 19th Asian Games under the captaincy of seasoned bridge master Ghalib Ali Bandesha. The bridge event of Asian Games will be competed in three categories – Men's Team, Women's Team and Mixed Team to be staged at Hangzhou Qiyuan (Zhili) Chess Hall from Sept 27 to Oct 6. Ghalib Bandesha, the skipper of national bridge squad, in his exclusive chat on Thursday with APP informed that Pakistan will field its bridge teams in two competitions – Men's Team and Mixed Team events of Asian Games. "Five players of our national squad will feature in Men's com-

petition while six in Mixed Team event," he added. Bandesha, who has grabbed several titles and gold medals during his 12-year international career including gold medal in BFAME Championships in 2017, China-Arab States Bridge Championships 2013, Bridge Festivals Dubai in 2016, 2017 & 2018, Jordan 2022, China 2016, 2017 and 2018 and Turkey 2022, is also one of the key members of Pakistan bridge contingent. He said that Pakistan bridge contingent is consisted of highly experienced players like Rubina Agha and Masood Mazhar, who have won numerous world titles and medals during their respective careers. "We are quite upbeat that our players will exhibit outstanding performance and win laurels for the country

in the mega event". He informed that the teams from 13 countries will show their prowess in the Asiad bridge event. "We know that some best bridge outfits of Asia such as China, India, Hong Kong and Singapore will be in the competition and our players will have to demonstrate their true potential to achieve success in the Asian Games," he added. Pak bridge contingent: Players: Ghalib Ali Bandesha (capt), Rubina Agha, Masood Mazhar, Anwar Mumtaz Kizilbash, Shahab Sarki, Yousuf Jan Mohammad, Samira Jimry Fancy, Azra Raja, Arslan Mansoor, Farrukh Liaqat and M Zia Hai. Team officials: Raheel Ahmed, Jaweria Hai, Mosammat Lata Begum, Raana Bodman and Mohammad Arif Bajwa.

Miami wins despite Messi's early exit

FORT LAUDERDALE (Agencies): Inter Miami shrugged off an injury concern to Lionel Messi to boost their Major League Soccer playoff hopes with a 4-0 thrashing of Toronto FC 4-0 on Wednesday. Messi returned to the starting line-up after skipping Saturday's 5-2 defeat at Atlanta due to muscle fatigue but left the field in the 38th minute looking uncomfortable. His former Barcelona team-mate, Spaniard Jordi Alba who had also sat out the trip to Atlanta, also limped off three minutes earlier in the game. Miami coach Gerardo Martino said the pair are now ruled out for Sunday's Florida derby with Orlando City and was uncertain about their involvement in next week's US Open Cup final. "We have to go day by day, see the doctor's report, what they tell us and we will decide. Obviously, there is no 'chance' that they will be there on Sunday," he said. "I don't think it's anything new or bigger than what they had been having. It's just fatigue, I don't think there is a muscular injury," he said, defending the decision to play them. "Everything was in place for the players to play ... There is no possibility (that they were pressured to

play). If we made them play it was because they were fit to play." "After talking to them, I don't have the same pessimism I had when I had to take them out," he said. Despite the blow of losing their star and one of their most influential players, Miami swept aside the Eastern Conference's bottom club with ease, Messi's replacement Robert Taylor scoring twice after coming on. Facundo Farias opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time with a blistering volley after Toronto keeper Tomas Romero had meekly palmed out a Noah Allen cross. Taylor then made it 2-0 in the 54th minute with an outstanding individual strike, dribbling across the box from the left before unleashing a sharply angled drive back into the bottom corner. Taylor then turned provider, releasing another substitute Benjamin Cremaschi who fired through the legs of Romero to make it 3-0. Finland international Taylor completed his impactful performance with the fourth, bringing down a floated pass over the top from Farias and blasting home from close range. Miami move up to 13th in the Eastern Conference and are now

just five points off Wayne Rooney's D.C. United who occupy ninth spot, the final playoff position. Miami have two games in hand. D.C United were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Atlanta while other results were also favourable for Miami. Charlotte, who Miami have to play twice, are now just two points ahead of the Florida side after they let a two-goal lead slip in a 2-2 draw at home to Philadelphia, conceding a stoppage time penalty which was converted by Daniel Gazdag. The draw guaranteed Philadelphia a place in the playoffs. The Columbus Crew also secured their place in the playoffs beating the Chicago Fire 3-0 with Colombian Cucho Hernandez scoring all three inside 23 minutes -- the second fastest hattrick from the start in MLS history. Tenth placed New York City kept their playoff hopes alive with a 2-0 win at home to second placed Orlando City. Despite the defeat Orlando are now sure of a place in the post-season. Eastern Conference leaders Cincinnati needed a goal deep in stoppage time from Argentina Luciano Acosta to earn a point at eighth placed Montreal.

Pakistan edge Nepal to script winning start to SAFF U19 C'ship

K A T H M A N D U (Monitoring Desk): Ali Zafar's decisive 74th-minute goal powered Pakistan to edge host Nepal in their South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U19 Championship campaign opener on Thursday. Pakistan and Nepal went hard at each other in their SAFF U19 Championship fixture and showcased thrilling skills and tenacity before the former prevailed. With a thrilling victory over Nepal, Pakistan ended a 12-year-long victory drought in an international match. Pakistan's U19 team last secured a victory on the international stage in 2011, when they defeated India's U19 team. Midfielder Ali Zafar netted the lone goal in the 74th minute, which turned out to be the difference maker between the two sides, who appeared insep-



Besides Ali Zafar, Pakistan's goalkeeper Sahil Gul played a pivotal role in his team's triumph over Nepal, denying several threatening efforts from the home side. The ongoing SAFF U19 Championship 2023 is being held at the Dashrath Stadium here from September 21 to 30. For the unversed, this is the fifth edition of the SAFF U19 Championship, a highly competitive inter-

national football tournament for men's under-19 national sides, organised by the SAFF. India are the defending champions, having won their second title in 2022 by defeating Bangladesh in the final. Pakistan, on the other hand, fuelled with momentum will now take on Maldives in their next SAFF U19 Championship fixture on September 23. Pakistan Squad

Goalkeepers: Sahil Gul, Mohsin Khan and Muhammad Abdullah
Defenders: Muhammad Sadam, Muhammad Adeel, Assad Nasir, Ans Amin, Khurshid Alam, Muhammad Raheel, Shayan Ali, Kamil Ahmad Khan, Abid Ali, Hannan Naveed and Najeeb Ullah
Midfielders: Ali Zafar, Muhammad Azan and Awais Khan
Forwards: Shahjahan, Muhammad Hassan, Faisal Ahmad, Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Haroon Zafar and Muhammad Adeel Younas
Team Officials: Shadab Ifthikhar (Head Coach), Mohsan Ul Hussnain (Assistant Coach), Khurram Shahzad (Goal Keeper Coach), Aamna (Media), Muhammad Abdullah and Muhammad Samama (Physio) and Zohair Gondal (Team Manager).

Argentina remain top of FIFA world rankings

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) World champions Argentina strengthened their grip at the top of the FIFA world rankings in the latest list on Thursday, with the top five remaining unchanged after the international break. Argentina, who dethroned Brazil at the summit in April, remained top after beating Ecuador and Bolivia in their 2026 World Cup qualifiers earlier this month. Second-placed France, who lost to Germany in a friendly last week, retained second place followed by Brazil (third), England (fourth) and Belgium (fifth). Portugal were the only team in the top 10 to climb a spot, moving up to eighth, while Italy dropped one place to ninth after a 1-1 draw with North Macedonia in a Euro 2024 qualifier. Croatia (sixth), Netherlands (seventh) and Spain (10th) complete the top 10, while Morocco (13th), Colombia (16th), Denmark (18th) and Japan (19th) all moved up a place. **The top 20-ranked nations:** 1 - Argentina 2 - France 3 - Brazil 4 - England 5 - Belgium 6 - Croatia 7 - Netherlands 8 - Portugal 9 - Italy 10 - Spain 11 - United States 12 - Mexico 13 - Morocco 14 - Switzerland 15 - Germany 16 - Colombia 17 - Uruguay 18 - Denmark 19 - Japan 20 - Senegal.

Pakistan's ICC World Cup 2023 squad to be announced today

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The much-anticipated Pakistan squad for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 will be announced on Friday morning, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed. In an official statement, the PCB revealed that the national men's Chief Selector Inzamam-ul-Haq met PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf on Thursday afternoon and finalized the 15-member squad for the ICC World Cup 2023. "Inzamam ul Haq, chief selector, who couldn't make into the meeting yesterday due to a medical emergency but met Zaka Ashraf on Thursday afternoon to share his input," PCB said in a statement. "After the completion of the review, Inzamam has finalised the Pakistan squad for the ICC World Cup, which will be announced on Friday morning in a press conference scheduled to take place at 1115 am at Level 2, Far-End Building of Gaddafi Stadium," the statement added. The PCB also reviewed the national men's team's performance in the recently concluded ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023. The PCB high-ups under the Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf on Wednesday evening met with the National coaching staff headed by Mickey Arthur, captain Babar Azam, vice-captain Shadab Khan, and former captains Misbah ul Haq and Mohammad Hafeez. In the meeting, the complete men's national coaching staff which includes head coach Grant Bradburn, batting coach Andrew Puttick, and bowling coach Morne Morkel were also invited to report on the team's recent performance. The review meeting was also

attended by Dr Sohail Saleem to brief about players' injuries and the way forward for players' rehabilitation programs. In a robust analysis, every aspect of recent team performance, player fitness, and future plans came into discussion with a view to bringing improvement to the side. There was an agreement on making a better approach and strategy on players' workload. The importance of strengthening the bench was also emphasised. Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf: "The philosophy behind this review was to create an atmosphere of open discussion and develop consensus. The idea is to have everyone on board and debate about performances, identifying the problems and their solutions. We have to debate strengths and weaknesses so that we are clear about what and where we need to invest for the betterment of our team. "Discussion revealed that the previous management had allowed a lot of players to play league cricket which caused them to fatigued ahead of their national duty. But going forward we have agreed to form a proactive approach to tackle players workload and give national duty a priority. "I am glad we had a good positive review session and are on the same page. We are confident that the experience gained in the Asia Cup was a learning curve and will help prepare for the ICC Men's World Cup. "Our team is filled with talent, and we believe they have the capability to compete and win at the highest level. We have world-class batters and bowlers and are committed to providing them with the necessary support and resources to ensure they are well-equipped ahead of the mega event."



MOHALI: Pat Cummins is all smiles addressing the media in Mohali.

India, Pakistan advance to Asian Games semis

HANGZHOU (Agencies): India and Pakistan have advanced to the Asian Games semi-finals in Hangzhou after their respective quarter-finals were abandoned because of rain. India's rain-hit quarter-final against Malaysia was reduced to 15-overs-a-side in which they amassed 173 for 2 riding largely on a 39-ball 67 from Shafali Verma and an unbeaten 29-ball 47 by Jemimah Rodrigues. Rain arrived just two balls into Malaysia's steep chase forcing the game to be called off. The second quarter-final

between Pakistan and Indonesia was washed out without a ball being bowled. India and Pakistan advanced to the semi-final on account of having higher seeding than their opponents. The first quarter-final was a mismatch of epic proportions and Malaysia hardly posed a fight. India flexed their might from ball one after being put into bat with rain looming. Smriti Mandhana's early elegance gave way to Shafali's brutality, and Rodrigues lent her own signature touch to the innings as India blasted 173 for

2, including 113 off 9.2 overs after the rain break. Richa Ghosh, who wasn't part of the Bangladesh tour, added the finishing touches with 21 not out off just seven deliveries. She hit 18 off those courtesy three fours and a six in the final over off medium pacer Mas Elysa, with the highlight being a bottom-handed shovel inside-out over extra cover off a yorker. There was brief concern in the Indian camp late in the innings when Shafali was hit on her right forearm at the non-striker's end by Rodrigues'

cross-batted swat. She resumed her innings after some treatment from the physio but was out lbw in the same over, the 13th, playing across the line to a straight delivery from Elysa. Shafali played a power game, time and again moving to the offside to try and access the arc between long-on and deep mid-wicket where the boundary was only 45 metres. Malaysia didn't help themselves by bowling full tosses and slot balls to Shafali. India were so dominant that Malaysia could not string together three dot balls. The only

bright spot in their performance was Mandhana's dismissal. She was early into a pull and lobbed a leading edge to point off medium pacer Mahirah Ismail in the sixth over. The celebrations were boisterous after the catch was taken, given Mandhana had looked in pristine touch until then, hitting five fours in 15 balls. But any sense of relief Malaysia may have had dissipated as Shafali took charge and ran them ragged along with Rodrigues and Ghosh. Bangladesh could potentially be India's semi-final opponent if

they win their quarter-final against Hong Kong. That will set up a tantalising contest for Mandhana's team (Harmanpreet Kaur will sit out of the game due to a two-match suspension), given the recent history between the two sides. Bangladesh proved they were no pushovers during India's recent tour in July, where they won two matches and tied one across six white-ball games. The series was remembered for a huge controversy over umpiring that boiled over into a nasty exchanges between the teams.



In brief

Police conduct search operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have conducted search operations in Wah Cantt, Taxila, Naseerabad, Airport, Westridge and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Wah Cantt, Taxila, Naseerabad, Airport and Westridge. Police Stations, said a police spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that Rawalpindi district police, women police and other law enforcement agencies under the supervision of senior police officers participated in the search operations. He said that Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations conducted search operations and inspected 175 houses, 32 shops, besides checking 197 persons. The supremacy of the law would be ensured and the crackdown against the lawbreakers would continue, SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan said.

PID launches Policy Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Media Cell of the Press Information Department has launched a Policy Working Group which was aimed at enhancing its research capability. Representatives from leading think tanks in Islamabad participated in the inaugural meeting of the working group, said a news release. Director General Home Publicity Raisa Adil presided over the inaugural meeting, while Deputy Project Director Asad Shabbir gave a comprehensive presentation. The formation of the policy working group would help enhance the media cell's research capability while also building broad-based consensus on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CVE efforts. The participants included Dr. Shafqat Munir from Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Talat Shabbir from the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Reema Shaukat from Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Hassan Ahmad from Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Asad Ullah Khan from Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, Shahab Siddiqi from Tabadlab, Naufil Shahrukh from Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Alishba Naem from Social Protection Resource Centre.

AIOU holds RDs' conference

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the Regional Directors Conference of Punjab at Multan Regional Campus the other day. Different educational issues from admissions to examinations and issuance of degrees were discussed and various measures were suggested for the convenience of students in the meeting. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said there was a need to promote and popularize education as well as social and economic activities to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy. Regional offices and Model Study Centres of AIOU will be established in every part of the country that lacks the basic facilities for education. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the university had prepared an academic calendar to complete all teaching and administrative matters, and regional directors played an important role in implementation of the academic calendar. He asked regional directors to submit the results of the assignments within the stipulated time frame to conduct the final examinations as per scheduled timings.

Aneeq highlights need to strengthen Muslim unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Thursday met with Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa in Riyadh, and highlighted the urgent need to strengthen the unity and perception of the Muslim Ummah on the globe.

During the meeting, both the leaders explored solutions to issues facing the Muslim community through the MWL platform, said a statement issued here.

Minister Aneeq emphasized the importance of adapting to modern knowledge and the necessity of both short-term and long-term planning to alleviate

poverty within the Muslim Ummah. He acknowledged that contemporary challenges such as Islamophobia, climate change, and increasing secularism required concerted efforts and dialogue with non-Muslim communities.

Minister Aneeq underscored the significance of fostering dialogue and understanding with non-Muslims, portraying it as a battle against ignorance rather than a clash of civilizations. He stressed that Islam promoted humanity and service to all without any discrimination as "the duty to serve is essence of faith."

Furthermore, both leaders expressed their mutual desire to promote dialogue at governmental and religious leader levels. In a collaborative effort, they

announced the establishment of a 'Seerat Museum' in Pakistan, with the support of MWL, aimed at preserving and promoting Islamic heritage.

Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa commended Pakistan's role as a crucial Islamic nation and recognized its unwavering commitment to the Islamic world. He affirmed that Pakistan's contributions to the Muslim Ummah should never be underestimated.

Dr. Al-Issa also revealed plans for laying the foundation stone of the 'Seerat Museum' during his visit to Pakistan in November, solidifying the collaboration between Pakistan and the MWL.

Samdani visits PM&DC to improve healthcare standards



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chair of the Advocacy Committee of the Association of Physicians of Pakistan Descent of North America (APPNA) Dr. Attiqui Samdani visited the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) to strengthen ties and promote collaborative opportunities for the advancement of healthcare standards and professional support. Dr. Attiqui Samdani met President PM&DC Dr. Rizwan Taj during the visit in a productive discussion.

The primary focus was to enhance cooperation between APPNA and

PM&DC, with the shared goal of elevating healthcare practices, education, and regulation in both the United States and Pakistan.

The discussions underscored collaboration's importance in promoting positive changes in the healthcare sector. Dr. Samdani expressed APPNA's commitment to supporting PM&DC's initiatives aimed at ensuring high-quality continuing medical education, Continuing professional development, and ethical medical practices in Pakistan.

Dr. Attiqui Samdani said that we believe in the power of collaborative efforts to drive transforma-

tive changes in healthcare, and we are eager to work hand in hand with PM&DC to bolster the medical landscape in both nations, by aligning our strengths and resources, we can elevate medical education, training, and standards, ultimately benefitting patients and communities.

He added that APPNA envisions a future where healthcare professionals from both the United States and Pakistan can benefit from shared knowledge, resources, and experiences.

The President PM&DC also extended his full support in expediting prompt disposal of registrations and other issues of Pakistani doctors working in USA.

OGRA strongly rejects misinformation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday strongly denied the false propaganda circulating on social and national media, evidently aimed at maligning the organization and diverting attention from its actions against illegal and malicious activities of illegal smuggling of Iranian oil and use of flare gas.

In an official statement, a spokesperson emphasized that OGRA maintained a profound dedication to its core mission, which involved transparently regulating and overseeing Pakistan's oil and gas sector with the highest standards of integrity and diligence.

The OGRA remains unwavering in efforts to

ensure safety, compliance and fairness for all stakeholders and the nation.

He urged the public and media to seek accurate information and refrain from spreading harmful misinformation that could damage the reputation of an institution dedicated to safeguarding Pakistan's energy consumers and promoting a responsible oil and gas sector.

The OGRA spokesperson expressed concern that a few self-proclaimed troublemakers are misleading the public with disinformation. He urged the media to verify OGRA's stance before broadcasting or publishing news related to the oil and gas sector.

He emphasized that OGRA's primary goals

included promoting competition, encouraging private investment and ownership in the mid and downstream petroleum industry and safeguarding public interests through effective and efficient regulations.

He pointed out that OGRA was indirectly overseeing a significant portion, approximately one-third, of the government's economy, with the Oil and Gas sector's market share exceeding \$25 billion annually.

He pledged to persist in fostering a secure, progressive and competitive oil and gas industry through close collaboration with all stakeholders. This commitment aims to protect the interests of the nation and maintain the trust of its citizens.

Police chief holds online 'Khuli Katcheri'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, conducted an online "Khuli Katcheri", providing residents with direct access to high-ranking police officials.

During the online session held on the other day, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally addressed public inquiries via phone calls between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. He

listened to callers' concerns and instructed relevant officers to find immediate solutions.

The majority of the issues raised pertained to individual citizens and their interactions with local police stations.

Addressing the citizens, ICCPO emphasized the police force's dedicated efforts to swiftly resolve public issues.

He underscored that such initiatives aimed to

bridge the gap between the police and the community.

Citizens from various parts of the city presented their proposals and concerns to ICCPO. Many of the issues discussed were related to personal matters, ongoing investigations, the expedited handling of cases, and other community-related topics.

The Chief of Capital Police also highlighted the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad addressing a press conference.

28 more dengue cases surface in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 28 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 801 in the district.

District Coordinator Epidemic Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood said on Thursday that 18 of the new cases came from Potohar Town Urban, four from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi and two each from Rawalpindi Cantonment and Potohar Rural.

He said that 128 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 93 were confirmed cases while 708 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 36 FIRs, issued tickets to eight, sealed five premises, and a fine of Rs 91,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

During indoor surveillance, in the last week, the teams checked 25,437 houses and larvae were found in 1,530 homes.

Similarly, he added that while checking 9,808 places, the teams found larvae at 248 sites during outdoor surveillance.

Over 90,000 Pakistanis left country in August

ISLAMABAD (NNI): As the country's economy deteriorates with each passing day, resulting in increased inflation and unemployment, record number of people left Pakistan in August in search of a better future for themselves and their children.

Adnan Paracha of Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters has said that over 90,000 Pakistanis went abroad in the last month. Already, he said, 540,000 people had left the country in the ongoing year. "In 2022, 830,000 Pakistanis had gone overseas," he informed.

Among those who left Pakistan in August in search of greener pastures 232,749 were laborers, 118,172 drivers, and even 5,589 engineers, 5,216 accountants, 2,261 doctors, and 1,012 teachers.

Saudi Arabia is the top choice for most of Pakistanis, with 251,655 heading there for work. The United Arab Emirates comes next with 147,960, followed by Oman (39,901) and Qatar (39,479). Other countries like Malaysia, Bahrain, Romania, Greece, and Iraq have also attracted Pakistani workers.

He pointed out that OGRA was indirectly overseeing a significant portion, approximately one-third, of the government's economy, with the Oil and Gas sector's market share exceeding \$25 billion annually.

He pledged to persist in fostering a secure, progressive and competitive oil and gas industry through close collaboration with all stakeholders. This commitment aims to protect the interests of the nation and maintain the trust of its citizens.

noticeable decrease in crime incidents within the federal capital, attributing this improvement to effective policing measures, the dedication of police personnel, and rapid responses to calls made to the Pucar-15 hotline.

Additionally, citizens were encouraged to collaborate with the Islamabad Capital Police by reporting any suspicious activities through the Pucar-15 helpline.

Privatization process initiated to make govt entities profitable

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad has clarified that the process of privatization being pursued by the caretaker government is strictly within the very mandate entrusted upon it by the previous elected government.

He was addressing a news conference alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad on Thursday. The Minister refuted the impression that the caretaker government has extended the privatization process under some policy.

He mentioned the amendment made by the previous government in section 230 of the Elections Act in which the mandate of caretaker government was expanded to continue the policies for the sake of continuity.

Fawad Hassan Fawad said privatization process has certain timelines which cannot be skipped otherwise the financial costs of delay in these transactions will directly burden the national economy causing increase in fiscal deficit and upsurge in inflation.

He clarified that the caretaker government has not added any institution or organization in the list of 'to be privatized' entities rather these are all those which were enlisted after due deliberations by the elected governments. The Minister said media should avoid baseless news and the government is open for all queries or confusion regarding any issue and it be given chance to respond and clarify the position.

The Minister said the purpose of privatization is to make these entities prof-

itable and add value in their services for the people. He said PIA was facing financial issues hampering its regular functioning therefore funds were issued within forty hours to meet its needs.

About Pakistan Steel Mills, the Minister said its existing one point million ton capacity will be increased to three million ton after its privatization. Only its operational assets will be privatized and not those outside the operational area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister for Information said the situation is clear after the Election Commission's announcement today regarding the general elections to be held by the end of January 2024. He said it's a moment of happiness that the democratic process will move on putting the country on the path of stability.

Caretaker minister visited NCC Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Federal Education Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi visited the National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat. Director NCC, Dr. Mariam Chughtai gave a detailed briefing on the functions of the NCC in the post-18th amendment scenario. She shared the completed, ongoing, and future tasks of the NCC Secretariat.

The Minister was informed about the agreement of provincial experts on National Curriculum standards for Grades 9-12, marking a monumental milestone for Pakistan. For the first time in the country's history, a core curriculum from Grades 1-12 and Early Years has been signed off by subject experts from all provinces. In respect of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution, standards for Grades 9-12 are being reviewed by the provincial review and formal legal

approval before being notified at their respective provincial levels. Standards for Grades 1-8 and Early Years are already underway for implementation at varying levels in all provinces across the country.

The Minister was also informed about the ongoing partnership with the Government of Sindh regarding teacher development and assessment activities. Moreover, the steps taken regarding training of the textbook authors and reviewers in all the provinces and Areas were also discussed.

While talking on the occasion, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi lauded the efforts of the NCC towards its role of coordination among the federating units. He expressed satisfaction over the completed tasks of the National Curriculum of Pakistan (NCP). The Federal Minister praised the role of the provincial

governments' stakeholders for upholding the cause of quality education for all children of the nation by championing international standards in curriculum reforms.

Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi ensured that the initiatives regarding the development of the curriculum standards for a range of elective subjects and streamlining technical education across the country will continue in coordination with the stakeholders across the country.

The development of the National Curriculum of Pakistan was a nationwide collaborative process, with each province actively involved and their feedback gathered and incorporated through a comprehensive process. The Minister commended the Director NCC Secretariat, Dr. Mariam Chughtai, and her team for their hard work in achieving this milestone.

ANF seizes 157 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 157 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that in an operation conducted near Khanna Bridge, Islamabad, 100 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Nowshera. In another operation, 250 ecstasy tablets were recovered from a parcel booked at a cargo office on Hawks Bay Road, Karachi.

A resident of Lahore was arrested during a raid conducted at a house in a private housing society in Lahore and the ANF team recovered 91.2 kg hashish and 32.4 kg opium from the house.

In the fourth opera-

tion, 22.8 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Sargodha.

During the operation, four accused residents of Nowshera were also arrested.

In fifth operation, 6 kg opium was recovered from a vehicle near Sahianwala Interchange, Faisalabad.

Two accused residents of Nowshera and Rawalpindi were arrested. 5 kg heroin was recovered from two vehicles intercepted near Gahi Khan Chowk on Saryab Road Quetta.

The arrested two suspects were trying to smuggle drugs by hiding them in the seats of the cars. Separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

13 drug peddlers netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 13 accused on recovery of over 13 kg charras.

According to a police spokesman, City police held Yousaf for having 1250 grams charras while Sadiqabad police rounded up Naem for carrying 1200 grams charras. Waris Khan police also recovered 1100 grams charras from the possession of a drug peddler namely Nasir.

Similarly, Naseerabad police conducted a raid and arrested Nafees for possessing 1260 grams charras. Civil Lines, Saddar Wah, Gujar Khan, Jatli, Dhamial, Gungmandi, Race Course, Rawat and Kalar Syedan police netted Husnain, Faisal, Muhammad Waseem, Sohail, Khurram, Zahid, Sahib Ali, Haider Shah and Ahtesham and recovered nearly nine kg charras from their possession.

Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway.

City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.

IEA, Uzbek officials met

KABUL (Agencies): Mawlawi Mansoor, commander of Al-Fatah 209 Army Corps, and Mawlawi Aminullah Amini, in charge of foreign relations at the Hairatan port commissar, met with Uzbek border authorities and discussed measures to improve border collaboration. The two sides expressed their appreciation for bilateral cooperation and coordination and discussed how to ensure the security of borders, address existing challenges, protect borders, and strengthen security relations.

The Frontier Post

Rabi-ul-Awwal 06, 1445 — Friday, September 22, 2023

ACB name squad

KABUL (Agencies): Afghanistan Cricket Board's (ACB) Selection Committee announced the 15-member Afghan Abdalyan Squad for the Asian Games Men's Cricket Competition, which will be played from September 27 to October 7 in Hangzhou, China. Veteran All-rounder Gulbadin Naib will lead the Afghan Abdalyan squad which features Mohammad Shahzad, Karim Jannat, Sediqullah Atal, Faeed Ahmad Malik, Qais Ahmad, and Afsar Zalai.

US, IEa hold talks on narcotics in Doha

DOHA (TOLOnews): Karen Decker, the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Mission to Afghanistan, said on X that she met with the "Taliban delegation" in Doha and held technical talks on "counter-narcotics, an area of mutual concern in support of the Afghan people, and discussed eradication, interdiction, addiction treatment, and alternative livelihoods."

The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Mission to Afghanistan added that "narcotics have long been a humanitarian and economic catastrophe for the Afghan people and the world."

Meanwhile, the head of the Islamic Emirate's

Political Office in Doha, Suhail Shaheen, said that he and an anti-narcotic team from Kabul held "constructive separate meetings with Mr. Robert C Dickson, UK charge d'Affaires to Afghanistan, and UNODC representative as well as US technical team in Doha."

The Kabul delegation was comprised of Janan Azizi, the Islamic Emirate's anti-narcotics deputy, and Abdul Rahman Qasimi, assistant to the deputy minister of the Interior for anti-narcotic affairs, and Mirwais Qaderi from the office of the Security and Borders Affairs deputy of Islamic Emirate's foreign ministry, according to

Shaheen.

"Our team presented facts and figures about the unprecedented progress made," by the Islamic Emirate "in its efforts against poppy cultivation, drug trafficking and treatment of addicts."

He also said that the Islamic Emirate welcomes a UN monitoring team and others from the international community to visit areas in Afghanistan where poppy cultivation has been eradicated.

"However, there is dire need for alternative projects of livelihood for farmers in Afghanistan whose poppy fields have been cleared," Shaheen added.

Call to suspend Afghan citizens' acceptance

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Christian Democratic Union of Germany and the Christian Social Union of Bavaria, the largest opposition parties in the Federal Parliament of Germany, have called for a halt to accepting Afghan refugees into the country.

According to reports, this proposal has reached the French news agency. It is set to be presented in the Federal Parliament of Germany on Friday to reduce immigration.

The proposal suggests that the refugee acceptance program for other Afghans should be stopped except for those who have worked with Germans.

Last year, the Afghan refugee acceptance program was announced to transfer 1,000 people monthly. However, according to the government's response to the parliamentary faction of the Left Party, it has yet to be transferred to Germany.

Meanwhile, Germany has accepted the highest number of Afghan migrants among the European Union member countries.

Previously, members of the Free Democrats of Germany, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, and the Christian Social Union of Bavaria in the country's parliament had also called for the expulsion of Afghan refugees.

Earlier this week, the Australian government officially rejected asylum to 50,000 Afghan citizens who sought humanitarian visas following the resurgence of the Taliban regime in August 2021.

In its latest report on Tuesday, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) revealed that out of 208,000 asylum requests made by Afghan citizens since the start of 2021, approximately 50,000 applicants have been rejected by the Australian government.

After the fall of Kabul in August 2021, approximately 208,000 Afghans sought humanitarian and refugee visas in Australia.

Regrettably, Australia has denied over 50,000 visa applications based on humanitarian grounds, while 144,000 applications remain pending.

China commits to Afghanistan reconstruction

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister of Economy, Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, has met with Khah Shopping, the head of the Chinese MCC-MJAM Company.

The company is involved in extracting copper from the Miss Aynak mine in Logar province.

The meeting focused on enhancing technical cooperation and accelerating the mining process at Miss Aynak.

According to a statement from the Economy Ministry, Khah Shopping offered a positive assessment of Afghanistan's economic situation compared to the previous year.

He indicated that the Chinese government is keen to contribute to Afghanistan's economic rehabilitation and development across various sectors through infrastructure projects.

Shopping provided updates on the Miss Aynak copper project and their coordination with international organizations regarding antiquities located at the mine site.

He shared ideas and suggestions with the Ministry of Economy leadership and assured them of the commencement of practical work on the mine.

The Acting Economic Minister views the Miss Aynak copper project as one of the country's most important economic initiatives.

He believes that this project will be effective in creating employment opportunities, reducing poverty, and improving Afghanistan's overall economic situation.



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Sharp rise in maternal and infant mortality rates in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): Disturbing reports over consecutive years have indicated a rising trend in maternal and infant mortality rates in Afghanistan. According to the latest United Nations report, there are 699 recorded deaths per 100,000 childbirths in Afghanistan.

The United Nations Coordination Office (UNOCHA), citing Dr. Sahar, the Head of the United Nations Health Department in Afghanistan, emphasizes that the healthcare system in the country has become almost "paralyzed" following the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Dr Sahar said that the forced departure of many female healthcare professionals after the return of the Taliban has created a "gap in the healthcare system" of the country. She asserts, "If Afghanistan wants to improve access to healthcare for mothers and children, it needs more healthcare workers."

Women have faced various deprivation and restrictions following the Taliban's return to power. Lack of access to healthcare facilities is one of the deprivations accompanied by devastating consequences.

Some women who have experienced childbirth and sought healthcare in the past two years have complained to Khaama Press News Agency about the lack of specialist personnel and essential facilities.

Safiya, a 30-year-old mother of two, went to a

health centre for childbirth and said, "I saw many women from remote areas of Afghanistan in that health centre. The maternity ward was very limited, with too many patients."

She says that due to the neglect and indifference of the staff in that maternity ward, she was "very scared of losing my own life or my child's."

Safiya adds that in the healthcare centres she visited over the past two years, she has witnessed several women and infants die before her eyes. She calls for establishing accessible and well-equipped healthcare centres for women in every region to prevent maternal and infant mortality.

The spokesperson for

the Ministry of Public Health of the Taliban, in response to UNOCHA's report, dismissed it as "baseless" and claimed that "special attention" has been paid to maternal and infant health in the country since the Taliban came to power.

They further stated that preventing maternal mortality is a crucial part of the ministry's plans, and they intend to establish 150 healthcare centres in the country by the end of this year.

This is happening while, according to reports, maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan were 661 per 100,000 individuals as of 2020, which has risen to over a thousand per 100,000 women from 2021 to 2023.

the Ministry of Public Health of the Taliban, in response to UNOCHA's report, dismissed it as "baseless" and claimed that "special attention" has been paid to maternal and infant health in the country since the Taliban came to power.

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Turkey's Maarif Foundation ready to reopen schools for girls

KABUL (Agencies): Turkey's Maarif Foundation officials in Afghanistan say they are ready to open their doors to girls above the sixth grade once the suspension is lifted.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, the general director of the foundation Ahmad Takoor said there have been talks with the Islamic Emirate about reopening schools to girls.

"Yes, we talked with the authorities and our meetings are continuing and we will announce again when this issue becomes official; we want girls' schools to be reopened and we are also talking and waiting for their response and our schools are ready for girls," said Takoor.

He also said that students who graduated from Afghan-Turkish schools



can get scholarships from Turkish universities.

The process of registering new students for Afghan-Turkish schools in Afghanistan has also started, he added.

The students of an

Afghan-Turkish high school meanwhile are satisfied with the curriculum of the school, and also called for the reopening of girls' schools.

Afghan-Turk Maarif Foundation has 25 schools

across seven provinces in Afghanistan. They offer pre-school, primary school, high school and training centers. Thousands of students are enrolled at these facilities that employ over 1,000 staff members.

ADB grants to support food security and healthcare via UN for people

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced the allocation of \$400 million to safeguard the well-being and livelihoods of vulnerable Afghans, focusing on women and girls while mitigating the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, ADB said in a statement.

This support will be administered through the United Nations (UN). It will primarily tackle immediate food shortages, bolster local food production for future food security, and ensure essential healthcare services for the Afghan population, according to a statement by ADB.

Afghanistan faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis intensified by climate change impacts like droughts, floods, and earthquakes. About 85% of the population lives in poverty, disproportionately

ly affecting women and children. The statement said women-led households are particularly vulnerable, experiencing food shortages and restricted access to vital services due to mobility constraints.

The Expanding Essential Food Security and Health Services Project, or Support for Afghan People, will offer off-budget direct funding to three UN agencies, addressing the urgent financial needs for immediate support.

A \$100 million grant will be allocated to the World Food Programme (WFP) to tackle food security. This funding will assist over 1.32 million severely food-insecure individuals, focusing on women-led households and highly vulnerable populations.

Additionally, WFP will implement Food Assistance for Training

programs to empower mainly women with employable skills and entrepreneurial opportunities in agricultural sectors like fruit and vegetable processing, promoting sustainable income and livelihoods for women.

A \$100 million grant to FAO will assist over 309,000 farm households with agricultural support, including climate-resilient seeds, benefiting more than 2.1 million people.

Additionally, a \$200 million grant to UNICEF will expand core health services to 10 provinces, covering around 7.5 million individuals, with similar support from the World Bank in the remaining 24 provinces.

Implemented in coordination with the UN, World Bank, and other partners, this project aims to prevent Afghanistan from falling into universal poverty. Funded by the

Asian Development Fund, it will operate independently from the de facto government's systems, adhering to ADB's approach to fragile situations.

UN agencies will enlist third-party monitoring firms to oversee implementation and ensure support reaches the intended beneficiaries.

The project builds upon ADB's \$405 million grant from January 2022, focused on food security, health, and education through the UN. Over 75% of this funding has been distributed. ADB suspended its regular assistance in Afghanistan since August 15, 2021. Established in 1966, ADB is dedicated to fostering a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable Asia-Pacific region while combating extreme poverty and is owned by 68 members, 49 from the region.

'1,000 foreign tourists entered via Kunduz'



KUNDUZ (TOLOnews): In the past year, nearly 1,000 foreign tourists entered the country through Sher Khan Bandar port in Kunduz, officials said.

Local officials of Kunduz said that these tourists from various European, and Asian countries as well as from the US, have come to Afghanistan to see historical and recreational places, and tourist attractions, especially the cultural ones, and the natural landscapes of Afghanistan, including the Wakhan in Badakhshan.

"In the past year, about 1,000 tourists from different countries of the world such as the US, Europe, and Asia have come to our dear country through Sher Khan port," said Obaidullah Abidi, a consular officer of the Kunduz Foreign Department.

At the same time, some tourists who come to visit the country's historical places expressed their satisfaction with security in the country.

"We visit Kunduz city and we will travel up to Ekhkashim and Wakhan and the reason we want to go to

Wakhan is its very beautiful mountains and the people are very friendly," said Itmes, a tourist.

"I come from India, and I am the only Indian in this group, and I am so excited about this trip. India has a good friendship with Afghanistan, and there is a lot of common culture," said Vihai, a tourist.

"Visiting Wakhan is one of my major targets, the reason is that Wakhan has lots of beautiful natural landscapes and Wakhan is very rich in history," said a tourist.

EU releases 140 million frozen funds for Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The EU is allocating 140 million (\$150 million) in aid to Afghanistan, focusing on women and girls, following assurance of their direct benefit from the funding.

These funds will be channelled through Afghan government agencies, international financial institutions such as the World Bank, and non-governmental organizations to provide essential support.

The European Union's assistance, equivalent to approximately \$150 million, will address issues like poverty, economic recovery, education, and

the economic empowerment of Afghan women.

Since the Taliban's resurgence in 2021, they have enforced severe restrictions on women, excluding them from public life.

In December 2022, the European Union froze these funds in response to a Taliban directive that instructed national and international organizations to halt women's employment.

Following six months of monitoring, the European Commission has chosen to release the funds, as it has confirmed that the aid is indeed

reaching Afghan girls and women.

In February, the European Union reached a consensus to ensure that aid would be directed exclusively to sectors and regions where women can actively participate in its delivery or reap the benefits.

In July, the United Nations mission in Afghanistan reported that a staggering 24.4 million people need humanitarian assistance.

The EU aims to address essential needs, such as access to safe drinking water, and support the return of Afghan refugees

from neighbouring nations with the allocated 140 million euros.

This funding is part of the EU's one billion-euro aid package, of which 980 million euros have already been activated.

The UN has noted that the Taliban authorities are developing NGO guidelines following their ban announcement.

Specific aid organizations have resumed operations in provinces by securing interim agreements with local Taliban authorities, permitting women staff, especially in healthcare, to continue their work.

650 Mujahideen graduated from army training center

KABUL (Agencies): Six hundred and fifty Mujahideen graduated from 207 Al-Farooq Army Corps training center on Thursday during a special ceremony after undergoing three months of military training, according to a statement.

According to a Defense Ministry statement, the graduation ceremony was attended by Mufti Latifullah Hakimi, the Ministry of National Defense's chief inspector, Sheikh Mawlawi Noor Ahmad Islam Jar, the governor of Herat, and Mawlawi Nasrullah Mati, the commander of the army corps.

The graduates expressed their desire to serve the Islamic Emirate and the people before receiving their certificates.





KARACHI: PPP leaders cutting the cake during 35th birthday of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

India stops new visas for Canadians

NEW DELHI (Agencies): India on Thursday suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country, sharply escalating a spat triggered by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations linking New Delhi to a Sikh separatist's murder.

The Indian foreign ministry said Canada has not shared any specific information in connection with the allegations Trudeau made and that New Delhi was willing to look at it if provided. A blanket suspension of new visas by India for a Western country is unheard of and marks the lowest point of India-Canada relations.

The announcement came hours after Canada's high commission in India said it would temporarily "adjust" staff presence in the country after some diplomats received threats on social media platforms. But Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ottawa had been asked to reduce numbers at its diplomatic missions in India to bring parity between the missions of the two countries.

Bagchi said India suspended issuing new visas to Canadian citizens due to "security threats" to its staff in its consulates in Canada. India has not provided any evidence or given details of the nature of such security threats, and Canada's public safety minister Dominic LeBlanc said in response on Wednesday that Canada was a safe country.

"You are aware of the security threats being faced by our high commission and consulates in Canada. This has disrupted their normal functioning," Bagchi told reporters at a weekly briefing on Thursday. "Accordingly our high commission and consulates are temporarily unable to process visa applications," he said, adding that the security situation would be reviewed regularly.

Canada is the fourth largest source of foreign tourists with 350,000 visitors in 2019, a number which fell following the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Indian government data. The unprecedented tensions flared up on Monday after Trudeau said Ottawa was investigating "credible allegations" about the potential involvement of Indian government agents in the June murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government denied any links to the alleged murder. Canadian officials have so far declined to say why they believe India could be linked to Nijjar's murder.

The two countries, whose relations have been fraying in recent years over the issue of Sikh separatists, have since announced tit-for-tat expulsions of senior

diplomats and issued tit-for-tat travel advisories. Bagchi said India was "willing to look at any specific information, we have conveyed this to the Canadian side, made it clear to them...but so far, we have not received any such specific information". Canada has discussed the issue with key allies such as the Five Eyes intelligence sharing alliance, which includes the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, with Washington, London and Canberra expressing concern. Asked if any of these countries, with whom India also enjoys close ties, had raised the issue with New Delhi, Bagchi said: "We have been discussing with them, we have conveyed our position how we see these developments."

Bagchi also said Canada should be worried about damage to its reputation and not India, when asked about the risk posed by the row to New Delhi's global standing. "If there is any country that needs to look at it, it is Canada, its growing reputation as a safe haven for terrorists, extremists and for organised crime," he said, adding that India had in vain sought action against more than 20 individuals.

Canada has the largest population of Sikhs outside the northern Indian state of Punjab, with about 770,000 people reporting Sikhism as their religion in the 2021 census. A bloody Sikh insurgency in the 1980s and 1990s in Punjab killed tens of thousands of people before it was suppressed. The separatists wanted the creation of an independent Sikh state called Khalistan.

Although there is hardly any support for the insurgency left in India, small groups of Sikhs in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States support the separatist demand and occasionally stage protests outside Indian embassies. New Delhi, which remains wary of any revival of the insurgency, has long been unhappy over Sikh separatist activity in Canada.

Some Indian analysts say Ottawa does not curb Sikh protesters as they are a politically influential group. The spat is also threatening trade ties, with talks on a proposed trade deal frozen last week. Canada is India's 17th largest foreign investor, while Canadian portfolio investors have invested billions of dollars in Indian financial markets. Since 2018, India has been the largest source country for international students in Canada, with their numbers rising 47 per cent in 2022 to nearly 320,000. Industry estimates show the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Canada and India could boost two-way trade by as much as \$6.5 billion.

Saudi Chief of General Staff calls on Air Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation, led by General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. The meeting underscored, discussion on several key areas of mutual interest, defence co-operation and geo-strategic situation.

On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili the guard of honour. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing PAF through smart acquisition of niche technologies with special focus on artificial intelligence, cyber, space, electronic warfare in addition to upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational & training domains. The Air Chief highlighted that Saudi Arabia being the center of the Muslim world and a significant strategic partner has longstanding religious, cultural and historical bond with Pakistan which is exemplified through robust bilateral relations. He also reiterated his unwavering commitment to enhancing the existing ties in realms of military-to-military cooperation, joint exercises



and collaborative training. Highlighting the bond of brotherhood between the two nations, the Air Chief said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relationship with Saudi Arabia which is based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability."

The Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in the area of indigenization and lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel. He also pledged to play his role in further improving the existing bilateral ties at all levels and expressed his desire to consolidate cooperation in various fields including training, emerging technologies and mutual cooperation in the aviation industry.

The Saudi delegation also visited different installations and technological infrastructure including PAF's National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre (NIIAOC) and PAF's Cyber Command along with National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), where they were briefed

about the operational capabilities and ongoing projects of PAF's modernization drive. Chief of the Air Staff briefed the visiting dignitary about his vision of PAF's National Aerospace Science & Technology Park project and highlighted that the mega project was aimed at fostering collaborative research, development and innovation in the domains of aviation, space, IT, cyber & computing to ensure social, economic, technological and scientific benefits both for Pakistan and our valuable partners. The visiting dignitary expressed keen interest in the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park which will serve as a beacon of innovation to promote futuristic aerospace and aviation capabilities. He also appreciated the unwavering commitment of the Air Chief in making the project a huge success in a record time.

The meeting between Chief of the Air Staff and Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces is a testament to the strong commitment of both nations to further enhance their strategic partnership through continued dialogue and collaboration.

OIC reaffirms support for Kashmiris

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Contact Group on Kashmir has reaffirmed its support to Kashmiris' just for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council's resolutions. Ministers of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan and Niger met on the sidelines of 78th session of UN General Assembly in New York with Secretary General of the OIC, Hissein Brahimi Tahar, in the chair.

A joint communiqué issued after the meeting declared that the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions is indispensable for durable peace and stability in South Asia. It expressed serious concern over the statements by the Indian political leaders as well as senior military officers about their readiness to attack Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, calling such statements a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

The communiqué demanded of India to reverse all illegal and unilateral measures taken on or after 5 August 2019, stop the gross, systematic and widespread human rights abuses in the IIOJK, halt and reverses the illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory, release all Kashmiri political prisoners and rescind the trumped-up and fallacious charges against the Kashmiri leadership. It also demanded that India should repeal all restrictive and draconian laws, allow unrestricted access to UN Special Procedures, OIC and Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission fact-finding missions, international media and independent observers to visit IIOJK.

The communiqué rejected the conduct of the G-20 Tourism Working Group Meeting, held in Srinagar on 22-24 May 2023, which was aimed to legitimize India's illegal occupation and sought to project a facade of normalcy in IIOJK. The member states expressed concern over the seizure of the office of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar and condemned the ongoing campaign to confiscate the properties of Kashmiri activists. It denounced the Indian authorities' fresh plea seeking death penalty for one of the renowned Kashmiri leaders Yasin Malik, who is incarcerated and has already been awarded life imprisonment.

The communiqué requested the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue monitoring the situation in IIOJK and issue a third report, in addition to its reports of 2018 and 2019, on the ongoing human rights violations there. It also requested the OIC Secretary General Special Envoy's on Jammu and Kashmir to present a report on the ground situation in IIOJK to the upcoming Islamic Summit. Pakistan Caretaker Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani, apprised the members of the Contact Group about the grave situation in IIOJK. He informed them that India's continued oppressive measures in the disputed territory had exacerbated the already dire humanitarian conditions for the people.

He said, the current Indian leadership is bent upon perpetuating India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. "The Indian authorities are brutally crushing the quest of Kashmiri people for their fundamental rights, especially the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN and OIC resolutions," he said.

Public servant involved in malpractices at MDCAT: PHC informed

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Advocate General (AG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed admitted before Peshawar High Court (PHC) that a gang has been identified for malpractices during Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while argued that most of the members in gang are government servants, on Thursday.

AG disclosed it before PHC's divisional bench comprised of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Arshad Ali during hearing of pleas against malpractices in the MDCAT while stating that the paper was out via Bluetooth devices from the examination centres.

The applicant pleaded that Rs3.5 million has been received for MDCAT candidates for securing high scores as per their choice, the writ argued. AG Barrister Amir Javed informed that as many as 46 thousand six hundred candidates in MDCAT while 17 hundred aspirants had obtained more than 90% marks which is an unprecedented hike in comparison with the previous year. He added that Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa personally monitoring the MDCAT issue.

Department of Home and Tribal Affairs has constituted Joint Investigation Team (JIT) under Additional Inspector General (AIG) Investigation, AG informed. He added that JIT has identified the gang led by Zafar Mehmood a public servant involved in the malpractices and argued they are using advanced techniques and technology for cheating.

AG Amir Javed further argued that the government is committed to the dissemination of justice for students and placing charges against culprits involved in the malpractices during MDCAT. In the meantime, Justice

Arshad Ali inquired regarding findings of JIT report, however, AG argued that it is an initial report which is asserting that advanced technological devices were used for cheating during the MDCAT test.

AG stated that more than 200 First Information Reports (FIRs) are registered in this regard while competent court had granted bail to the alleged culprits involved in the malpractices. He argued that no one is above the law and that all culprits involved in the malpractices wouldn't escape from accountability.

Unfortunately, several public servants are involved in the malpractices and more than 1100 students had obtained 90% marks while previously it stood at 117 candidates, AG informed. He added that malpractices are identified in 33 centers out of 43 and added that Zafar Mehmood a public servant led the gang. AG assured that the government will implement court orders in this regard but Justice Syed Arshad Ali remarked that first provincial government will decide the matter then the court can decide the issue is the test may be rearranged or it can be settled in other way.

However, AG argued that if the test is rearranged then the candidates wouldn't resubmit fees because the government is aware of the socio-economic status of students as they belong to poor families. He argued that fees wouldn't be resubmitted to ensure the dissemination of student's rights.

During hearing Executive Director Education and Testing Evaluation Authority (ETEA) Imtiaz Ayub requested to inform PHC regarding the authority status regarding MDCAT malpractices while the court allowed him for arguments.

Unfortunately, ETEA is questioned after the leaking of papers despite its good reputation but no one appreciates the authority as the candidates

were caught before entrance to exam centres by four-layer security for MDCAT, Executive Director Imtiaz Ayub said. He added that the gang leader Zafar Mehmood is also identified by ETEA for his involvement in malpractices. Executive Director added that Zafar Mehmood has found guilty for his involvement in such malpractices earlier but obtained bails from competent court. He argued that holding tests is normal procedure for ETEA and added that Zafar Mehmood was serving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission at the time of his first arrest.

Zafar Mehmood was terminated from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission then he is appointed as Assistant Director at the Federal Service Commission and now gang leader is suspended from services. ETEA Director stated. ETEA didn't want that any student can face injustice but we have to look that intelligent candidate can't suffer because they had secured high score due to their hard work, Imtiaz Ayub added. He added that a separate extra sheet is necessary for Physics questions because it can't be solvable directly and added that a comparison of the section will solve the issue as it must be answered within the paper.

Executive Director informed that ETEA had informed the government in this regard and demanded jammers but to no veil. He added that arrest of such gangs and redressal of similar is necessary before questioning ETEA ability. PHC annoyed the lawyers' attitude for laughing during court proceedings and observed that upheld court's integrity otherwise they left the premises. PHC's divisional bench comprised of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Arshad Ali ordered AG to inform court on JIT findings while adjourned further hearing till 27th September.

China is a great partner of Pakistan: Jilani

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has said that the terrorist attacks being carried out by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan are aimed at driving a wedge between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In an interview with Turkish TV TRTWorld, FM Jilani said Pakistan would like to see Afghanistan a stable and prosperous country. He said presence of large number of terrorist groups including TTP and IS-Khorasan are a major concern for not only Pakistan, but for other regional countries also. He said we are in dialogue with Afghanistan, urging them to fulfill their commitment made with Pakistan and international community.

The Foreign Minister said we would like the Afghan interim government to take solid practical steps against the organizations particularly the TTP. "Unfortunately attacks which take place in Pakistan are emanating from Afghanistan by TTP that remain a major concern for us," he said. Responding to a question, Jilani said the future of Pakistan in terms of investment climate is very bright as we are expecting the visits of representatives of GCC and other world countries to Pakistan this month for signing of

MoUs for investment.

He said Pakistan has taken a new initiative and constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to attract foreign investment and the GCC countries have shown a lot of interest for investment in Pakistan under the SIFC. He said the GCC countries and Saudi Arabia are great partners of Pakistan. We have very close cooperation with GCC countries in diverse fields including economy and defence.

The Foreign Minister expressed the confidence that reforms introduced by the government in different sectors will also offer a promising future for the people of Pakistan and we are quite hopeful that it will result in political and economic stability. About internal political situation, he said Pakistan is going through a normal democratic process and currently there is a caretaker setup in the country which is a constitutional requirement.

Regarding Pak-China relations, he said China is a great partner of Pakistan and we have very strong relationship with Beijing. He said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative. He said CPEC has played a key role in development of Pakistan.

About reforms in the UN Security Council, the Foreign Minister said Pakistan's position on the issue remains very consistent that there should be a criteria for extension of the membership. He said there should be a democratic process and we can't afford to have the emergence of another elite member of the UN Security Council.

He said India has violated the most UN Security Council Resolutions including on Jammu and Kashmir which is the long standing issue on the UN agenda. We would like the implementation of these UN Security Council resolutions, calling for the holding of a free and fair plebiscite to determine the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He said Kashmir for the last several years has been turned into a prison and massive human rights violations are taking place. We would like the international community to take notice of it.

On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said Pakistan's position was very clear, i.e., War is not an option for anything and the issue needs to be settled through peaceful negotiations. He pointed out that the situation that lingered for two years created an economic crisis with fuel and food shortages.

Afghan poliovirus detected in Pakistan

QUETTA (PPI): Two environmental samples, taken from Pishin and Peshawar, tested positive for Afghan strain of the poliovirus, according to health department report on Thursday.

Pakistan's National Polio Laboratory has confirmed the detection of Wild Poliovirus Type-1 in the sewage samples collected this month from Pishin, Balochistan and Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the laboratory, the Peshawar sample is connected to the virus detected

in Nangarhar and that of Pishin to the virus in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This is the 11th positive sample detected from district Peshawar this year, said an official.

Similarly, the other sewage sample was collected on September 04 from the neighbourhood of Turwa, Pishin district of Balochistan. It is the first positive sample from Balochistan province this year, said the official. Meanwhile, the nationwide polio eradication campaign

will kick-off from September 25 after polio virus was detected in environmental sites in different cities.

The campaign will be launched in three phases across the country, say sources, adding that the first phase will be launched from September 25, second from October 2 and final phase will be kicked-off from October 9 to 13. The five-day campaign called Outbreak Response (OBR) will be held in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts.



LAHORE: Lawyers holding a protest rally against inflation and implementation of rule of law in country.

Sh Rashid's Lal Haveli sealed

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Monday sealed Lal Haveli, the residence of Awami Muslim League head Sheikh Rashid. According to the ETPB sources, six units of Lal Haveli had been sealed.

The ETPB also wrote to the authorities concerned for the confirmation of the registry of one of the units of Lal Haveli. The decision of sealing or not sealing the unit will be made upon the confirmation of the registry by the authorities concerned. "The state land had been under occupation for a long time," the ETPB authorities said. A heavy contingent of Rawalpindi police had been deployed while the building was being sealed.

On Saturday last, a civil court in Rawalpindi had rejected Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid's petition challenging the Lal Haveli's evacuation orders. Judge Naveed Akhtar had said that the court could not stop any department from taking action under the law. The AML chief had argued in his petition that the evacuation of Lal Haveli was political victimisation as the case related to the property was already in litigation.

Sheikh Rashid prayed in his plea that the Evacuee Trust Property Board be stopped from taking action that, he alleged, was a part of "settling the score against him". He also claimed that he had the registry of one of the seven units D-158 of Lal Haveli. But even if it is so, the question arises why had Sheikh Rashid been occupying the remaining parts of the haveli for 27 years?

While talking to the media, Sheikh Rashid said that he would give a call for a sit-in. "Three parties from London want to make a film on Lal Haveli, which they [government] cannot bear. I am being paid a good amount of money for these films," he claimed. The ETPB had already written a letter to the district administration for help in action against Sheikh Rashid's Lal Haveli.

Strong resistance was expected during the operation at Lal Haveli. But, not even a worker of Awami Muslim League (AML) or Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) showed up. After four hours of the operation, Sheikh Rashid's nephew Sheikh Raashid reached Lal Haveli. He told the media that they had the registry of one unit of Lal Haveli, adding that they would approach the court against the sealing of the haveli. It is to be noted here that Sheikh Rashid's plea to obtain stay order to stop the ETPB action has already been rejected.