

Yasmin sent back to jail

LAHORE (PPI): In the anti-terrorism court of Lahore on Saturday, PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Mehmoodur Rasheed and Ejaz Chaudhary were sent back to jail in the May 9 cases. The court has already ordered the remand of Dr Yasmin Rashid and others until Sept 5, while Ejaz Chaudhary and Mehmoodur Rasheed are on physical remand. Subsequently, the three leaders were sent back to jail until Sept 5.



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PESHAWAR EDITION

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Sky-high electricity bills

Shopkeepers, public hold strike in KP

F.P. Report

MARDAN / PESHAWAR / MINGORA: In a resounding display of public dissatisfaction, the citizens of Mardan gathered in front of the WAPDA office on Main Malakand Road for a sit-in protest organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Mardan. The protest aimed to address the pressing concerns of the community, particularly the skyrocketing electricity bills and the relentless inflation gripping the nation. This event also featured a prominent figure, Center Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, whose presence lent substantial weight to the demonstrators' cause.

Addressing the gathered crowd, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan made impassioned remarks about the dire situation faced by the people due to the thirteen types of taxes levied on their electricity bills. He vehemently described these levies as economic terrorism, highlighting that no other country in the world imposes such an extensive tax burden on its citizens through their electricity bills. These taxes, he pointed out, disproportionately affect the impoverished individuals who are exempt from paying Zakat, making their financial struggles even more burdensome.

Mushtaq Ahmad Khan didn't stop at merely identifying the problem; he also presented a potential solution. He urged the people not to pay their electricity bills and argued that if the government were sincere, it could resolve this issue without relying on the IMF. He claimed that a substantial sum of 326 billion rupees could be allocated from other sources to provide electricity to the public at a significantly reduced rate of 10 rupees per unit, provided the issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were resolved.

Furthermore, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan underscored the untapped potential of alternative energy sources in Pakistan. He pointed out that the nation could generate a substantial 2000 megawatts of electricity from wind, water, and coal, offering a viable long-term solution to the ongoing power crisis. This, he argued, could lead to electricity rates as low as 5 rupees per unit.

Despite the passionate appeal for change, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan also voiced his skepticism regarding the current leadership. He contended that the Prime Minister was merely a puppet without real authority. This assertion further fueled the resolve of the protesters to fight for their rights, with Mushtaq Ahmad Khan emphasizing that resistance was integral to life.

Among the notable attendees at the protest were Jamaat-e-Islami District Ameer Ghulam Rasool, former MNA Dr. Attaur Rehman, former Provincial Minister Fazal Rabbani Advocate, former MPA Mian Nadir Shah, former District

Naib Nazim Ibrahim Buland, former Tehsil Nazim Takhtbhai Muazullah Khan, former Tehsil Naib Nazim Mardan Mushtaq Seemab, former Tehsil Naib Nazim Katling Abdul Jalal Khan, as well as various leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and the local populace of Mardan, all of whom turned out in large numbers to express their solidarity with the cause.

In conclusion, the sit-in protest in Mardan, organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Mardan, brought together a diverse group of citizens united by their concerns about escalating electricity bills and inflation. Mushtaq Ahmad Khan's impassioned speech not only shed light on these issues but also offered potential solutions, emphasizing the importance of resisting injustice. As the movement gains momentum, the people of Mardan remain committed to seeing it through to its logical conclusion, determined to secure their rights and a brighter future for their community.

Meanwhile, despite business closures in various parts of KP, the response in Peshawar appeared to be mixed. While some shops remained closed, others chose to keep their businesses open.

Over half of the markets were operational, with only a handful of shops closed in various City areas. It's worth mentioning that this area serves as a central market, drawing a substantial daily footfall.

Complete shutdown strike in Swat: A complete shutdown strike on the call of the business community was observed against high electricity bills and inflation yesterday in Swat and Malakand division . Business centers , markets and private educational institutions remained closed, Jumati islami held protest in different Tehsils in cluding Mingora city , lawyers boycotted court proceedings.

On the call of the business community, markets remained closed, People also registered protests against inflation in various markets including the city and raised slogans against the government. On this occasion, President of Malakand Division Traders Federation Abdul Rahim, Senior Vice President Anwaruddin and General Secretary Zafar Khan told the representative of *The Frontier Post* that the traders and people of Malakand Division have rejected the increase in electricity prices. Traders and people of Malakand division have rejected the increase in electricity prices, the successful strike against electricity bills has given an ultimatum to the rulers. The successful strike of the people and traders of Malakand Division is a public referendum against the government's measures regarding expensive electricity and inflation, the rulers should take care of the public feelings and sentiments and control inflation by withdrawing the increase in the price of electricity.

After moon, India launches rocket to study the Sun

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Following the success of India's moon landing, the country's space agency launched a rocket on Saturday to study the sun in its first solar mission. The rocket left a trail of smoke and fire as scientists clapped, a live broadcast on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) website showed.

The broadcast was watched by nearly 500,000 viewers, while thousands gathered at a viewing gallery near the launch site to see the lift-off of the probe, which will aim to study solar winds, which can cause disturbance on Earth commonly seen as auroras. Named after the Hindi word for the sun, the Aditya-L1 launch follows India beating Russia late last month to become the first country to land on the south pole of the moon.

While Russia had a more powerful rocket, India's Chandrayaan-3 out-endured the Luna-25 to execute a textbook landing. The Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed to travel about 1.5 million km (930,000 miles)

over four months to a kind of parking lot in space where objects tend to stay put because of balancing gravitational forces, reducing fuel consumption for the spacecraft. Those positions are called Lagrange Points, named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange.

The mission has the capacity to make a "big bang in terms of science," said Somak Raychaudhury, who was involved in the development of some components of the observatory, adding that energy particles emitted by the sun can hit satellites that control communications on Earth. "There have been episodes when major communications have gone down because a satellite has been hit by a big corona emission. Satellites in low earth orbit are the main focus of global private players, which makes the Aditya L1 mission a very important project," he said.

Scientists hope to learn more about the effect of solar radiation on the thousands of satellites in orbit, a number growing with the success of ventures like the

Starlink communications network of Elon Musk's SpaceX. "The low earth orbit has been heavily polluted due to private participation, so understanding how to safeguard satellites there will have special importance in today's space environment," said Rama Rao Nidamanuri, head of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology.

Longer term, data from the mission could help better understand the sun's impact on Earth's climate patterns and the origins of solar wind, the stream of particles that flow from the sun through the solar system, ISRO scientists have said. Pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has privatised space launches and is looking to open the sector to foreign investment as it targets a five-fold increase in its share of the global launch market within the next decade. As space turns into a global business, the country is also banking on the success of ISRO to showcase its prowess in the sector.

Read more: Five women terrorists of Daesh arrested in Lahore

The arrested women were said to be a part of IS. The CTD officials arrested three of the women belonged to Lahore and two to Sheikhpura. They further said that banned books, mobile phones, weapons and cash were seized from the arrested terrorists.

Three terrorists killed

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Peshawar on Saturday claimed to have killed three terrorists on Torkham Road in Khyber district.

The CTD officials stated that the terrorists opened firing on two arrested suspects and both died on the

spot. In response, the CTD Peshawar gunned down one terrorist of the banned organization near Torkham Border in Khyber district.

Earlier in the day, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab claimed to have arrested five women terrorists in intelligence-based operations (IBOs) from Lahore and Sheikhpura.

Solangi briefs PM over functioning of his ministry

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoore Ahmed and Principal Information Officer Muhammad Asim Khichi were also present during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The minister apprised the prime minister of the matters related to his ministry.

During the meeting, Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar also deliberated upon the proposed strategy for the effective presentation of Pakistan's positive narrative at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNG-78) session.

Caretaker Minister calls on PM Kakar: Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Saturday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

During the meeting, the minister apprised the prime minister of the matters pertaining to his ministry, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Proposed measures to promote Pakistani art and culture were also discussed during the meeting.

The prime minister observed that the cooperation between the Ministry of Information and the National Heritage and Culture division could prove very beneficial for the promotion of arts and culture.

GB govt to call in army to maintain peace

GILGIT (Agencies): In order to maintain law and order situation in the region, the Gilgit-Baltistan government has decided to call in the army, it emerged on Saturday. The decision was made during a meeting of the Parliamentary Peace Committee headed by GB Chief Minister Gulbar Khan. In view of the worsening law and order situation in the region, the meeting decided deployment of Rangers, scouts and FC personnel in big cities.

The huddle also decided to impose Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, a law concerning the maintenance of public order, in the region. Meanwhile, the GB administration imposed a ban on "illegal gatherings" and blockage of streets. Heavy contingents of Rangers, scouts and law enforcers will be deployed in all major cities to ensure peace in the area. The GB chief minister warned of strict action against spreading hatred on social media platforms and via other sources.

Health card service halted in KP

PESHAWAR (PPI): State Life Insurance Corporation Saturday issued a notification to the panel of hospitals providing health card facilities in KP for not taking admissions on it as the government failed to clear their dues.

The function of health card in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was once again temporarily shut down as the government owed Rs33 billion to the insurance company. According to the notification, the government assured the company to pay them Rs10 billion by August 31.

The company representatives stated that the health card has been shut down five times in the past seven months. They said that for the ongoing year, the government owes Rs26billion out of which not even a single penny has been paid till date.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Pakistan reach Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s — rain washes out Pakistan vs India clash

KANDY (Agencies): Rain played spoilsport, dampening the high hopes of fans to see a thriller between Pakistan and India in the much anticipated Asia Cup 2023 match on Saturday. However, Green shirts qualified for Super 4s — despite not having to bat as their run chase was called off due to persistent showers — after a successful day in the field.

Rain returned for the third time to Kandy during the innings break at the Pallekele Cricket Stadium. Before that, during the Indian innings, much to the disappointment of cricket fans rain played spoilsport twice. The Men in Blue had handed a 267-run target to Pakistan after they opted to bat first at the toss. However, the Indian team was dismissed for 266 as the bowlers brought the national side back into the game.

At the start of the innings, star seamers of Pakistan, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf, ripped through the Indian top-order after Rohit Sharma decided to bat first. However, Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya keep the scorecard ticking for their side. After Pakistani pacers dismissed four key batters early, the Indian middle-order fought back and managed to score above 130 by the 27th over.

However, the Pakistan pacers struck again and gave three consecutive blows to the Men in Green in the



latter part of the innings. The lethal bowling spell brought the team back into the game at a crucial point. Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf each picked three wickets, while the last two dismissals Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav came off Naseem Shah's bowling. Despite the draw, Pakistan have qualified for the Super 4s stage as Pakistan began their Asia Cup 2023 campaign on a high note with a massive 238-run win over Nepal on Wednesday. Meanwhile, this was India's first match in the tournament making the clash with Nepal a must win. Considering the

format of the Asia Cup it is likely that we may see another between Pakistan and India soon.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain) Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper), Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf.

India: Rohit Sharma (capt), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan (wk), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah.

Imran's bail plea in cipher case adjourned till 4th

ISLAMABAD (INP): The hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case was adjourned till September 4. Judge of the court established under Special Secrets Act Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain conducted hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case.

According to sources, Babar Awan and Salman Safdar, the lawyers of PTI chairman, advanced arguments on the bail application. Salman Safdar said the lawyers of PTI chairman should not be obstructed in Attok Jail. Lawyers had to walk one and a half kilometers every time they went to Attok Jail. A peti-

tion has been filed against the trial in Attok Jail.

During the hearing, Shah Mahmood Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bukhari also appeared in the court and said that he would like to present arguments on his client's bail application today. Sources said the lawyers of PTI chairman requested the court to hear the arguments on the bail plea today (Saturday). However, FIA's special prosecutor opposed PTI lawyers' request. They said the special prosecutor objected to applications filed by PTI's legal team in the Islamabad High Court and requested to adjourn the hearing on the bail application.

Sources added that during the hearing, the FIA prosecutor said PTI chief had filed petitions related to the case in the IHC. Former prime minister's lawyer Intizar Panjtoha said they were ready to withdraw the petitions from the high court.

He said the high court had not issued any stay on the bail application. The FIA prosecutor said hearing of the case had been adjourned so nothing could be done now. Sources said after hearing arguments of both parties, the judge of the special court adjourned hearing on PTI chairman's bail application till September 4.

Pervaiz Elahi's detention order challenged in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Saturday challenged his arrest under MPO in Islamabad High Court (IHC). The PTI leader has challenged his detention under MPO through his counsel Abdul Razzaque. Secretary Interior, IG Police and others have been made respondents in the plea.

He pleaded with the court to strike down his arrest under MPO and order his immediate release.

The capital police arrested the PTI president under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order from Zahoore Elahi Road, shortly after he was released on court orders. The LHC had ordered the additional registrar for security, DIG Operations, and other senior police officials to ensure that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi returned safely to his home. It is pertinent to

mention here that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Elahi over failing to provide information to the accountability bureau in assets beyond the means case against him, his son Monis Elahi and other family members.

Re-arrest violating LHC orders condemnable: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Saturday said that the manhandling and re-arrest of PTI President Parvez Elahi against the directives of Lahore High Court's (LHC) is condemnable.

The LHC on Friday had directed release of Elahi besides issuing orders restraining his possible arrest by any agency or preventive detention. However, while on way to his house along with lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa hours after his release, the former chief minister was intercepted by a team of the Islamabad police, assisted by the Punjab police.

Earlier in the day, the IHC barred authorities from arresting the human rights lawyer — Imaan Mazari — in any new cases. The court's order, issued by Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb in a two-page written directive, has cast a protective shield around Mazari, preventing her arrest in any new cases.

The court in its written directive ordered the Secretary, Inspector General (IG), and Director General (DG) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) not to arrest Mazari after her release, IHC also directed the Interior Secretary, nor the police or FIA, should provide any assistance in the arrest of Mazari.

Moreover, the authorities are mandated to ensure that Mazari should not transported the confines of the capital city. Shireen Mazari — the mother of the petitioner — raised concerns about the potential re-arrest of her daughter following her release on bail in a third case.

Asad discharged in 5 cases

LAHORE (PPI): An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Saturday discharged former federal minister and PTI quitter Asad Umar in five cases registered under the provisions of violence and mayhem displayed on May 9 after the arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. The anti-terrorism court on Saturday discharged Asad Umar in five terrorism cases when police informed the court that the former PTI leader was not required in these cases.



Sindh, federal govt making collective efforts to resolve issues of masses: CM

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice Retired Maqbool Baqir has said that the provincial and federal governments are closely scrutinizing the issues

faced by the people.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that the Sindh and federal governments are making collective efforts for resolutions of the problems faced

by the countrymen.

Maqbool Baqir said that all out efforts were being made at provincial and federal level to provide maximum relief to the masses. He said that the caretak-

er governments can't be blamed for the prevailing situation.

It was committed to mend the situation but it will be take time to return to routine, he added.

Swiss govt announces scholarships for Pakistani students

LAHORE (APP): The Government of Switzerland in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced an "Excellence Scholarship Programme" for Pakistani students for the upcoming academic year 2024-25.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) local chapter sources told APP that one-year post-master's research, three-year post-master's, PhD and one-year Post-Doctoral Programmes (PDP) have been announced for the aspiring candidates.

The last date for submission of applications with the Swiss embassy is September 30.

More details are available on the official website, the HEC local sources told APP. The main purpose of the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships is

to create educational opportunities for foreign researchers completing a master's or Ph.D degree.

Scholarship recipients will be selected under the supervision of the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students.

E-driving license facility introduced

LAHORE (NNI): Punjab police have rolled out electronic driving licenses for citizens across Punjab.

As per details, Inspector General (IG) of Punjab Police Usman Anwar said that citizens can apply on the Driving License Information Management System (DLIMS) website for their driving license.

He said that the driving license can also be downloaded in PDF form and used while driving. IG Punjab Police said that more than 3 million driving licenses have been issued during this year and the number of driving license centers increased from 45 to 200 across Punjab.

The Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) unearthed over 27,000 fake driving licenses by a gang in three years. As per details, the investigation stated that the network of suspects who were arrested had issued more than 27,000 fake driving licenses in three years.

LHC to hear Mrs Elahi's plea on Sept 4

LAHORE (NNI): The Lahore High Court (LHC) will take up the plea of the wife of former Punjab CM Parvez Elahi for contempt of court and action against Islamabad police for arresting Parvez despite the court order.

The court will hear the plea on September 4 as an

urgent case. DIG Investigation Imran is made part in the contempt of court plea and DIG Operations Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi is too named. According to the petition, the Lahore High Court ordered the release of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and asked the police to take Parvez home.

But, it added Chaudhry Parvez was arrested by the Islamabad Police on his way home from the high court. On disobeying the order, DIG Investigation and DIG Operations should face contempt of court, the wife of ex-CM requested, adding the court should secure the release of her husband.

Fire guts Metro bus in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (PPI): A fire erupted on a metro bus near the Rahmanabad metro station in Rawalpindi, police said Saturday.

Fortunately, prompt action by rescue and fire brigade personnel averted a major catastrophe. Eyewitnesses reported that the fire broke out in the engine of the metro bus,

sending plumes of thick smoke into the air. Panic ensued among passengers as flames licked the bus's interior. Quick-thinking passengers on board, identified as a courageous young girl and a man, jumped from the bus to escape the inferno and got injured.

Rescue and fire brigade teams rushed to the scene

within minutes, launching a swift and well-coordinated operation. Firefighters battled the flames with determination and managed to bring the fire under control, preventing it from spreading further. According to a rescue spokesman, the girl and the man who jumped from the bus sustained serious injuries in the process.



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Sr.#	Quota	Seats	Requirements
1	IHK (refugees displaced after 1989)	2%	1. State Subject Certificate(AJ&K) 2. NOC from All Parties Hurriyat Conference (migrated before 1989)
2	Physically Challenged	2%	Certificate from Disability Board issued by respective authorized Government Hospital.
3	Foreign	11 Seats (LHR) 05 Seats (RWP)	1. Duly filled Foreign Student's Information Sheet (available at NCA website) 2. Copy of passport 3. Evidence of Foreign Citizenship

► **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- To submit online admission application (Open Merit, Self Finance / Self Support Scheme & Foreign), Applicants are advised to apply directly on the NTS website <https://nts.org.pk/nca/>.
- Applicants can use single application form in order to apply in multiple departments/campus/quota.
- Online application printed version must reach the Admission NTS Centres within due date along with attested copies of required documents list as mentioned in the prospectus and online admission form.
- Prospectus Charges, Courier Charges, Test Fee is required to be deposited by the applicant before the closing date of applications for admission on the electronic payment challan generated after online registration.

Visit the link <https://www.nts.org.pk/new/instructions.php> for instructions to pay the admission application processing fee which is as follows:

ADMISSION APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE (Prospectus and courier charges to be paid once in case of multiple applications on a single CNIC)			
PROSPECTUS COLLECTION FROM NTS CENTRES	TEST CONDUCTION		IN CASE OF PROSPECTUS COURIER
	SINGLE DEPARTMENT	MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS	
PKR 3000/-	PKR 1200/-	PKR 800/- EACH	PKR 300/-

- Test fee shall be paid at 1Link 1Bill Participating Banks/ATM/Internet Banking/Mobile Banking/Easypaisa/Jazz Cash/TCS Express Counters.
- For Self Finance / Self Support Scheme, the applicant should submit in person the online generated application form, admission processing fee, prospectus cost as mentioned above (as applicable), alongwith original Bank Draft/Pay Order of **PKR 695,000/-** (Six Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand) for Fine Arts, Design & Musicology and **PKR 876,000/-** (Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand) for Architecture and Film & Television, against tuition fee in favour of the "Principal NCA".
- Roll Number Slip can be downloaded from NTS website at least one week before the test date and applicants shall be informed through SMS and NCA official website.
- The applicants are advised to contact the NTS 051-8444441 OR email at query@nts.org.pk for any query / information related to filling Application Form/Fee Deposit/Admission Tests, display of provisional and final list of applicants, Roll number slips and Test centres etc.

► **NOTE:** NTS is collecting the fee on behalf of NCA. NTS does not stand responsible for the merit lists, results and paper development or the contents therein.

The Online Application Portal shall be removed from the website at 11:59:59 p.m. on the closing date i.e. 18th September, 2023

► **PROVINCIAL ADMISSION NTS CENTRES**

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 • Visual Communication Design • Textile Design

► ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

1. Applicants having passed F.A/F.Sc or equivalent qualification with minimum 45% (2nd division). Equivalence Certificate issued from IBCC is compulsory for qualifications other than Intermediate.

2. No age limit.

Note: i. According to the Prime Minister of Pakistan's notification, applicants domiciled Erstwhile FATA and passed F.A/F.Sc. or its equivalent with minimum 40% marks are eligible to apply for admission.
ii. Application will be rejected if; a certificate from Nomination Board AJ&K/Gilgit Baltistan reserved quota seats is not received/attached with application.
iii. Intermediate or equivalent qualification result awaiting candidates may apply with a copy of statement of entry/roll number slip/hope certificate.
iv. Admission confirmation shall be subject to submission of attested academic documents of SSC/HSSC or equivalent from IBCC.

TEST, INTERVIEW SCHEDULE AND VENUES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER AT www.nca.edu.pk and www.nts.org.pk

LAST DATE TO APPLY

18th SEPTEMBER, 2023

Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Indian held Kashmir, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/Erstwhile FATA, Balochistan and Physically Challenged quota seats, Self Finance / Self Support Scheme (All Pakistan Basis)

Applications for admission should reach the respective NTS admission centres not later than above mentioned date.

► IMPORTANT NOTE

Applications will be rejected if:-

- Eligibility criteria is not fulfilled.
- Application procedure is not followed as prescribed.
- Applicants are unable to produce attested copies of passed F.A/F.Sc or equivalent qualification examination certificates (with minimum 45% marks) without further notice.
- Applications are incomplete.
- Applications received after due date.

► INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicants must bring their own graphite pencil, eraser, drawing board, colored pencils, markers, scissors, sharpner and gum sticks etc. for entry tests.
- The college shall provide answer sheets, colored sheets (if required) and drawing sheets.
- Applicants must bring their original Roll No. Slip when reporting for tests at respective test centres.
- No TA / DA is admissible to the candidates appearing for tests and interviews.
- Applicants are advised to regularly visit <https://www.nca.edu.pk> and <https://nts.org.pk/nca/> to observe any change/updates in the admission schedule, otherwise college will not be held responsible.
- Applicants must bring their own face mask, sanitizer and water bottle.

For further information please contact

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Historic schools of city: Governor chairs meeting; discuss construction work

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Saturday chaired a meeting to review ongoing work in historic schools of the city including Hasnain Shaheed High School City 1, Usama Zafar Shaheed City 2 and Lady Griffith High School.

The meeting was also attended by District

Education Officers and representatives of planning and archaeology department.

The meeting was told that work is underway in Hasnain Shaheed City School 2 with an estimated cost of Rs. 36 million while construction work is underway in Lady Griffith School with an estimated cost of Rs. 14 million.

It was said 80 percent renovation work in these historic schools have been completed and the remaining work would be completed in next month. Archaeology Department is also assisting the renovation process to maintain the historic status of these buildings.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor stressed

to complete the construction and renovation work according to historic significance of these educational institutions and assured his cooperation.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali also directed to further improve education standard of these schools according to their historic importance.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami burning tyres during a protest against electricity bills.

Promoting peace building: Workshop sets agenda for joint collective movement

PESHAWAR (APP): A consultative workshop sets the agenda for chalking out inclusive strategic priorities of diverse faith communities to serve as a joint collective movement to promote peace building and socio economic development of religious minorities.

The workshop, organized by Blue Veins organization, also formed a group of CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) to achieve the target of socio-economic development of religious minorities with a specific focus on enactment of Kalasha Matrimonial Marriage Bill and policy reforms for strengthening two percent quota of minorities in higher education institutions across various districts.

The workshop was attended by people from diversified fields including lawyers, academia, social workers, rights activists, women leaders, minority representatives and youth leaders.

In the welcome address, Sana Ahmad, Programme Manager Blue Veins apprised the participants

about the objective of the workshop, its goal and a working plan.

She also gave a brief about the working of Blue Vein for attaining the rights of women, girl's education, prevention of early marriages and deterrence of gender based violence.

Chief Kahteeb of Peshawar District, Maulana Tayyab Qureshi hailed the initiative and termed it a need of the hour for promoting inter-faith harmony in the country.

He said the religious scholars in Pakistan are very much clear and firm on their stand for the rights of girl's education and are of the belief that women should be given equal rights and dignity in the society.

"Educated women can help create an educated nation and if mothers are not literate enough, how this cherished goal of development and prosperity can be achieved," Maulana Tayyab asked.

No nation can progress and sustain without proper literacy of female and for this purpose, we have to

give rights to education to women of all faiths, he added.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Muhammd Imram also attended the workshop and assured his full cooperation in achieving the goal of promotion of peace building in the country through an inclusive approach involving people from all faiths.

He also appreciated the efforts of Blue Veins in protecting of rights of women and for the promotion of girl's education.

Nakash Bhatti, a government official, made a detailed presentation on non-utilization of two percent quota of minorities in education and in job provision.

He stressed for legislation and raising of voices for proper utilization of reserved quota for minorities in the country.

The workshop also held a group discussion about formation of the group of CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) to gather diverse inputs and insights for designing a stakeholder engagement agenda and way forward agenda.



PESHAWAR: A view of closed market due to strike by traders.

Advocate on Record removed

PESHAWAR (APP): The Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the approval of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan, has removed and denotified Moin-Uddin Hamayun, Advocate on Record, Advocate General Office, Peshawar, from his office with immediate effect.

It was notified by the Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Intraparty election: QWP announces schedule

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Election Commissioner of Quami Watan Party (QWP) Muhammad Jamil Advocate on Saturday announced the schedule for holding the intraparty election.

He also extended party membership drive to September 10 to facilitate those who joined the party recently and receive their party membership card.

He added that the ongoing membership drive will continue while the existing members' cards would be valid for four years.

According to the schedule, the election for the party office-bearers at the union council and village council level will take place from 11 to September 20, 2023.

The election for party office-bearers at the constituency, district and members of the provincial council will be held during September 21 to October 1.

The schedule for the election to the provincial and central cabinet of the party will be announced in October.

Two alleged killers held

PESHAWAR (APP): In a successful operation, the Police have succeeded in arresting two alleged killers who were involved in killing and sexually assaulting a girl in the limits of Khazana Police Station here on Saturday.

According to details, the Police have arrested two brutal suspects involved in the murder of 6-year-old girl Ayesha. One of the accused is a close relative of the deceased, Police said. Both the accused have confessed to the crime, SP Rural Zafar Ahmed told media men.

The accused killed the girl by hanging after her death, SP Rural said, adding, the accused were identified as Kamran and Amanullah. Further investigation is continuing, the official said.



PESHAWAR: Lawyers of Peshawar Bar Association protesting against against inflated electricity bills. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

People welcome millions of tourists, says Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have welcomed millions of domestic as well as foreign tourists this year, Caretaker Minister Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah said here Saturday.

According to documentary data available to this agency, unlike last year, the number of foreign tourists has decreased this year, probably due to financial crunch being faced by the people across world, however, the number of domestic tourists has increased this year, the data compiled by Police, Lives Officials, Official of the District Administration revealed.

This year 2546 foreigners visited various tourist places all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and last year 2947 foreigners visited KP tourist places. This year 9.7 million people from all over the country visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the year 2022, the number of domestic tourists was recorded as 88,59636.

Local and foreign tourists visited Galiyat, Dir Upper, Malam Jabba, Chitral, Upper and Lower and Kaghan and Naran.

Special measures are being taken for the security of domestic and foreign tourists, said Caretaker Minister Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah. Special

bus service has also been started for the convenience of tourists, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah.

Initially bus service has been started for Khanpur Dam, Takhtbhai Ruins and Peshawar, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah said. There is a plan to extend the bus service to more tourist spots, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah told APP.

Giving complete data, he said 208 foreign tourists visited Dir Upper and Dir Lower, and 847, 5730 local tourists recorded in Dir Lower and Dir Upper, Malam Jabba 323 foreign, and 2,453, 310 local tourists, Galiyat 139 foreign, 2,882,337 local

tourists, Chitral Upper 520 foreign, 31966 local, Chitral Lower 1090 foreign, and 402690 local, Kaghan and Naran 266 foreign and 3,080,412 local tourists recorded with an aggregated total 2, 546 foreign and 9, 704,325 local tourists.

The tourist influx data, he said, has recorded through Police Check Posts, Levies Check Posts, Assistant Commissioner's Office and Field Assistant Directors of KDA and GDA from Jan 1 to Aug 28, 2023 while in the last year from Jan 1 to Dec 2022 a total of 2947 foreign and 8,859,536 local tourists recorded.

Health foundation delegation inspects outsourced hospitals

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The provincial government committed for provision of facilities and uplift of outsourced hospital across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while concrete steps should be initiated for redressal of problems, on Saturday.

This was claimed by chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Foundation Dr. Amanullah during a visit to District Headquarters Hospital Abbottabad and Frontier Medical College along with members named Ishaq Ali Qazi advocate and Senior Director Dr. Azam Ullah.

However, chairperson Frontier Medical College Dr. Shaheena Jameel briefed the delegation regarding provision of facility and teaching faculty at the college. She claimed that the college is committed to ensure provision of quality academia for the students.

During the visit, the delegation showed satisfaction over provision of facilities in the outsourced hospitals

while it is informed that for the first time gynae facilities are started at District Headquarter Hospital Dasu, Kohistan district.

The delegation also inspected newly installed dialysis machines at the hospital and also appreciated commitment of staff for

serving the humanity.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Foundation member Ishaq Ali Qazi said that the aim of visit to inspect provision of facilities at the outsourced hospital and added that it is found that services are improved at the hospital while claimed that

dialysis machines are installed under the project, talk to media.

The delegation assured hospital administration regarding assistance and provision of finance while claimed that the issued should be upheld with provincial government.



PESHAWAR: People watching Pakistan vs India cricket match on big screen at Dalazak Road.

Hot, humid weather expected in most plain areas of country

PESHAWAR (INP): Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in plain areas of the country during the next twelve hours.

However, rain and wind with thundershower is expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region,

Islamabad, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Temperature of some major cities recorded on Saturday morning. Islamabad twenty-six degree centigrade, Lahore twenty-eight, Karachi and Peshawar twenty-seven, Quetta twenty-one, Gilgit twenty,

Murree sixteen, and Muzaffarabad twenty-four degree centigrade.

According to weather forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy chances of rain and wind with thundershower weather is expected in Srinagar, Jammu,

Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramula.

Temperature recorded this morning. Srinagar and Anantnag nineteen degree centigrade, Jammu twenty-eight, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramula eighteen and Leh twelve degree centigrade.

BRICS: As a champion of global south

Inam Ullah

With the admission of new members, BRICS is to be more than double. This expansion was announced at the organization's 15th annual summit in Johannesburg; South Africa on last Thursday. The new member countries that include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina, the UAE and Ethiopia will join the current five members - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - from January 1st of the coming year.

This was alluded by many experts and leaders as a "historic" development in

the global affairs. Chinese President Xi as a leading advocate of the new membership, finally, presents an expanded BRICS as an alternative for the global south to have a robust expression in the world affairs. It is unclear that how the expansion would significantly enhance the group's clout on the global stage. However, this move, for the moment, is more symbolic than anything as it is an indication of widening Global South's support for a recalibration of the global order.

It is, therefore, considered as an attempt to reshape the global world order and provide a coun-

terweight to the US and its allies. For China and Russia, the membership of the new countries is part of a long-running, and often more disgruntled, effort to turn a largely symbolic grouping into a vehicle for remodeling international trade and finance structures to protect their interests against future sanctions from the United States and its allies.

Sanctions targeting Russia over the war in Ukraine have added urgency to China's effort to create alternative global financial structures and supply chains resilient to Western disruption. It is part of the long-term bet

that China has made.

They think relations with the West are going to deteriorate and the future of relations with the world will be rooted in the developing world, so they want to find ways to institutionalize and entrench resilient systems.

Although India and Brazil had reservations about the growing anti US agenda but China and Russia have found some developing nations more receptive to their concerns about American dominance, which is part of the motivation for more members. Additionally, the developing world has always been central to

Beijing's efforts to remake multilateral organizations to protect its interests.

Souring relations with the United States and Europe have prompted Xi to double down on a strategy of currying favor in emerging markets.

Some Chinese scholars say that Beijing has greater space to maneuver in part because Russia's invasion of Ukraine has distracted the United States from engagement with developing nations.

The war and China-US trade tensions mean that Washington has shifted its focus to the Group of Seven and is less interested in the Group of 20, creating an

opportunity for BRICS to become a better platform for developing countries.

Many developing countries are unsatisfied with the Western dominance in the economic realm. The list of grievances of the global south is lengthy but the main headers include the abusive trade practices by the West, punishing sanctions regimes, perceived neglect of the development needs of poorer nations and the Western domination of international bodies such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Amid widespread dissatisfaction with the prevail-

ing world order, the pledge of BRICS nations to make the grouping a leading champion of the "Global South" has found significance.

In the forthcoming, the BRICS leaders left the door open for the enlargement of the organization as dozens more countries voiced interest in joining a grouping they hope can level the global playing field. Whatever resistance there may be BRICS, as a positive and stable force for good-will, will continue to grow.

To sum it up, the expansion adds economic heft to BRICS, whose current members are China, the

world's second largest economy, as well as Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

It could also amplify its declared ambition to become a champion of the Global South.

However, long-standing tensions could linger between members who want to forge the grouping into a counterweight to the West - notably China, Russia and now Iran - and those that continue to nurture close ties to the United States and Europe such as Brazil and India.

(The writer is M. Phil graduate in IR from National Defence University, Islamabad)



In brief

Tribesmen reject price hike F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Number of protesters from different walks of life gathered at Bacha Khan Square, Landi Kotal Bazaar against the rocket price of petroleum commodities and essential commodities here on Saturday. Prior to it, on the call of A n j u m a n - e - Tajeran, Landi Kotal Bazaar, a shutter down strike was observed against the present inflation in the country. The rally was organized under the banner of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Khyber chapter that was attended by a large number of local traders, political workers and laymen. The protesters carried banners inscribed with writings against price hike and chanted against the government. Addressing on the occasion President of Khyber Sysasi Itehad (Political Alliance, Khyber) Murad Hussain, J I Ameer Landi Kotal, Muqthader Shah Afridi, Zernoor Afridi, local leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Abduraziz, head of Anjuman-e-Tajeran, Jafer Shinwari and others said that poor policies of the interim government compelled common man on starvation and they had no other option but to resort to the street protest. On one hand a common man could not purchase sugar, flour, ghee, oil, vegetables, meat and chicken due to high prices. On the other hand, the high price of petroleum brought public transport to halt as cost was more than income. Because of the unprecedented price rise, it was impossible for a middle class citizen to feed his family with respect, they said, adding while rulers had turned blind towards miseries of the citizens. They demanded the government to control inflation and provide relief to the people. The protesters marched from Bacha Khan Chawk to in front of the Landi Kotal press where they dispersed after chanting against the government.

Cash snatched in Mardan F.P. Report

M A R D A N : Unidentified robbers snatched Rs. 07.3 million rupees on gunpoint from manager of a medicine company on broad-day light. The officials of relevant city Police Station quoted, Syed Numan-manager of Karachi Medicine Company, as saying that he along with driver Lal Muhammad was taking Rs. 7322790 rupees in the company vehicle to deposit in Habib Bank Limited located in College Square. He told police that they were intercepted by unknown armed robbers few meters away from their medicine company as they started the vehicle and were moving towards the HBL.

Teachers' problems to be resolved F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Sohail Azhar Khan has said that any kind of torture on students and absenteeism will not be tolerated at all while problems of teachers and other staff are being addressed on priority basis in the district. He expressed these views while talking to teachers during the visit of different schools in the district. During the visit of government public high secondary school Jalapur Bhattian, he found six teachers and clerk of the school absent from duty and suspended absent teachers Syed Ahmad Hussain Shah, Saad-ur-Rehman, Yasir Ifikhar, Ahmad Hassan, Allah Ditta and clerk Adnan Ahmad from service.

Complete shutter down and wheel jam strike observed in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Markets and roads presented a deserted look as political workers, transporters, traders and civil society supported the shutter down strike of the Jamaat-i-Islami in all parts of the district here on Saturday.

The big and small markets at Chakdara, Talash, Timergara, Balambat, Khall, Kumbar, Munda, Mayar and Samarbagh remained closed for the whole day while people from all walks of life also held protest rallies condemning the caretaker government for increasing power tariffs and the prices of petroleum and gas.

The Timergara rally was addressed by the JI district chief, Izazul Mulk Afkari, JI candidate for PK, 15 Shad Nawaz Khan, presi-

dent dir Chamber of Commerce, Mian Noor Alam Bacha, president Anjuman Tajiran Timergara Haji Anwarud Din, former tehsil nazim advocate Imranud Din, ANP's Imran Takur, and others.

Afkari said the government should realize that the nation had rejected its increase in prices of daily-use commodities and electricity rates. He said the people would march on Islamabad if the government fails to bow before the nation. He congratulated the JI workers, business community, transporters and civil society organizations for a successful strike and said the government should sense the intensity.

The passengers and especially the government officials were suffered hard as public transport also remained off the roads.

Many of the government officials rented cars for reaching their duty stations. Several private schools and colleges also remained closed on Saturday as the management had announced an off due to the shutter down and wheel jam call by the JI.

Traders' leaders, prominent lawyers and local politicians addressed the rallies in other parts of the district including Chakdara, Munda, Mayar, Kumbar, Khall and Samarbagh. The speakers demanded of the government to reverse the increase in power tariff and reduce the prices of fuel, gas, food items and medicines. They said the poor people were finding it difficult to pay their inflated power bills as they were unable to feed their families due to the record inflation.

Legitimate problems of local traders to be resolved

F.P. Report

WANA: On behalf of the Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, under the leadership of Taj Muhammad Wazir, met with Maulana Nisar Afghani, the border in-charge of Pakktia in Afghanistan, regarding the problems faced by traders at the Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda Gate. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the suspension of business activities on both sides.

Border in-charge Maulana Nisar Afghani said that if the two countries take serious measures against the elements creating obstacles in trade activities on the Pak-Afghan border Angoor add, so God willing, the problem will be solved. He said that we are always ready, if the government of Pakistan wants to solve this problem seriously and capture the elements who have erected barriers on the border.

He said that if the business community from both sides sit together and solve the problem through negotiations, then they will get positive results. The border officer-in-charge added that the trade activities on the remaining borders with the Pakistani government are quite good but unfortunately, people have been greatly affected by the suspension of commercial activities on the Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda.

On the other hand, Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waziristan Goods Transport and various other

unions held detailed talks with DPO Farmanullah Wardag, of Lower Waziristan, regarding Angoor Adda border. In which it was unanimously decided that all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan towards Lower South Waziristan, no one will stop them in any way, if anyone has any liabilities regarding the vehicle, the said driver or owner will contact the local administration, police or FC in this regard and from today, all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan for trade are allowed and it was decided, as many problems as there are, they will be solved through mutual consultation through Jirga.

On this occasion, DPO said that from today any vehicle will come to Pakistan from the Afghanistan side, if any individual, owner or union members him, they will report to the district administration, police and FC, and legal action will be taken against anyone who obstructs business without authorities.

DPO Farmanullah said that from today there will be no restriction on all the transport vehicles from Afghanistan side coming to Pakistan.

When the businessman Taj Muhammad was asked about this, he said that until the government of Pakistan provides us facilities like other borders, the protest will continue. He further said that thousands of people have become unemployed due to the lack of facilities at the Angoor Adda border. The government of Pakistan should ensure the provision of facilities on an

emergency basis for the war-torn Waziristan on the border. In this regard, the customs officials at the Angoor Adda border say that only two vehicles have been moved today. Only 01 vehicle of onion and tomato on the import side and 01 vehicle for export.

Student killed in firing F.P. Report

LARKANA: In last day, a class 7 student was killed as a result of firing between Jeha and Dahani parties near Mirpur Bhutto, a suburb of Ratodero tehsil of Larkana. There was heavy firing on the old dispute between Jeha and Dahani sides in the boundaries, as a result of which the seventh grade student Rizwan and Muhammad Hasan Dahani were killed on the spot, while the body of the deceased student was handed over to the heirs of the deceased student Goth Muhammad.

Azeem Dahani's cousin who was going to school riding a motorcycle was killed on the way while talking to the media on this occasion, Abdul Sattar Dahani, the cousin of the deceased, said that we have nothing to do with these disputes, while Jeha's side, Rizwan was killed by firing without justification, while according to the police, two people from both sides have been killed so far.



LANDI KOTAL: Political workers, traders and local people holding a rally against price hike of essential commodities in country. — F.P. photo

Traffic jam's menace Um-e-Fizza

THE writing would draw the attention of the transport authorities as well as the law of enforcement Agencies towards increasing traffic jams in various areas of the city. At times, these traffic jams seem to be the result of the carelessness of law enforcement authorities. But mostly these are caused by some other factors.

Generally, people's rash, rough and reckless driving are the causes of this undesirable things. At the same time, when any mishap or violent incident takes place, many ways are blocked in no time. Car and bus drivers and traveling people suffer a lot. They remain depressed and tense for the undue delay caused by traffic congestions. People reach their jobs or get back home after sheer wastage of time. Besides time consumption, it burns a lot of you. A large number of people remain in unimaginable torture. The authority concerned are requested to look into the matter seriously and to find a proper solution to the problem.

Bodies recovered F.P. Report

DIR LOWER: The officials of the Rescue-1122 Dir Lower have recovered two bodies of the three persons who drowned in River Swat. After a long search, the officials of Rescue-1122 managed to recover the bodies of two of the three people who drowned in the Swat River.

The teams of Rescue-1122 Lower Dir continued the rescue operation in Swat River for the second day as well.

Minority youth leadership summit held

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: A three-day Minority Youth Leaders' Summit was organized in Abbottabad under the auspices of the Minority Affairs Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government. Young male and female students of Malakand and Hazara Division minority community participated. A minute's silence was observed to express solidarity with the victims of Jarhanwala. Father nasir william was the chief guest of the ceremony.

The three-day summit was organized at a local hall in Abbottabad. In the three-day summit, sessions, trainings and lectures of eminent personalities from various walks of life were organized. In order to highlight the leadership skills among the minority youth, training and activities were conducted by eminent trainers on leadership, leadership qualities, contemporary problems and their appropriate solutions. A special note talk was held on emotional intelligence for the youth.

The role and importance of the minority community and especially the youth in the country's development was discussed. Monitoring officer of department mian asjid while speaking said that Jaranwala strongly condemns the unfortunate incident. Islam has established the best rights and protection system for minorities. Fraternal relations with minorities have been ordered in Islam. The constitution of Pakistan has ensured the protection of the rights of minorities. The white color in the green crescent flag of Pakistan represents the minorities.



According to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, minorities in Pakistan will have complete freedom and will be able to live according to their religious beliefs.

Planning officer of the department Sahibzada Haider Jan said that the provincial government is taking steps for the development and prosperity of minorities. For which purpose comprehensive planning has been done and the provincial government has allocated a significant amount of money for the welfare of the minorities. Sahibzada Haider Jan further said that special attention has been given to the youth of the minority community in the annual development program.

Educational Scholarship for Youth, Skills Development Scheme, Small Business Grants, Youth Adventure Trip are included. Sahibzada Haider Jan added that the process of construction and repair of the places of worship of the minority community is going on while residential colonies are also being con-

structed along with the places of worship. Annual development program for construction of land rules and boundary wall for cemeteries and crematoriums is also underway. Sahibzada haider Jan further said that the process of celebrating the religious festivals of the minority community at the official level is also going on. While various conferences are being organized for inter-faith harmony. Sahibzada further said that it is hoped that all these measures will reduce the problems of the minority community. Youth will get better training and employment opportunities will be created.

Chief Guest father Nasir William thanked the participants, minority community leaders, speakers, trainers, media, police, staff and consultants for providing excellent services for the summit. Commemorative shields were distributed at the end of the summit and the participants waved the national flag on the stage along with national songs and gave a message of peace.

Residents hold protest against lease holder for depriving them from royalty

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: The people of the Beesti area of Chitral blocked the Besti road while conducting a protest rally against the brutal behavior of the emerald lease holder. The public meeting was chaired by Mirza Khan former councilor, who has been elected from the area three times. Addressing the public meeting and protest set in , the speakers said that the mountains of Besti contain the precious stones of emeralds and other minerals.

They said that a non-local person namely Imran has got its lease in partnership with Anwaruddin. They said that we also learned that the mineral department issued lease of a minor mineral mine, but there is precious minerals like emeralds etc in this deposit. They said in a rally that so far the leaseholder has recovered about 100 billion rupees of emerald and precious stones from here, but he takes the goods into the darkness of the night so that no one can check it. It was also revealed that he not pay any tax to TMA Chitral.

The aforementioned lease holders Imran and Anwaruddin pay million of rupees annually to the 41 households of Besti Bala, while their cargo vehicles pass through roads and people's homes from within seven kilometers in lower Besti. They said that this is a rural road which was constructed by local people on self help basis. They said that at first lease holder did a written agreement with local people by giving us royalty and service charges as well as repairing of road and bridges but he have brought non-local laborers here, which is causing the sanctity and disturbing movement of our

women.

They said that Chitral is a district where women often do the work of keeping livestock and they carry fodder for them, but due to the presence of these non-local laborers, the women here cannot take their livestock into their fields and effectively, People forced to sell their livestock.

They said that when the leaseholder vehicles bring these precious minerals and stones, our women often enter the fields of someone else to save their livestock because they drive with great carelessness. They said that this area is a sanctural area where Ibex, Markhur, Butter, and national birds increase their breed. After arrival of these people, these wild life also badly disturbed as they explode with explosives to cut the mountain, which has caused disappearing of these beautiful and wild animals and birds from here.

However, in the past, the British people used to hunt regularly under the Hunting Trophy of Ibex etc , which used to give million of rupees to this backward area. But now these wildlife have disappeared from here and they have migrated to the neighboring country of Afghanistan, which is located on our border. Due to which the beauty and natural eco system of the area has been severely damaged and the beauty of the area has disappeared.

Speakers said that people here are forced to spend the bitter days of life in the most difficult situations due to the expensive. When these leaseholders come to our pastures, our women were deprived of going to these pastures because we have a problem of honor. Now we are forced to



sell our livestock because of them. Speakers said that these leaseholders were eliminating emerald and other precious stones and other minerals from the mountain (deposits), by using explosive which caused the melting of glaciers which causing flood in rivers as a result we face widespread damage to crops, under cultivation land , orchards, they said that due to melting of glaciers we face server shortage of water and people of Besti will not be able to live here. They will be forced to migrate from here. An important natural beauty of the area was destroyed, which has a very negative effect on the area due to climate change.

There are so many glaciers but due to using heavy explosive water flowing from these glaciers contaminating, and causing our drinking water to be very dirty and with the use of ammunition and poisonous gas and chemicals here, that is why the

environment here is very dirty and polluted. It is also great threat to human health and live. Apart from this, our animals have been forced to die every year and suffering from several diseases.

They said that it has been revealed that these people are digging tunnels here. It appears that urea and DAP are being stocked in large quantities, as seven tunnels are likely to carry a huge explosion filled with ammunition and other explosives, which will not only cause a big blasting on the contrary, there is a strong possibility of severe damage to the houses. The use of large quantities of ammunition and DAP will make the water a mixture of poisonous gases. For a long time, this contaminated water here will be causing of death for us. Our crops are also hampering with the use of large quantities of ammunition.

They said that the youth of the area here are unemployed, but the owners of the lease are working to bring people from down districts. Speakers said that the leaseholder has NOC for Florentite and nominal minerals, but they are smuggling emeralds from here, which is harming not only the people of Arkari Chitral but it also causing great loss of Pakistan. Speakers said that untrained persons are being deployed in these deposits for mining as a result a large quantity of these precious stones wasting.

Speakers said that our roads and wooden bridges have been badly damaged due to heavy missionaries. It will be very difficult for small vehicles to pass on these bridges and roads. They said that the leaseholder had signed a written agreement with us that he will give them their privileges of royalty and service charges as well as the construc-

tion of the roads and bridges he will repair, but now he has turned his promise.

They strongly appeal to the Chief Justice Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Chief Minister and high ups of mines and Minerals department to providing them justice and to release them from the oppression and bullying of the leaseholder and in this regard, regular judicial inquiries should be initiated in this regard. They also demanded for investigating to confirm that either the leaseholder is really have lease of emerald or extracting valuable emeralds on the lease of a cheap and nominal mineral and either government is also getting any benefits or he also giving loss to the national treasury due to the plight of a few officers and leaseholders.

Former Nazim Abdul Majeed, former councilor Mirza Khan and Roziman Shah and others alleged that when we demand for our genuine right from the leaseholder, he threatens us that they have long hands and having great links with high ups of mine and mineral and no body can take action against him. The sit-in protest was disbursed after the written assurance of DSP Garamchishma Tamizuddin that he will call the lease holder on the table of negotiating and would play a role for giving their rights to these people. A large number of people participating in the protest and public meeting. During the protest people also holding banners and play cards in their hands, which contained slogans about the leaseholder's cruelty and they demanding for justice. The gathering was later dispersed peacefully.



Macron looks on as France’s Africa policy crumbles

PARIS (BBC): Why is it so often that problems seem to get worse just when they ought to be getting better? Or in a French-African context, how come President Emmanuel Macron is surveying the tatters of French policy - coups in four Francophone states - just when he thought he had turned his back on all the wicked post-colonialism of the old days?

No-one disputes that there was indeed a long period - roughly corresponding to the Cold War - when France used a certain amount of skulduggery and military muscle to further its interests in La Françafrique. But no-one can dismiss, either, the fact that for the last quarter-century the message from Paris has been that those days - officially at least - are over.

Gone the automatic request for French soldiers to back up a teetering autocrat; gone the millions in back-handers that helped finance French political parties. Instead today's buzz-words are "democratisation", "empowerment", "co-operation", and "engagement with the young". According to an official at the Élysée Palace: "It's been a very long time since we had our men in presidential palaces." Maybe it would be naive to pretend that all is above board, and that there aren't still nefarious pressures and sweeteners passing back and forth between Paris and francophone capitals.

But surely it is also a wild exaggeration to claim that French influence is anything like it used to be. To take the case of Gabon - often seen as the emblem of corrupt post-colonialism - it is certainly true that deposed President Ali Bongo's father Omar Bongo was regarded condescendingly as "one of ours" by successive French presidents, and benefited accordingly, as did they.

But if French reach is still so great, how is it that Ali Bongo made moves

to pull Gabon out of the Francosphere to the point of actually joining the Commonwealth last year? The Bongos' amassment of wealth - and its secretion in Paris - was no doubt legendary. But was it not the action of French anti-corruption judges, unimpeded by politicians, that led to its exposure and to criminal proceedings against members of the Bongo family, arguably pushing Ali into the arms of the Anglos?

And if Paris still has pull over neighbouring Cameroon, how come its leader Paul Biya recently attended the Russia-Africa summit in St Petersburg, smiling alongside Vladimir Putin? The fact is - according to journalist Amaury Coutansais, author of Macron's African Trap - that France is living through a "historical anachronism", in which it is attributed powers that simply do not exist any more. "Africa has been globalising," he says. "These days African presidents have the whole world in their waiting-rooms: Turks, Russians, Israel, even allies of France like Germany and the United States."

"Oppositions in Africa imagine that France is still all-powerful. In reality, while France was doing all the dirty police work, its rivals were sweeping up the contracts." So to return to the original question: if French influence is on the wane in Africa, how come it is now that we are seeing the fiercest backlash against it? Surely it would have been more appropriate when former President Charles De Gaulle's Monsieur Afrique, Jacques Foccart, really was arranging coups d'état in the 1960s and beyond, and when bags of dirty money really were transiting to Le Bourget airport near Paris.

The answer comes in two parts. First, there is some deep-rooted psychological reason why, in all sorts of areas, the perception of a problem's seriousness grows in proportion to its

apparent amelioration. There's probably a law somewhere that describes the process. When people are deeply buried in an injustice or discrimination, they find it hard to see the bigger picture. Small improvements are all that can be expected and are welcomed. Only when people begin to imagine a full emancipation, do they perceive the full extent of their subjection. And they get angrier.

That's one theory. France's colonial presence in the Sahel and Central Africa was so entrenched that it was bound to provoke an increased sense of outrage among today's more self-confident generations. As Coutansais says: "Everything passes - except the past." The second explanation does not contradict the first, but acts as a complement. This is that the French are not wrong in seeing outside hands at work.

In a speech to French ambassadors on Monday, President Macron described the "baroque alliance between self-proclaimed pan-Africans and neo-imperialists" which he said had provoked the recent "epidemic of putsches" in French-speaking Africa, referring to Gabon, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali. In President Macron's eyes, the "neo-imperialists" are Russia and China, which he believes have dripped poison words into the over-eager minds of wannabe putschists, and hypocritically stirred up old arguments over sovereignty and colonial exploitation. For him, France is in the Sahel not for the sake of overpowering its former colonies, but "because there is a terrorist threat, and sovereign states asked us to help".

To believe otherwise, he said on Monday, was to live in a "world gone mad". Quite evidently, though, many people do prefer the conspiracy theory, which is why, just when things should be getting better - they are getting worse.



TEL AVIV: Eritrean protesters clash with Israeli riot police. Hundreds of Eritrean asylum seekers smashed shop windows and police cars in Israel, clashing with police during a protest against an event to 30 years of independence, organized by the government of Eritrea.

Dozens injured in a protest by asylum-seekers

TEL AVIV (AP): Violent protests have erupted between hundreds of Eritrean asylum-seekers and Israeli police in Tel Aviv on Saturday during a protest against an event organized by the Eritrean Embassy. The Israeli police said 27 officers were injured in the clashes, and at least three protesters were shot by police firing live rounds after they felt "real danger to their lives."

Israeli police in riot gear and on horses tried to corral the protesters, who broke through barricades and hurled chunks of sidewalk, batteries and rocks at the police. Similarly violent protests have popped up all over the world as Eritrea, one of the world's most repressive countries, marks 30 years of independence with festivals held by Eritrea's diaspora across Europe and North America. Earlier this year, Eritrea called anti-government protesters marching against these events "asylum scum."

Eritreans make up the majority of the more than 30,000 African asylum-seekers in Israel. They say they fled danger and persecution from a country known as the "North Korea of Africa" with forced lifetime military conscription in slavery-like conditions. President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has led Eritrea since 1993, taking power after the country won independence from Ethiopia in a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections, there's no free media and exit visas are required. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say.

The nation on the Horn of Africa has one of the world's worst human rights records, and the asylum-seekers fear death if they were to return. In Israel, they face an uncertain future as the state has attempts to deport them. But despite the struggle to stay, in often squalid conditions, many say they enjoy some freedoms they never would have at home — like the right to protest.

Typhoon makes landfall on China’s coast

BEIJING (Agencies): Typhoon Saola has made landfall in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong as violent winds lashed nearby Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau, leaving at least one dead and a trail of destruction and flooding in many areas.

Hong Kong and China's neighbouring provinces cancelled hundreds of flights and shut businesses and schools as the super typhoon — packing winds of more than 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour) — edged closer, forcing some 900,000 people to leave areas at risk in Guangdong and Fujian provinces. But as southern China's coastal areas braced for the storm's arrival, Saola was downgraded before dawn on Saturday, after the typhoon passed Hong Kong without the much-feared direct hit on the financial hub, and then weakened.

Chinese authorities said Saola had made landfall in

Guangdong's Zhuhai city with winds slowing to about 160km/h (99mph) and was expected to weaken further as it moved along China's southern coastline. Local media reported that one person was killed in Guangdong's Shenzhen city after a tree fell and hit their vehicle. Railway operations in Guangdong were allowed to gradually resume from 8:30am (00:30 GMT) local time, the railway operator said.

Despite weakening, Saola will continue to affect the region, Chinese authorities said, due to strong winds and rains. Local media in Shenzhen reported that Saola had moved away from the city on Saturday morning and warnings were downgraded from a red typhoon to a yellow rainstorm alert. Though winds and rains have weakened, members of the public were still advised to remain inside, according to reports.

Hong Kong had imposed its highest hurricane storm

signal of 10, lowering it to 8 by Saturday morning. The city's weather observatory said it would remain in force until 4pm (08:00 GMT) as heavy rain and flooding were still affecting the territory. Fallen trees were strewn over many roads, particularly in the more exposed outlying islands. In Hong Kong's bustling Causeway Bay district, many building signs had flown off.

In Macau, the world's biggest gambling centre, casinos were allowed to reopen from 8am on Saturday, the government said, after shutting. Haikui, a typhoon not as strong as Saola, is now forecast to make landfall on Taiwan's far southeastern coast late on Sunday afternoon and bring heavy rain across the island into next week. Taiwan's two main domestic airlines cancelled all flights for Sunday, and the government has warned people to stay away from beaches and mountain areas.

Latest bridge bombing underscores grip of gangs

ECUADOR (Agencies): Criminal gangs in Ecuador have detonated explosive devices on a bridge, authorities said, causing damage to an inter-city route as the country contends with a wave of violence. Bridge explosion was the latest in a string of similar incidents that unfolded over a 48-hour stretch.

National police commander Luis Garcia told the Associated Press news agency that the targeted bridge connected two cities in the coastal province of El Oro. Authorities have described the spate of explosions as a backlash to the government's attempts to regain control of correctional facilities from suspected gangs.

Almost 60 prison guards and police officers had been held hostage in six prisons across the country, according to the AFP news agency. Later that day, the prison authority estimated that 50 of the hostages were released. Prison

authorities announced the hostage situation, framing it as a response to recent government raids and prisoner transfers meant to undermine the gangs. "The measures we have taken, especially in the prison system, have generated violent reactions from criminal organisations that seek to intimidate the state," President Guillermo Lasso tweeted.

Some of the recent explosions — which include four car bombs and the planting of explosive devices at three other locations — hampered the authorities' ability to reach the prisons, officials said. That included the targeting of the bridge in Napo, where wads of dynamite attached to a gas tank exploded. Two of the car bombs in Quito also targeted the former and current offices of the country's corrections system. Six people were later arrested for one of the car bombs, which was detonated in a commercial area of the capital. No injuries were

reported in those blasts.

Once seen as a peaceful haven, Ecuador has seen surging gang violence in recent years, particularly within its prisons. Authorities have attributed a series of deadly prison riots to an escalating battle over lucrative drug trafficking routes, precipitated by the 2020 killing of Jorge Zambrano, the leader of the local Los Choneros gang. They believe the killing left a power vacuum, with groups linked to powerful Mexican and Colombian cartels jockeying for control.

At least 400 inmates have died in Ecuadorean prisons since 2021. In late July, a riot in the Guayas 1 prison in the port city of Guayaquil left over 30 people dead. Overall, Ecuador's homicide rate has skyrocketed. The risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft estimates an increase in murders of almost 500 percent since 2016, for a total of 22 murders per 100,000 people in 2022.

Moroccan tourist describes being shot at off Algerian coast

LONDON (BBC): A Moroccan man has described how the Algerian coastguard opened fire on him and three other tourists who had strayed into Algerian waters. Mohamed Kissi was the only survivor to make it back. His brother and a friend were killed and another friend is said to be in Algerian custody. "They charged, then began to shoot behind us," Mr Kissi told French television network BFM.

Morocco has opened an investigation and there has been no comment from Algeria. The two nations have a long history of tension, tied to Morocco's claims to the disputed territory of Western Sahara. The border between them was closed in 1994, with Algiers severing diplomatic ties two years ago. It accused Morocco of hostile acts - an allegation rejected by Rabat. The party of four on two jet skis had set off from the Moroccan resort of Saïdia on Tuesday when they were shot.

Mr Kissi described how they had got lost as night fell and realised they had strayed into Algerian territory when they saw boats of the Algerian coastguard approach. "They charged into us," he said. His brother, Bilal, signalled for them to turn back. "They started shooting behind us," Mr Kissi said. The shooting sparked anger in Morocco after a fisherman posted footage of a lifeless body floating in the sea. It was that of Bilal Kissi, who lived in France. He was buried.

North Korea hints at tourism reopening

SEOUL (Agencies): North Korea may be known as the hermit kingdom, but the isolated nation could be edging toward opening its borders to small numbers of tourists for the first time since the pandemic. In late August, flights on North Korea's national carrier Air Koryo resumed services between the capital Pyongyang and Beijing, China, and Vladivostok, Russia, for the first time since January 2020, signaling that a wider reopening may be in the pipeline.

However, getting information from North Korean officials is a challenge, leading tour companies to speculate on when they will be permitted to bring travelers into the country again. Simon Cockerell is the general manager of Koryo Tours, a China-based company that specializes in group tourist trips to North Korea. When North Korea slammed its already tight borders closed in 2020, he was one of many travel industry professionals left out in the proverbial cold.

"There's no Ministry of Tourism," Cockerell explains. "So there's no high-level government officers or anything like that involved in tourism." As a result, information is spotty, and the best he and his colleagues can do is wait and wonder. "Imagine a company with no access to its market with no customers and no income for three and a half years. That's how difficult it's been," he says.

Koryo Group also operates tours to other Asian

destinations like Kazakhstan and Mongolia, allowing the company to stay afloat, but not at its previous level. One of Cockerell's business concerns, he says, is that a lack of search engine interest in North Korea trips could hurt his website's visibility on Google. While Cockerell believes the resumption of some international flights is a promising sign, he says that even if tour companies like his are allowed to restart their trips, there's no telling whether vaccines, quarantines and other Covid-era restrictions would be on the table.

Tourism to North Korea was permitted before the pandemic, but heavily restricted. Even if leisure tourism in North Korea becomes possible again, there's one major demographic that wouldn't be included in those tour groups — Americans. In 2017, the United States banned its passport holders from traveling to North Korea and has renewed this ban through at least 2024.

In a government memo issued at the time, the US urged potential travelers to consider that money from tourism in North Korea goes to the Kim regime and its practices. "It is entirely possible that money spent by tourists in the DPRK goes to fund (weapons programs). We would urge all travelers, before traveling to the DPRK, to consider what they might be supporting," said the memo. The 2017 ban on American travel to North Korea came

shortly after the death of Otto Warmbier, a recent college graduate from Ohio who participated in a Young Pioneer Tours group trip to North Korea.

Warmbier was detained in North Korea in 2016 for allegedly stealing a propaganda poster and held for 17 months. He was released back to the United States in June 2017 in a vegetative state and died not long after. He was 22 years old. Individual tourists are not permitted to enter North Korea. Before the pandemic, the majority of visitors signed up with a company like Koryo Tours and visited in a group led by government-assigned minders and tour guides. The places they visited were strictly chosen and controlled. Most of these tour groups traveled by air from Beijing, which means that would-be visitors had to also obtain a Chinese travel visa.

While many countries with strict Covid-era border controls permitted their citizens to return home from elsewhere, North Korea was a rare exception. As a result, many North Koreans — such as the many restaurant managers, construction workers, and others sent to foreign countries to make money for the regime — were essentially marooned overseas. However, that policy finally changed this week. On August 27, the North Korean government said it would allow its citizens living overseas to return home — but will still require them to do a one-week quarantine upon arrival.

Dbeibah's reach to the Abu Zariba brothers, Ali, an MP affiliated with the Tripoli government, and Hassan, the local Zawiya leader of another militia, the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA).

Since the destruction of Tripoli International Airport in 2014, access to the capital has only been possible via the military base at Mitiga, which had been adopted as the base for the Special Deterrence Forces (SDF) the previous year, giving the headline militia control over all access into the country's capital and largest city. With the opening of a new international airport slated for 2024, the SDF's pre-eminent role in the city's militia hierarchy stands to be fundamentally undermined. Other armed groups look ready to capitalise, not least the well-disciplined and heavily armed 444 Brigade.

Fighting between the two groups last broke out in August. During a little over 24 hours of fighting, 55 civilians were reportedly killed. Ironically, among those who brokered a truce between the two groups was al-Kikli's SSA. "If there is a protracted war between these groups within the city, the human tragedy and infrastructure destruction could be

immense," Harchaoui said.

Already, Harchaoui said, the capital's various militias, some religiously inspired, others with components dating back to former leader Muammar Gaddafi's intelligence services, are allying with their preferred candidate, typically based upon cynical calculations over how they see the conflict unfolding, or how it might impact their prestige or structural leverage. Given the circumstances, efforts to establish Dbeibah as an international statesman by encouraging normalisation with Israel may have been ill-advised.

Nevertheless, the August meeting is not the first time a Libyan politician has met an Israeli official to discuss normalisation. "Everyone's hands are dirty," Megerisi said. "Aguila Saleh [the speaker of Libya's eastern-based parliament] is walking around with the Palestinian flag and, rightly, being ridiculed. Libyans aren't thick. A few years ago we remember him encouraging his foreign minister — when he had a foreign minister — to seek normalisation with Israel."

Two years before that, Saddam Haftar, Khalifa's son, was reportedly in Tel Aviv to discuss normalising diplomatic relations in return for

Israeli military technology. There is little doubt that the present furor has fundamentally undermined Dbeibah, potentially even permanently. However, Megerisi cautioned, it is important to set the current crisis against the background of recent unrest, ranging from drone strikes, internecine fighting, kidnappings and the arbitrary arrests of prominent individuals.

"These aren't isolated incidents. They're more about the mafia-style negotiations between the two men [ahead of a future government], with Dbeibah signalling to Haftar that he can't strongarm him in the way he did with his predecessor, Fayeze al-Sarraj," Megresis concluded. Knowing the instability on the ground, the involvement of both Italy and the United States in Libya's external affairs was "the worst diplomatic failure in years," said German journalist Mirco Keilberth, who has lived and reported from Libya since the 2011 revolution. "They don't have elections, they don't have any unified system of law, but Italy and the US think they can push them towards normalising relations with Israel? It's the wrong moment for such a strategy."

Fallout from Israel meeting shows militia power in Libya

TRIPOLI (Agencies): Last month's meeting between the Libyan and Israeli foreign ministers may ultimately achieve little but provide public justification for renewed fighting between Tripoli's armed groups and the weakening, perhaps critically, of Libya's interim prime minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, analysts have said.

Since emerging from the ashes of the country's 2011 revolution, Libya's many militias have maintained a series of uneasy alliances with the country's shifting leadership, who rely upon the armed groups to project power across the 1.8 million square kilometres (nearly 700,000 square miles) of oil-rich territory. While the eastern parallel government in Benghazi has experienced some success in corralling its armed groups into the fold of the Libyan National Army militia, its western rivals in Tripoli — who are recognised by the United Nations — have enjoyed significantly less success.

Tensions, often deadly, between militias are commonplace for those living within Tripoli, with the fault lines between rival groups uncertain. Overseeing it all, at least on paper, is Dbeibah's government, in power in Tripoli since the failed elections of

December 2021 and one whose every policy must weigh the self-interests of the militias responsible for carrying them out. Conflict broke out as recently as August, with many of the same armed groups now seizing upon the Israeli meeting to push agendas only tangentially related to the meeting itself.

At stake is power, influence and control. "The militias predate Dbeibah, they're confident they'll exist long after him," said Jalel Harchaoui of the Royal United Services Institute. "There's no need for any great vision. They've learned that the long term is really just a series of short terms." "Since their inception, they've become institutionalised. They've become part of the state, its services, its intelligence, everything," he added. Maintaining the precarious balance of power with the militias, while negotiating with the rival government in Benghazi, dominated by General Khalifa Haftar, was always going to be a tricky proposition for Dbeibah, an interim prime minister under international pressure to help bring around some kind of democratic resolution to Libya.

For Dbeibah, facing pressure from

allies in the United States and Italy and keen to normalise a personal mandate now long beyond its sell-by date, authorising the Israeli meeting, as he is suspected of having done, may have seemed an obvious political choice. However, by leaking news of the meeting, Israel essentially threw petrol onto a long-simmering fire.

As protests broke out — for the most part, a genuine expression of sincere sympathies for the Palestinian cause — Libya's militias are thought to have spied opportunity amidst the confusion, with groups from the western city of Zawiya being the first to add their numbers to the throng in the capital. "A lot of people were streaming down from Zawiya after news of the meeting broke," Tarek Megerisi, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said.

In May, Dbeibah had ordered drone strikes on armed groups in Zawiya following weeks of escalating tension. The strikes were justified by the government as targeting people smugglers and traffickers. But they equally served as both a reminder of Tripoli's military prowess, as well as a warning of

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Kashmir dispute and winning global peace

PAKISTAN has reaffirmed its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and paid rich tribute to Iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for his life-long dedication and struggle for justice and freedom on his second death anniversary on September 1. Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson underscored that Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a true voice and real face of the Kashmiris' struggle for their rights and freedom, while Geelani's unflinching commitment to the Kashmir cause had lit the candle of resistance in new generations of Kashmiris against brutal Indian rule tyranny.

Seven decades of occupation, barbarism and ignominy have passed since October 24, 1947. Kashmir is in chains and Kashmiris are in pain. Kashmiris' struggle for their right to self-determination and freedom from Indian occupation continued uninterrupted over the past 76 years. Kashmiri men, women and youths wrote an unforgettable history of matchless sacrifices, hardships and struggle for their fundamental right to self-determination that had been categorically vested by the UN Security Council Resolutions and relevant global laws. Syed Ali Shah Geelani was one of the founding members of the Kashmir freedom movement who dedicated his life to the Kashmir cause and was globally known for his resoluteness and commitment to the Kashmir freedom movement and love for Pakistan. The people and the government of Pakistan also have great respect for the Iconic Kashmiri leader and he will always be remembered for his unconditional Pakistanism, matchless sacrifices and peerless services for his nation and Pakistan.

Historically, The Kashmiri nation had been entrapped by a clever enemy who previously guaranteed the fundamental rights of the people of Kashmir and ensured the ultimate solution to the Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC's resolutions by granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir under the Indian constitution. Subsequently, Indian rulers scrapped Article 370 and Section 35A of the Indian constitution in August 2019 and are currently trying to project a false narrative of peace and normalcy in the occupied valley by organizing different events in the disputed territory which is otherwise one of the most militarized zones in the world.

The Kashmir issue is one of the oldest unresolved disputes on the agenda of the United Nations and its executive arm, the UN Security Council over the past seven and a half decades. However, the UN forum and global community largely put this grave political and humanitarian issue on the back burner because freedom of Kashmir currently does not serve the political and strategic interests of global powers; rather Kashmir's struggle is against New Delhi, which is a western darling and strategic ally of the United States. Unfortunately, Kashmiris neither have access to global power corridors nor have a say in global affairs while Pakistan is the only mouthpiece, that draws global attention to the Kashmir dispute and often highlights the urgency for an early settlement of the Kashmir dispute. Those efforts had now lost momentum and largely became event-driven, as Pakistani leadership, strategists, and Intelligentsia have nothing except verbal assurances and customary statements regarding the decades-long human tragedy in Kashmir. Currently, Pakistani strategists are waiting for a suitable time and conducive global environment that leads to a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, while there is no likelihood of such circumstances that enable Kashmiris to execute their right to self-determination until and unless this phenomenon suits global power brokers. Amid such circumstances, Kashmiris are disappointed with the UN, and the Global community as well as with Pakistani leadership that has almost abandoned the Kashmir cause and betrayed the Kashmiri nation. The government of Pakistan must launch a fresh campaign at the global forums to sensitise the world about the severity of the world's longstanding unresolved issue, which is not only a grave humanitarian crisis but a nuclear flash point between two nuclear-armed states in South Asia. Until and unless the global community does not resolve the Kashmir dispute, global peace can not be guaranteed in this part of the world.

Modi's India, secularism versus Hindu nationalism

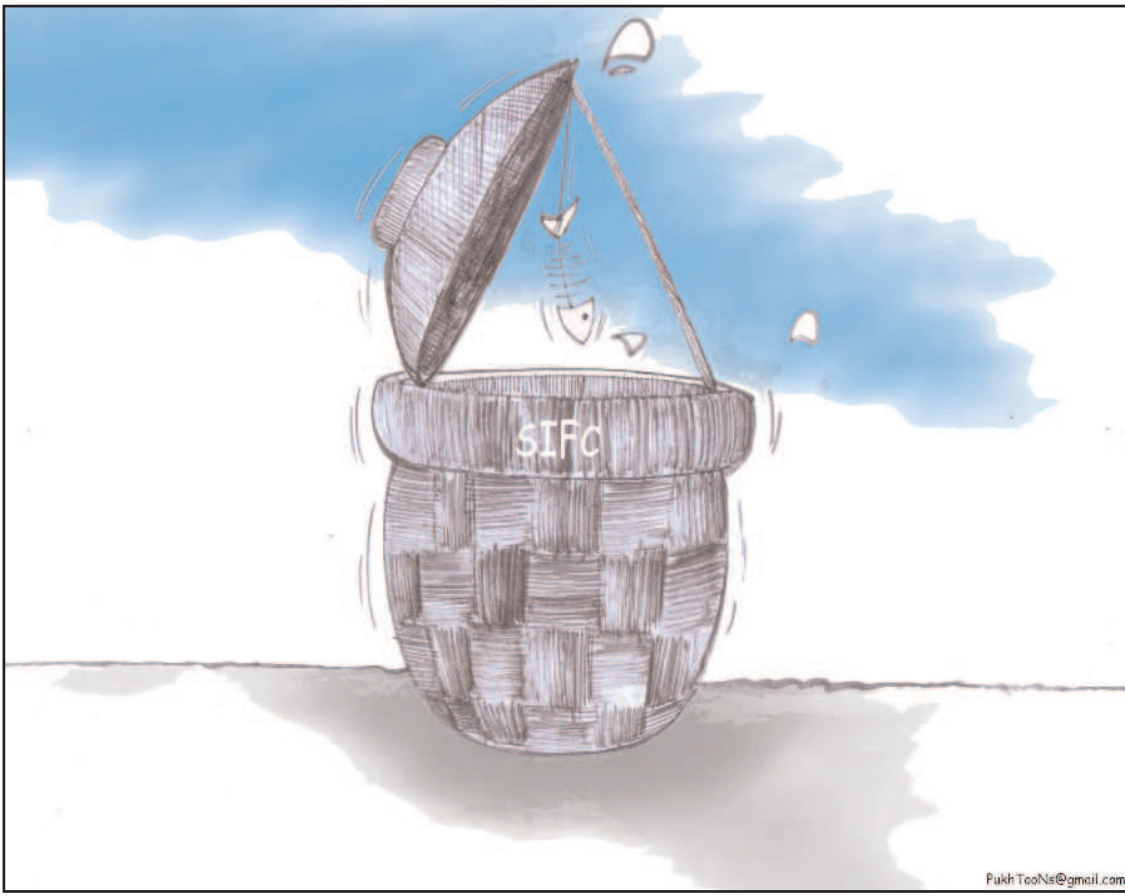
AN interesting political situation has emerged in neighbouring India, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is persistent in championing the forthcoming polls and grasping the Country's premier-ship for the consecutive third time, while his staunch rivals are endeavouring hard to fail him in his plan which is a tough job so far. More than two dozen opposition parties in India have decided to jointly contest the 2024 national elections against Narendra Modi as they aim to prevent the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) third straight victory. The 28-party bloc called the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), has recently announced that the group will work out seat-sharing arrangements in different states to avoid splitting votes in favour of Modi's BJP.

India's national elections are scheduled to be held in May next year, while the run of Kutch has commenced ahead of a crucial nationwide contest that has equal stacks for the ruling BJP government as well as the Congress-led 28-parties network. Both warring groups mull over the prospects to defeat each other through strategic deception, deceit and propaganda. The 28-member alliance has created a real challenge for the Modi regime, which has lost ground in the country besides improving its credibility at the global level.

Currently, the opposition has challenged Modi's regime on its economic record, rising unemployment and a host of other domestic problems, including rising anti-Muslim sentiment and atrocities against Christians, Sikhs and Dalits. Opposition also slammed the Modi government for its authoritarian rule, reducing space for free media, and positive criticism, trashing India's secular ideology and mishandling the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress-led alliance aimed at defeating Modi's BJP through mutual seat adjustment and evolving strategy during the months-long Lok Sabha and state elections scheduled in mid-2024. Interestingly, the Modi government was also well aware of the plans of its political rivals and the government has introduced the idea of a one nation one election formula to tactfully handle its opponents by holding countrywide polls simultaneously that would be the first of its kind in Hindustan history. Historically, Modi's BJP has gained power by promoting Hindu nationalism, spreading hate speech and monetizing cow vanigaitization over the past decades, it persistently fueled hate and violence against minorities and low casts to boost its politics ahead of crucial polls to gain victory for third times in India's history. The majority of the civic groups have joined hands to reset India's secularism and rebirth previous social and civic life in the country, whereas RSS led Hindutva regime blatantly pursuing his hate philosophy to get a stronghold in Bharat. Presently, a tug of war is continuing between Hindu nationalism and Secular forces in our neighbourhood, the time will decide about the champion which will not only set fate of Indians but equally effects peace and stability in the region.

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Putin, Trump, and a remarkable split-screen moment in history

WHEN an airplane owned by Russian warlord Yevgeny Prigozhin plummeted in a fiery crash northwest of Moscow last week, observers in Russia and around the world immediately recalled two indisputable facts. First, that Prigozhin had openly challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin, and second, that countless others who had defied Putin have met untimely, violent deaths.

In the quest to understand what happened, one other fact was clear: The Kremlin was not the place to seek straightforward, credible answers. The Kremlin's word is, shall we say, not a good source for independent, reliable truth. In fact, when Putin's spokesman dismissed claims that the state had Prigozhin killed as an "absolute lie," it seemed a pro forma statement, one we've heard before as Putin's critics, one after the other, meet macabre endings.

Putin and his inner circle have been at war with the truth for decades, most recently and notoriously regarding Ukraine, which they have falsely claimed is ruled by Nazis and is, they maintain despite obvious evidence to the contrary, not a real country. Dictators, autocrats and strongmen have a long history of battling the truth in pursuit of their goals. So do would-be autocrats, individuals who would like to enjoy the benefits of enormous, long-lasting power, and are willing to break all manner of norms to acquire and keep it. In one of history's most remarkable split-screen moments, the Prigozhin crash competed for the news spotlight with a wave of arrests related to former President Donald Trump's efforts to reverse the outcome of the 2020 election he lost - his own election of truth and reality.

The world is in the midst of a global authoritarian drift. In different ways, both Putin and Trump are key players in that phenomenon. And they are each running into a determined pushback against their efforts. Putin's efforts to remake the world to his liking, his falsehood-fueled mission to bring Ukraine under Moscow's rule, has smashed against the reality that Ukraine is, in fact, a country, and is not willing to submit to Putin's whims.

Frida Ghitis

And Trump, who still lives in a country where there is an independent judiciary, is running into the fact that, however much freedom you have to shout lies into a microphone and try to mislead the country, there is no First Amendment right to try to intimidate election officials or subvert electoral rules. Last week, Trump surrendered to jail in Atlanta, where he is accused of a criminal scheme to essentially steal the 2020 election. Trump

knew the government was lying, the government knew the people knew, but it all continued. Beyond its borders, Moscow weaved a tapestry of deception, ensnaring countless believers. Neither Trump nor Putin are novices at the art of conjuring major victories by going to war against the truth. They are masters at gaslighting, and it has long served them well. Trump built his public persona by manipulating media coverage of his business acumen.

Putin's efforts to remake the world to his liking, his falsehood-fueled mission to bring Ukraine under Moscow's rule, has smashed against the reality that Ukraine is, in fact, a country, and is not willing to submit to Putin's whims. And Trump, who still lives in a country where there is an independent judiciary, is running into the fact that, however much freedom you have to shout lies into a microphone and try to mislead the country, there is no First Amendment right to try to intimidate election officials or subvert electoral rules.

has denied all the accusations in this and three other criminal indictments.

In their own context, and within the limits of their power, the Russian strongman and the American would-be autocrat have gone to war against the truth and are getting pummeled by it. But they are nowhere near defeated. Today, the world is keeping one way eye on Putin and the war he launched against Ukraine on false pretenses - while also monitoring with alarm how Trump's multiple criminal cases have failed to erode his standing among Republicans. Sure, politicians stretch the truth. But this is of a different magnitude. Autocrats and aspiring autocrats have been telling lies for centuries.

In the 20th century, a declining Soviet Union was famous for a system in which, as the dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn noted, the government lied, the people

Then, as he prepared to become president, he slandered legitimate media as "fake news," so that he could then lie with impunity and evidence of his falsehoods could be dismissed. He was embraced by a network so mendacious that it later paid \$787 million to settle a case of promoting Trump and his allies' elections lies. His administration started lying from its first day in office. On his first full day in office, January 21, Trump concocted fantasies about the size of the crowd at his inauguration; his adviser justified the lies as "alternative facts." Throughout his time in office, fact-checkers at the Washington Post clocked 30,573 "untruths," culminating with his efforts, which continue to this day, to claim he won the 2020 election. In a landslide, no less.

Putin has no less experience at distorting reality. Many believe he secured his first presidential elec-

tion in Russia by blaming Chechen terrorists for the 1999 apartment explosions in Moscow that many are convinced were carried out by the Kremlin (although it has never been conclusively proven). The crisis and his tough guy response helped cement his image of a strongman who would protect Russia. Over the years, Putin has turned Russia into a global purveyor of disinformation - another word for deliberate, politically-motivated lies. Putin denied interfering in America's 2016 elections, an operation coincidentally run by Prigozhin's Internet Research Agency. That operation, as Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation concluded, indicting Prigozhin among others, was part of a Kremlin effort to sow discord in the United States through "what they called information warfare." Prigozhin, who had a penchant for telling truths, later admitted doing it. He also contradicted Putin's pretext for going to war against Ukraine. Imagine Putin's fury.

Prigozhin's death comes precisely two months after his mutiny, a challenge to Putin's authority. Symbolic dates matter in Putin's Russia. The journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a fierce Putin critic, was assassinated on Putin's birthday, for example. Putin launched the full-scale war in Ukraine around the 8th anniversary of his 2014 invasion of Crimea.

Putin denied he had anything to do with the 2015 assassination of Boris Nemtsov, a popular politician who had blasted his 2014 intervention in eastern Ukraine. He denied any involvement in the 2020 poisoning of his critic Alexei Navalny, who later duped a Russian intelligence agent to confess on the phone by pretending to be his boss, and many others who perished suddenly after challenging Putin's views.

When asked who killed the man they still idolize, Prigozhin's bereaved fans, even with their faces blurred for a CNN interview, can only say "no comment." It's understandable. One has to be careful before deciding to cross a powerful man engaged in open warfare with the truth, who breaks rules and norms as a matter of course, in pursuit of his own interests above all else.

CNN

Foreign powers' focus turns to the Asia-Pacific

Andrew Hammond

GLOBAL diplomacy in September will be dominated by the G20 leadership event in India on Sept. 9-10. Yet, below that international radar screen are key East Asia and Association of Southeast Asian Nations summits a few days earlier. While the ASEAN and East Asia events in Indonesia are lower profile than the G20, the nations of the former - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - are fast becoming a key target of diplomacy for foreign nations outside the Asia-Pacific, including those in North America, Europe and the Middle East. Little wonder, perhaps, in today's frenzied geopolitics when the group has a population of over 600 million covering an area of 1.7 million square miles.

ASEAN also has a purchasing power parity and gross domestic product of over \$10 trillion that is growing significantly. International interest in the area is shown by the fact that the UN Conference on Trade and Development tabled ASEAN's foreign direct investment inflow for 2022 as having grown by 5 percent year on year in 2022, to a total of \$224 billion, a record high and bucking the trend in various parts of the world amid the 12 percent overall decline of global FDI in the same year. Of course, ASEAN has frequently engaged other countries in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. It is a major partner of international bodies such as the UN, Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Southern Common Market, or Mercosur, and maintains a global network of alliances and dialogue partners.

However, the attention of foreign suitors outside the Asia-Pacific is growing fast and includes the US, which has attended the East Asia summits since 2011. US Vice President Kamala Harris will attend the upcoming events in Indonesia, building from last year's US-ASEAN summit in Cambodia, in which President Joe Biden participated. It was at the latter event that ASEAN leaders elevated relations with the US to a comprehensive strategic partnership. This underlines how the Biden team has overseen a huge expansion in US-ASEAN relations, including the launch of five new high-level dialogue processes on health, transportation, women's empowerment, environment and climate, and energy, as well as greater engagement in existing dialogue tracks on foreign affairs, economics and defense.

The US is also stepping up its diplomatic profile by providing significant monetary assistance to ASEAN, with \$860 million in 2022 alone, through the State Department and US Agency for International Development.

This aid is supporting joint forums in areas such as climate ambition and clean energy transition, access to education, strengthened health systems, security modernization efforts, rule of law and human rights. Outside of

North America, the EU also last year held its first summit with ASEAN. The EU and ASEAN have been dialogue partners since 1977 and, following a EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting in 2020, opened a new chapter by becoming strategic partners. This has seen the bilateral relationship flourish across three main platforms: political and security cooperation; economic collaboration; and sociocultural cooperation, which includes higher education, health, disaster management and preparedness, biodiversity protection and the effective management of protected areas, sustainable urbanization and sustainable agriculture.

Trade and investment relations, for example, have grown considerably during the last decade. The EU is ASEAN's third-largest trading partner, accounting for over 10 percent of trade. Meanwhile, ASEAN is the EU's third-largest trading partner outside Europe. The bloc is also the biggest investor in ASEAN countries. Moving to the dynamic Middle East regions, nations such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also engaging ASEAN nations. The UAE last year signed ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and obtained sectoral dialogue partner status, paving the way for enhanced trade and investment cooperation, and laying the groundwork for strategic partnerships in pursuit of mutual and regional prosperity.

The UAE has said the country is constructing a "corridor of opportunity" between GCC states and Southeast Asia. A key part of this is fast-tracking negotiations on comprehensive economic partnership agreements with Southeast Asian states to maintain the UAE's status as a leading trading partner in the Middle East. Inevitably, in this hugely competitive context, other Asian powers are doubling down on their own engagement with ASEAN. While China is often singled out here, others, including G20 host India, are also ramping up their diplomacy.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now considering changing his plans so he can fly to Indonesia for a short visit on Sept. 6, and return to India the following day just before the G20 summit, which he is hosting. Earlier, New Delhi officials said his schedule was making it difficult for him to attend the meetings in Jakarta since he needs to return in time for the arrival of the G20 leaders. Any Modi visit to Indonesia will reaffirm India's ties with ASEAN soon after the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, where ties were raised to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Modi also hopes to review plans for a potential free trade agreement. These examples showcase how foreign powers are gearing up for greater engagement with ASEAN. The vast region is a growing priority for powers outside the Asia-Pacific trying to steal a competitive march on regional giants, such as China and India, and drive economic and political advantage in the mid-2020s and beyond.

EU must adapt to prosper in an evolving world order

Khaled Abou Zahr

THE BRICS conference in Johannesburg last week was described as a symbol of an evolving global order. This has a clear impact on the future of the EU. Indeed, the EU finds itself at a crossroads in a world that is becoming more integrated. This is why a strong and focused response is required in light of the potential difficulties presented by the rising of new economic powers from the East, or what some call the Global South. In order to manage this new terrain while still retaining its global influence, the EU must adjust its policies, encourage innovation and create new relationships.

The global order has undergone significant changes in recent decades, with countries from the East emerging as powerful economic players. Nations such as China and India have rapidly transformed to become economic powerhouses,

challenging the traditional dominance of Western economies. As the world becomes multipolar, the EU must acknowledge that its global influence is no longer guaranteed by economic might alone.

In order to face these challenges, Brussels must embrace a multifaceted strategy. There is no doubt that innovation should be at the forefront of its goals. This is the big differentiator even as the national economic output of rising powers surpass the European ones. In this field, the EU has a history of technological prowess, and must continue to invest in research and development to remain competitive on the global stage. By fostering an environment that encourages innovation, the EU can lead the way in crucial fields such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence and biotechnology. It is clear that the EU has still a great role to play and potential to unlock from within. Yet, in order to avoid

the biggest risks of this changing world, Europe also needs to listen to its own growing powers. Indeed, the EU should give a bigger say to emerging powers in the future of the bloc. Countries such as Poland, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania need to gain in the decision-making process of the EU in order to secure its future.

As an example of the rise of these countries, we notice that in 2021, Poland and Czechia exported machinery to neighboring markets valued at nearly 77 billion (\$84 billion) and 63 billion, respectively. Hungary's main export was electronic machinery valued at 29.6 billion, while Slovakia's was vehicles at 28.4 billion. Why should Poland, the rising dynamic economic power, not have a greater voice? Or Hungary? All this shows that the power within the EU bloc is still not fully

exploited. And developing this integration would give greater leverage for the EU's global positioning. Brussels also needs to propose an updated pact to its global trading partners. For example, the environment in Africa is now more competitive both for markets and energy, so there is a need for a new approach in order to keep strong relations. In the same way, the EU needs to plan a strategy to engage and compete with the rising economies and preserve their interests. It is one of the facets of this new world as competition and collaboration collide.

Addressing these challenges might also require a reform of the EU's internal mechanisms as well. Streamlining bureaucracy, promoting investment in disadvantaged regions, and harmonizing regulations across member states will make the EU more agile and attractive

to both investors and skilled professionals. A united front will not only bolster economic prospects but also reinforce the bloc's influence on the global stage. It is also important for the EU to unify its global strategy both economically and politically. It is an absolute necessity for the EU to speak as one voice. And it is an urgent one. There should not be division when facing global competition or new challenges. The EU has to adapt and compete differently on global markets, and in order to achieve this it should have a unique global political voice that represents the interests of all European nations.

One of the EU's biggest challenges concerns the complexities of managing refugee and migrant flows, which has underscored divisions among member states regarding the distribution of hosting and integration responsibilities. Along with the impact of the pandemic, this has accelerated the rise of

nationalist and populist movements in various EU countries. The worries of these nations and people regarding migrant flows need to be addressed with a concrete policy and not brushed off, or else it will become a real challenge to the EU's cohesion, leading to increased criticism of EU institutions and calls for more nationalistic policies and departures similar to Brexit. The other big challenge is energy.

One thing is clear, there needs to be trust and boldness in the future of the EU in order to answer these challenges. The bloc must recalibrate its strategies and tactics while focusing on innovation. It needs to double down on its values and core mission. This means taking a bold step toward a unified foreign policy voice. It is the only way forward to protect the interests of all EU countries, and turn the old continent into a new power.

Arab News

Rishi has played his last, best card. Now he must pray for a miracle

Fraser Nelson

CLAIRE Coutinho didn't need a career in politics. She was on the banking fast-track, a maths graduate snapped up by Merrill Lynch and on the kind of conveyor belt that guarantees a comfortable life. She ditched it for public service, first working for charity and quickly impressing Rishi Sunak, who hired her as an adviser. He couldn't let her go when she entered Parliament at the last election, and kept her as his parliamentary aide. Her promotion to Energy Secretary yesterday is one of the few cards, perhaps the only real card, he had to play in seeking to energise his Cabinet.

Things are looking bleak. The polls are not shifting and Isaac Levido, the chief Tory strategist, has told ministers that they may stay 20 points behind for the rest of the year. Anyone bold enough to bet on a Sunak majority can find odds of nine-to-one. But it would be odd to change course now, given how often the Conservatives changed face in the past year. So Sunak's strategy is to keep on his current trajectory, but with more oomph. As a Tracey Emin-designed neon sign in No710 used to say: "More passion."

Ben Wallace was liked by the military and loved by Tory members. Losing him deprives the Cabinet of flair and heft. He spotted the Ukraine crisis earlier than any of his European counterparts and was pivotal to striking a pre-Nato membership alliance with Sweden. Such judgment showed Britain on the front foot on foreign affairs.

There was no direct replacement to be had. His successor, Grant

Shapps, will likely be used for general crisis management as Michael "fireman" Fallon once was. Someone who, if you hear their voice on the radio, you know the Government is in trouble. But the promotion of Coutinho could make more impact. Like Sunak, she's wary of climate zealotry and mindful of the cost. She's energetic, smart, a strong communicator and might be able to sell Sunak better than he can. So far, she has concentrated on getting to know her constituents, who elected her four years ago. She has set up The Friendship Project to tackle loneliness in East Surrey, for example, and raised £30,000 for it. A lesser MP in such a rock-solid safe seat would have focused on Westminster, but she's cut from a different cloth. Her politics is more practical, especially on the social justice agenda.

The biggest social justice problem for the Tories is, of course, welfare. The progress made under Iain Duncan Smith was washed away by the lockdowns. Official figures slipped out two weeks ago show 5.4 million now on out-of-work benefits. A fifth of working-age people in Liverpool and Birmingham are on such benefits, as is a quarter of Middlesbrough and Blackpool. The economic and social damage being inflicted on these cities - at vast cost to the taxpayer - makes this the biggest scandal in politics. But a quiet one, because just 1.4 million are in the official unemployment figures (sickness benefit etc, doesn't count).

Coutinho was, briefly, working on this as a welfare minister, asking if Tory welfare reform could be

rekindled. The party did this once, so why not again? Perhaps the most alarming statistic in British government right now is a forecast that the disability benefit caseload will rise by 25 per cent over four years, to more than seven million. No wonder the UK growth forecasts are so grim for so long. What country can ever prosper if such a large chunk of its people are economically decommissioned? But here, too, Sunak is moving. Mel Stride, the Work and Pensions Secretary, will next week start to reform the assessments for sickness benefit, seeking to stem the flow of claimants from 5,000 a day (twice what it was pre-lockdown). Four in five of those now assessed under Universal Credit are judged not fit for work - a ratio that has doubled since Iain Duncan Smith's day. Are we really so sure that so many are unable to do any work at all, in a homeworking era, in a country facing a worker shortage crisis? Are those with mental health complaints being written off instead of helped?

Asking such questions, and updating the 12-year-old system, is harder than it seems. Welfare reform is tough, arguably the toughest task in politics. Department for Work and Pensions workless payments now govern a population the size of Norway, so mistakes here can hurt millions of the poorest people in the country. This is perhaps why Labour is so coy about the whole agenda. Culturally, the party is queasy about pointing to an excess of benefit claimants, especially if a worker shortage crisis means there is no recession to blame. If Keir Starmer

becomes prime minister, he'd have only two options: to accept economic stagnation or to start a welfare reform process that even the Tories have been unable to face going through again. For too long, it has suited both parties to pretend that the post-lockdown welfare crisis isn't happening. At least Stride is about to try and, if he and the Prime Minister move fast, they may see some results. If not, then the doom graphs will be used by Labour to say that Toryism promises years of social failure.

As the election approaches, one of Sunak's biggest challenges will be to explain what Conservatism is: why it has worked, why it's better than the alternative. The results, sadly, don't really speak for themselves. Sunak thought furlough would - for all its huge cost - minimise economic scarring because the Tories had learnt how to move people from welfare to into work. Instead, Britain is now the only major country to have failed to rebuild our workforce back to pre-pandemic levels. Coutinho's promotion means there's someone else around the Cabinet table who thinks the next big heave at welfare reform will be vital. It would be political suicide to talk about a relaunch, especially for a man not even a year into the job. But what we're seeing now is Sunak choosing his last few pre-election battles, gathering and promoting his closest allies and getting ready for his final push. The Conservatives have faced worse odds. David Cameron was given a 0.5 per cent chance of a majority by Populus ahead of the 2015 election, so miracles can happen. Sunak doesn't have much of an option but to pray for one now.

The Telegraph

Few Russians wanted the war in Ukraine

Anatol Lieven

IT is highly probable that we will never know precisely how or why Yevgeny Prigozhin, leader of the Russian mercenary group Wagner, was killed. It is also highly probable that he was assassinated, most likely on the orders of Vladimir Putin, but possibly on the orders of his enemies in the Russian defence ministry, who had probably been dreaming of this moment for a long time and believed they could finally kill him with impunity.

Most western commentary on the assassination has focused on the fear of Putin that Prigozhin's death will cause among the Russian elites, or on the underlying fragility it reveals in the Russian regime. This is not wholly wrong, but it misses several longstanding fears that are widespread within the Russian establishment - and indeed in the wider Russian population - that will influence how events play out: fear of defeat, chaos and of each other. What really worried most members of the elite was Putin's failure to act much earlier to end the public feud between Prigozhin and the Russian defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, and that Prigozhin's armed demonstration risked a catastrophic internal split in Russia, leading to defeat in Ukraine.

The outcome of the war is central to everyone's thinking. To judge by the recent failures of Ukrainian offensive operations, if the Russian regime and state remain united the Russian army stands a good chance of defending its existing lines. From conversations I've had, it appears that a large majority of elite and ordinary Russians would accept a ceasefire along the present battle lines and would not mount any challenge if Putin proposed or agreed to such a ceasefire and presented it as a sufficient Russian victory. Hardline nationalist elements in the establishment and military would be deeply unhappy; but they have been weakened by Prigozhin's fall and the accompanying steps that Putin has taken to curb their influence, including the dismissal of two generals and the arrest of the ultra-nationalist leader and former Donbas militia commander Igor Girkin. However, Putin is clearly

still afraid of their influence and their continued admiration for Prigozhin; which is doubtless why he made sure that Prigozhin's funeral was strictly private.

The headline nationalists' preferred programme, which is total victory in Ukraine and would entail the complete mobilisation of the population and the economy along the lines of 1942, would be deeply unpopular among most of the population and would pose a mortal threat to the property of the economic elites - which is doubtless why Putin has so far rejected it. The general elite aversion to pursuing total victory in Ukraine is however not the same thing as a willingness to accept Russian defeat - which is all that the Ukrainian and US governments are presently offering. Nobody with whom I have spoken within the Moscow elite, and very few indeed in the wider population, has said that Russia should surrender Crimea and the eastern Donbas. Unless Russian sovereignty over these territories is formally recognised by Ukraine - something that Kyiv has categorically excluded - the Russians who take this view believe that Russia must hold the additional territory it has taken since last year's invasion, to head off any future Ukrainian attack on Crimea and the Donbas.

There was no evidence the Russian elite, and indeed regular Russians, wanted the invasion to happen in the first place. That decision was made by Putin and his immediate entourage. But there is still a general unwillingness to see Russia defeated and humiliated in Ukraine. A comparison can be made here with certain US soldiers of my acquaintance, who had not wanted the invasion of Iraq, but who also, once the US military was engaged there, did not want to see it beaten. This causes a severe dilemma for Russian liberals: how to oppose the war without supporting the Ukrainian side in a war in which Russian soldiers are dying and that threatens Russia with catastrophic defeat. It recalls an interview with John Musgrave, a wounded Vietnam veteran who had become a passionate opponent of the war, but who nonetheless reacted with shock and fury when Jane

Fonda travelled to North Vietnam and was photographed with Viet Cong soldiers. Many Russian liberals in the west have essentially taken the Fonda approach of open support for Russia's enemies. This may be morally correct, but it is extremely unlikely to help them win a future free election in Russia, should one ever happen.

Elite fears of Russian defeat are linked to an ultimate fear of Russian anarchy, which is shared by much of the population at large. They actually agree with some of the toughest anti-Russian elements in the US and eastern Europe: that complete defeat in Ukraine would lead to the fall of the Putin regime and that this in turn could lead to a period of chaos that would gravely weaken or even destroy the Russian Federation. Fears of a new Time of Troubles have very deep roots in Russian culture and were strongly revived by the disastrous experience of the 1990s. Speaking from the perspective of the smaller business community, the owner of a chain of cafes told me that despite very considerable anger at the corruption of Putin's cronies, most of the businesspeople of her acquaintance are still loyal to Putin because he ended the mafia extortions and conflicts of the 1990s, which had made running a successful business not just very hard but sometimes fatal.

At the heart of this fear on the part of the elites is a fear of each other, or even one might say of themselves. The chaos of the 1990s included vicious struggles among the so-called oligarchs including, in some cases, murder. It would seem that the elites of today believe that without a strong leader like Putin to keep them in order, they would be unable to mediate their differences and hold the state together. Despite all these factors favouring Putin's continuation in power, another severe defeat in Ukraine would very likely doom his regime. Then again, possible rivals to Putin from within the establishment do not need to know the melancholy history of Weimar Germany to realise that a regime that takes power under the shadow of a disastrous defeat is unlikely to be a stable or successful one.

The Guardian

Angry, ugly Israel, where a Palestinian is branded with a Star of David

Andrew Mitrovica

ONE of the obligations of writing a weekly column like this one is that you have to pay attention to an angry and ugly world. Another obligation is to not become inured to the constant anger and ugliness, which take different forms at different times in different places. As faithful readers of this column know, I write often about the horror Palestinians endure at the angry and ugly designs of their intransigent occupiers.

I write often about the cruelty and indignities that Palestinians suffer because they shock not only my conscience, but many other people's attentive consciences, too. It is important for me as a writer to remind readers - in Israel, as well - how apartheid damages and disfigures its victims and its perpetrators. Recently, we have witnessed this obscene, recurring dynamic between the oppressor and the oppressed play out once more in such graphic detail that it defies belief. Earlier this month, 16 Israeli police officers were apparently needed to arrest Arwa Sheikh Ali, a 22-year-old Palestinian, at his home in the Shuafat refugee camp in occupied East Jerusalem. What reportedly happened to Sheikh Ali while he was being detained by 16 Israeli police officers during an alleged drug trafficking probe should offend anyone's conscience to the core - no matter your nationality or faith.

He was blindfolded - a routine indignity that Israeli police inflict upon Palestinians to assert their impunity. They understand that they will not be held to account for what they do to Palestinians anywhere, at any time, for any reason. All of the police officers - every one of them - either shut off or did not turn their body cameras on. These are the only conclusions that can be drawn from the failure

of 16 Israeli police officers to abide by the law and enable the devices. The law - domestic or international - is a silly afterthought when it comes to their violent "dealings" with Palestinians. And they intended to conceal their actions not so much from their superiors who invariably protect them, but from the less sympathetic "outside" world who might condemn them. So, what did 16 Israeli police officers try - collectively and consciously - to hide from you and me? Sheikh Ali's lawyer, Vadim Shub, insists he was beaten in custody - severely. A judge agreed, saying: "From the photos shown to me, it appears that the arrest was accompanied by severe violence."

Still, I do not believe that was it. We have watched scores of videos of Israelis in uniform beating Palestinians - girls and boys, women and men, young and old - with all sorts of weapons in all sorts of circumstances, including attacking the televised funeral procession of an assassinated Palestinian-American journalist, Al Jazeera's Shireen Abu Akleh. Beating Palestinians is open sport for a lot of Israelis in and out of uniform - emboldened and empowered as they are, by an apartheid state determined to terrorise Palestinians into submission. What may have concerned the 16 police officers just a little bit was the worldwide reaction to photos that later emerged showing what appears to be the Star of David branded on one of Sheikh Ali's cheeks and how it possibly got there. For some, like me, the disturbing images stunned the conscience. For others - among them, enraged Israelis - they are an appalling example of the depravity that an apartheid state encourages and countenances in its ruthless, systemic pursuit of

ethnic and religious supremacy over an occupied people. Israelis and their evangelical supporters must finally acknowledge that undeniable fact. Before I address the predictable attempts from the predictable quarters to diminish or dismiss the beating and branding of Sheikh Ali, I need to remind the deniers of the following. First, a decidedly pro-Israel news agency broke the story of the sickening allegations. Second, the head of the Jerusalem public defender's office is convinced that his client was indeed branded with the Star of David. Lastly, the Israeli judge who considered Sheikh Ali's police brutality complaint has expressed "horror" at the shocking incident.

Yet, on cue, a senior Israeli officer backed the police officers involved. "This is a field trial by the media," he said. "I trust the officers who were there and their credibility." But Justice Amir Shaked has questioned the officers' contrived "credibility." He found "no reasonable explanation" for why the markings appeared on Sheikh Ali's cheek and how all 16 bodycams were not working. For his part, Sheikh Ali told an Israeli reporter that: "A police officer put a taser to my head. I felt something hot on my face. These are not police - this is the mafia." The police's belated explanation is as ingenious as it is absurd. Drained of its police-laced jargon, it goes like this: Yes, we branded Sheikh Ali's face, but it's not the Star of David, it's the remnants of a shoelace of a police officer's boot that was pressed against his face for a long time. We had to step on his face for a long time because he resisted arrest. Much of the Israeli media isn't buying the police's fantastical "shoelace" theory. Nor is Dr Avner Rosen Garten, the head of the Israel-based Forensic

Science Institute which proudly proclaims that it is made up of "senior experts who served in the Israeli police."

On Sunday, Rosengarten said that there was no match between the alleged boot and laces and the mark on Sheikh Ali's scarred, bloodied face. "It's not this shoe, and it's not these laces. It seems that the markings were created by a metallic tool or instrument," he said. "The laces can't leave this kind of imprint, as the edges are bleeding; it must be a straight, solid instrument ... the laces also don't have the pressure and force required to create this mark." In this rare instance where Israeli authorities are bending to science and a wide, building outrage, a police officer accused of branding Sheikh Ali has reportedly been suspended for 12 days and briefly put under house arrest while this astonishing matter is investigated. That outrage is fuelled in significant part by the jarring historical resonance of branding which is familiar, of course, to generations of Jews. Michael Sfard, an Israeli human rights lawyer, made the inescapable comparison in an interview with The New York Times. "There's something about this case that captures the mind of people who usually would look away when it comes to police brutality against Palestinians," he said. "It is a very symbolic abuse, one that many Jews remember or have an immediate connection to because in the past Jews have been victims of similar humiliation." Israel and its blind, stubborn allies ought to stop "looking away" and accept responsibility for the disgraceful humiliation of Arwa Sheikh Ali and every Palestinian who has been humiliated yesterday and today by a racist apartheid regime intent on stripping them of their land, homes, livelihoods, freedom, futures and humanity.

Japan's toxic water discharge against global opinion

Liang Haiming & Shi Xufeng

BIG data analyses by the Belt and Road Research Institute of Hainan University show a difference in the opinions of the Japanese government and people in many countries on Tokyo dumping the nuclear-contaminated water from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the sea.

Less than 7 percent of the international community supports Japan's decision to release the radioactive water into the sea. In Japan, too, most of the people are opposed to it. Even in the United States, Japan's close ally, people are at odds with the Joe Biden administration's stance, with only 2 percent being in favor of Japan's ocean-contaminating act. Indeed, many have questioned the US administration's hypocritical stance of finding faults with almost every environmental protection policy of China while turning a blind eye to Japan's environmentally destructive act.

As for Western media outlets, quite a few of them have focused on China's opposition to Japan's action, instead of questioning the Japanese government why it is going ahead with its disastrous plan despite the strong opposition from home and abroad. Searches

for "Fukushima water", "Fukushima water release", "Fukushima wastewater", "radioactive water" and "nuclear water" on Google Trends and media database, combining AI analysis, show that about 68 percent of the people around the world hold a neutral or ambiguous view, 6.3 percent support, and more than 23 percent oppose Japan's discharge plan.

In Japan, about 22 percent of the people are opposed to the move while 19 percent support it. A big data analysis of news reports and social media posts shows that opposition parties, environmental organizations and fishing associations have condemned the Japanese government's decision, saying that it has ignored environmental safety and health of the people in Japan and the rest of the world, not made enough efforts to neutralize the meltdown effects of the nuclear reactors at Fukushima since 2011, and damaged the country's image and Fukushima's local economy. The analysis of the Google Trend results also shows people in US western coastal states such as Oregon, California and Washington are worried about the effects of radioactive water.

The damage the radioactive water would cause to the marine ecosystem has also left Asia-Pacific countries extremely worried, with many of them opposing Japan's move. But the governments of the US, Australia and some other countries have ignored the public opinion at home to acquiesce Japan's plan out of geopolitical and ideological considerations. First, to guard against the potential disastrous effects of the radioactive water, the Chinese mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region should more strictly regulate and test food, especially seafood, imports from Japan. In particular, Hong Kong should tighten its testing and regulation, because it has been the largest food export market for Japan for the past 16 years and accounts for about 23 percent of Japan's agricultural exports, in order to safeguard the health of Hong Kong residents. Second, people should consider stopping eating and buying Japanese products so that Japanese businesses suffer losses and put pressure on the Japanese government to change its radioactive water discharge plan. Since the Japanese business community voted for the current

Japanese government, they have the right to question it for taking decisions which harm their interests. Third, people should mobilize global organizations and NGOs and civil society to put pressure on Japan to change its decision. And environmental organizations across the world should form an international coalition to collect public opinion globally to oppose Japan's environmentally devastating plan.

And fourth, China should consider declaring Aug 24 as "marine environmental disaster day", as Japan began dumping the radioactive water into the sea on Aug 24, 2023, despite strong doubts over the effectiveness of its mechanism for treating the toxic water and ignoring the global opposition to its decision.

The Japanese government has set a dangerous example of putting its own interests above the well-being of the people in Japan and beyond. Life on Earth depends on the oceans. By dumping the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea for the next 30 years, Japan could pose a serious threat to marine life and turn the oceans toxic, affecting the balance of nature. The international community should unite to stop Japan from doing that.

The Chinese economy is doing better than you might think

Xie Feng

THE Chinese economy has been in the headlines recently. How is it really doing? Better than you might think. Allow me to share some facts with you. This year, China's economy continues to recover and grow. Our gross domestic product expanded 5.5 percent for the first half of the year, outpacing most major economies. The World Bank has projected China's economy to grow at 5.6 percent for 2023. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development expects 5.4 percent, and the International Monetary Fund projects 5.2 percent. As it has for many years, China remains a most important engine of global growth.

One of the highlights in the first half of 2023 is the rebound in consumption, which contributed 77.2 percent of the growth, more than 44 percentage points higher than last year. Notably, people are spending more on services: From January to July, retail sales in transport, accommodation, catering and other services grew 20.3 percent year over year. Some 502 million Chinese went to the movies this summer - more than the entire US population. China's economy is also significantly greener and more innovation-driven than in the past. In the first seven months of 2023, investment in high-tech industries and research and technical services rose 11.5 percent and 23.1 percent, respectively. In July, the output of new energy vehicles, wind turbines and charging facilities all increased roughly by one-fourth. China's renewable-energy-generation capacity has overtaken its coal-power capacity. Its installed capacity of wind and solar power has topped the world for 13 and eight years, respectively. Foreign trade remains resilient. China continues to take up about 14 percent of the global export market.

China's exports of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and solar cells surged 61.6 percent in the first six months of 2023. As demand continues to revive domestically, China will also import more.

International businesses have voted with their feet. While transnational investment is lackluster globally, investment in China from overseas continues. France, Britain, Japan and Germany boosted investment in China in the first half of 2023 by 173.3 percent, 135.3 percent, 53 percent and 14.2 percent, respectively. Some 24,000 new foreign firms were established in China in the same period, up by 35.7 percent year over year. Half of Tesla's global deliveries came from its Shanghai gigafactory last year, which rolls out one EV every 40 seconds on average. Starbucks now operates more than 6,500 stores in China, opening one nearly every nine hours. And don't forget: China's middle-income group - more than 400 million people now - is on a path to exceed 800 million by 2035. As China continues to upgrade consumption, ease market access, optimize the business environment and strengthen supply and industrial chains, the fundamentals sustaining its long-term growth remain unchanged. Of course, the road to post-covid recovery will not be smooth. It will feature undulating progress, often with twists and turns. In China, we do not shy away from problems. Rather, we address them head-on.

In recent months, China has rolled out new policies to reinvigorate consumption, boost the private sector and attract more foreign investment. One of our priorities is to prevent and defuse financial risks, including policies to ensure the steady and sound development of the real estate sector. Such efforts are gradually paying off. With ample room in our policy tool kit, we are confident

that we can forestall systemic risks. According to BCA Research, China has been the source of more than 40 percent of global growth over the past decade, compared with 22 percent from the United States and 9 percent from the euro zone. For many years, some people have dismissed China's contribution to global growth - or even hyped up the "threat" from a growing China. Now, as China is undergoing temporary economic adjustments, some blame China for dragging the global economy down; others advance the "China may collapse" theory. Is this fair? This is a challenging time for everyone. The world is yet to recover from the trauma caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Ukraine crisis is dragging on. Global recovery remains sluggish, and every country has its own problems to tackle.

It would be shortsighted and indeed dangerous to sit idly by, gloat or even make things harder for others. In a globalized era, bad news for anyone is bad news for all. Countries need to pull together to advance economic globalization and build a community with a shared future for mankind where no one is left behind. More American friends have come to realize that the notion that China could economically collapse and America still thrive is utter fantasy. The United States needs to lift technology export controls, investment restrictions, economic sanctions and high tariffs against China. It must stop building parallel systems and seeking to decouple in the name of "de-risking," which would only further complicate an already arduous global recovery. Instead, China and the United States should respect each other, coexist in peace and pursue win-win cooperation. This is the only way forward. And the world expects no less.

The Washington Post



Inflation driven by food prices hikes to 27.83%

ISLAMABAD (INP): Inflation in Pakistan mainly driven by food prices spiked to 27.83% in the month of August, reported on Saturday.

The rate of inflation is continuously on the rise in Pakistan. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, inflation increased by 1.72% in the month of August.

Inflation rose to 27.38% during a period from July to August. During this period, prices of tomatoes increased by 75.3%, spices by 16.9%, eggs by 16.2%, and sugar by 9%.

In a week, the rate of sugar has increased by

Rs11.54 per kg. The maximum price of sugar has increased to Rs 190 per kg.

In August, the prices of Daal Mash and dry milk increased by 5.5%, wheat products by 5%, potatoes by 4.3%, rice by 2.6%, liquid fuel by 14.6%, motor fuel by 8.2%, electricity charges by 1.37%, transport fares by 22%, and postal charges by 20%.

According to the PBS, the Sensitive Price Index for the week ended on 31st August, 2023 increased by 0.54%.

Major increase is observed in the prices of food items, sugar (7.17%), Gur (2.11%), pulse Masoor

(1.50%), and pulse Mash (1.39%). Non-food items: gents sandal (15.01%), LPG (3.92%), lawn printed (2.36%), long cloth (2.22%), and Match Box (1.07%).

On the other hand, a decrease is observed in the prices of tomatoes (3.36%), bananas (2.49%), onions (2.01%), chicken (1.23%), garlic (0.58%), vegetable Ghee 2.5 kg (0.31%), vegetable Ghee 1 Kg (0.19%) and mustard oil (0.04%).

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

The year-on-year trend depicts an increase of 24.39%, wheat flour (126.26%), gas charges for Q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (101.29%), sugar (94.06%), tea Lipton (93.94%), rice basmati broken (89.04%), chilies powder (86.05%), rice Iri-6/9 (81.82%), gur (67.02%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), gent sandal (53.37%), salt powder (49.09%), bread (45.42%), and powdered milk (43.44%), while decrease is observed in the prices of onions (57.06%), tomatoes (48.77%), electricity for Q1 (21.96%) and pulse Masoor (9.04%).

Traders in lead of PIAF holds rallies to protest rising power cost

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The business community, under the banner of the Pakistan Industrial and Traders

Associations Front (PIAF), held peaceful protest rallies against the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the

rupee against the dollar, which has led to widespread discontent among the trade and industry.

The protest rallies against the inflated power bills were led by PIAF patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar, chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol and other leadership of the PIAF, BMP and FPCCI.

The protesters chanted slogans against the successive governments for escalating energy cost and made the commitment that their protest will continue until the withdrawal of power tariff hike in the country. The protesters said that thousands of traders have shuttered their shops, striking over soaring energy and fuel bills stirring widespread discontent.

There were widespread market closures on Saturday in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar, where abandoned bazaars were posted with placards decrying the unreasonable increase in electricity bills and taxes. Everyone is participating because the situation has become unbearable now. Some relief must be given so people can put food on the table.

Addressing the protesters, PIAF patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar and chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol observed that the successive governments had compelled the business community to unanimously show their shutdown power. They made it clear that the strike call was apolitical and refused to pay unjustified taxes and increased petroleum and electricity prices.

They said the government had forced the traders and public on the roads by hiking the power bills, which were higher than their monthly salaries. They demanded the rulers suspend free supply of power to influential people.

Mian Anjum Nisar termed shameful the statement of caretaker Prime Minister about the public outcry against the electricity bills.

He said traders organisations across the province had announced their support for strike call.

He said protest and strike were the constitutional right of the people and they would not succumb to any browbeating of the government.



ISLAMABAD: A large number people in a long queue in front of Utility store to purchase groceries on subsidized rate.

Neue Klasse at least as profitable

MUNICH (Reuters): BMW's (BMWG.DE) "Neue Klasse" electric vehicle (EV) range will be at least as profitable as battery-powered cars already being sold by the German luxury carmaker, Chief Executive Oliver Zipse said on Saturday at the IAA car show in Munich. The Neue Klasse, to be launched in 2025, is at the heart of the carmaker's efforts to replicate past successes and catch up with EV pioneer Tesla (TSLA.O), which is also staging a return to the IAA this year.

"We are very profitable with electric cars... already today," Zipse told reporters, adding that the Neue Klasse - or New Class - would be "very profitable. We will... definitely not be less profitable than today."

Pak Pavilion opened at CIFTIS

— top Pakistani service enterprise participated

BEIJING (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque officially inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) here Saturday. The pavilion showcases the diverse range of service-oriented enterprises from Pakistan, highlighting the country's commitment to fostering international trade partnerships. Representatives from top Pakistani service-oriented enterprises participated in the event, including companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics and traveling and financial services.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said


that the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS provided a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment. He said this initiative reflects Pakistan's dedication to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries by further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

"This exhibition will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in IT, e-commerce, finance and logistics. It will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition. This year, 75 coun-

tries and international organizations are participating in the CIFTIS with almost 1,868 exhibiting companies", he added.

The top Pakistani Firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others opened their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, which takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6.

Exhibitions, forums, business promotion conferences, supportive activities and a global services trade summit will also be held.



TENDER NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS

REFERENCE NO: MS/IRP/WH/PCHEMIST/TEND-2023-24/

WAPDA Hospital Peshawar invites sealed bids from the authorized chemist/Pharmacies in vicinity of WAPDA Hospital Peshawar possessing valid drug sales license for supply of Medicines, Disposables/Misc. items on daily basis through local purchase slips issued by hospital to outdoor and indoor patients. The agreement shall remain valid for one year.

Interested & authorized Pharmacies registered with income tax & sales tax department who are on active tax payer list of FBR may get the bidding documents at the address mentioned below on submission of written application along with payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- during working days between 0900 hrs to 1330 hrs upto 18-09-2023.

Bidding will be conducted through **Single Stage – Two Envelope** bidding procedure containing separately financial and technical proposal in single package as per PPRA Rules-2004.

Bid Security of **Rs.100,000/-** in the shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft / CDR in the name of the undersigned should be attached with the Technical Bid.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1100hrs on 19-09-2023. Late submitted bids shall be rejected. Bids shall be opened on the same day in the presence of the Pharmacies representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:30hrs. Pharmacies are requested to give their final prices/Rebate.

1- Bid must be accompanied by an undertaking on stamp paper that the bidder has not been blacklisted by Government, Semi-Government, private organization.

2- The invitation to bid is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and WAPDA website www.wapda.gov.pk.

All rights are reserved as per PPRA Rules-2004.

Dr. Shamsul Akber
Medical Superintendent, WAPDA Hospital Shami road Peshawar

This notice is also available at PPRA Website: www.ppra.org.pk

PID(L) 796 Website: www.wapda.gov.pk PRD(L)/WAPDA/060(2023-24)

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Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

A JCI Enterprise Accredited Organisation

Career Opportunities in SKMCH&RC, Peshawar

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) is a specialist tertiary care cancer centre built and funded by charitable donations with a mission to provide the best possible cancer care to all patients. SKMCH&RC has a team of UK and US-trained physicians who provide state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment and support services to patients. SKMCH&RC is pleased to invite applications for the following positions:

Medical Consultants:

- Consultant Anaesthetist
- Consultant Clinical & Radiation Oncologist
- Consultant Clinical Haematologist
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Gastroenterology
- Consultant in Nuclear Medicine
- Consultant Medical Oncologist
- Consultant Paediatric Oncologist
- Consultant Pathologist
- Consultant Physician Critical Care & Pulmonary Medicine
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Nephrology
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Pulmonology
- Consultant Radiologist
- Locum Consultant Pathologist
- Locum Consultant Radiologist
- Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Locum Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Part-Time Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Consultant Upper GI Surgeon
- Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon
- Consultant Urologist
- Locum Consultant Urologist

- Locum Consultant Anaesthetist
- Part Time Consultant Anaesthetist
- Visiting Consultant Urologist

Senior Instructors:

- Senior Instructor Clinical and Radiation Oncology
- Senior Instructor Medical Oncology
- Senior Instructor Anaesthesia
- Senior Instructor Breast Surgery
- Senior Instructor Head and Neck Surgery
- Senior Instructor Paediatric Oncology
- Senior Instructor Radiology
- Senior Instructor Clinical Haematology

CPSP approved Fellowships:

- Fellowship in Medical Oncology

Hospital Fellowships:

- Fellowship in Anaesthesia

Nursing & Paramedical:

- Paediatric Oncology Nurse
- Medical Oncology Nurse
- Junior Cancer Registry Officer/ Medical Coder

Management, Administration & Technical:

- Database Administrator

Note: All Senior Instructor positions for Karachi & Peshawar involve working at Lahore for two years, followed by two years of training overseas. For further details regarding the position and eligibility criteria, please visit our website on www.shaukatkhanum.org.pk

TO APPLY: Only online applications will be entertained. Please share your CV at the email address given below and do mention the position applied for in the subject line. We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

We are an equal opportunity employer

Human Resources Department

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre
5-B, Sector A-2, Office Enclave, Phase V,
Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Tel: +92 91 5885000 Ext. 3537, 3538

Email: careers.peshawar@shaukatkhanum.org.pk



PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards - 2022

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) being the statutory body for regulating engineering profession and quality of engineering education, is functioning as a key driving force for achieving rapid and sustainable growth in all national, economic and social fields. The Council has played a progressive role by making landmark achievements in all directions of engineering at national and international levels, besides extending expert support to the Government as a Think Tank in almost all sectors. With this objective, PEC has announced **PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards** to acknowledge the outstanding contribution/ services of eminent Engineers, who have made notable impact in national interest towards socio-economic development of the country.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The Awards will be conferred in the following categories:

i. Lifetime Achievement for Distinguished National Service	v. International Associate
ii. Academia and Research	vi. Engineering Policy, Regulations and Advocacy
iii. Innovation and Emerging Technology Development	vii. Engineering Consultancy Services
iv. Young Technopreneurs	viii. Infrastructure/ Construction Industry

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Nominee must be an Engineer with valid registration with PEC OR international/ equivalent professional engineering body in case of Category (v).
- Nominee must have at least 15 years of experience in engineering profession (academia, industry, R&D, Construction Industry, etc.), except category (iv).
- For Category (iv) the experience should be up to 15 years.
- For Categories (i) to (iv), (vi) to (viii) Nominee shall be Pakistani national and have significant contribution(s) in Pakistan.
- For Category (v) the nominee may be expatriate and foreign nationals who contributed towards national interests of Pakistan.

HOW TO NOMINATE

- Nominations shall be made through respective institution/ HEI/ professional body/ industry/ technical organization (legal entity) or by 02 eminent engineers fulfilling the same criteria.
- The Nominating body can submit nominations for different categories.
- A nominee may be nominated for more than one category.
- **Self-nomination will not be entertained.**
- Nomination Form to be filled online through PEC web portal (accessible at www.pecawards.pec.org.pk) duly completed in all respects including supporting documents should be submitted online on or before the submission date.
- Incomplete/ unendorsed applications will not be accepted.

Deadline for submission of nominations is Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023.

The scrutiny & evaluation of nominees will be carried out by PEC Engineers' Excellence Award Committee as per the approved criteria and reserves the right to reject any nomination.

Registrar / Secretary

Pakistan Engineering Council
Ataturk Avenue (East), G-5/2, PEC Head Office, Islamabad
Web: www.pec.org.pk
Tel: 051-9214422/ 9219500, Ext. 215, UAN (051) 111-111-732

PID(0) 1411/23



In brief

Pakistan outplay Bhutan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan downed Bhutan by 2-1 in the opening match of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U16 Championship 2023 at Bhutan on Saturday. According to details, Pakistani Skipper Obaidullah Khan scored the first goal in the 17th minute while the second goal was scored by Subhan Karim in the 30th minute. Bhutan's lone scorer was Tandan Phantsu who scored the goal in the 13th minute of the game. Pakistan team would play their next match against Maldives on September 4.

Pathan receives flak

KARACHI (Web Desk): Former Indian player Irfan Pathan drew the ire of Pakistani social media after he claimed that had it not been for the rain Pakistan would have lost the match and it would have led to broken television sets in Pakistani homes. Pathan's post on X — formerly known as Twitter — read: "Bahot saare Padosiyon ke TV bach gaye aaj [a lot of television sets were saved today for the neighbours] — [a euphemism for saying that Pakistani cricket fans would've smashed their television sets after India's win]. This is not the first time the fast bowler has made such an unsportsman-like comment as previously, he has faced criticism on multiple occasions for such behaviour. The post, however, has since then received a strong backlash from cricket fans. One user termed Pathan's post as an "unnecessary poke". "Very immature tweet from someone who is a former player and in the commentary panel of this tournament," said another. The development comes as the rain-affected match saw the first innings end with India setting up a target of 267 for Pakistan. Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf each picked three wickets, while the last two dismissals Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav came off Naseem Shah's bowling. However, Pakistan's innings failed to commence due to the persistent downpour. Both teams were awarded one point each with Pakistan qualifying for the Super 4 stage of the tournament.

Ferguson to captain NZ

WELLINGTON (AFP): Seamer Lockie Ferguson will captain New Zealand for the first time on the international stage during their three-match 50-overs tour of Bangladesh, his team was announced Saturday. The 32-year-old will skipper the Black Caps in Bangladesh at the end of September following their current white ball games in England. "Lockie is an experienced bowler and this is an opportunity for him to really lead from the front with not just the bowling group but the team as a whole," said New Zealand head coach Gary Stead. Ferguson gained experience captaining the Black Caps in tour wins against English county sides Worcestershire and Gloucestershire last month. He will lead against Bangladesh with New Zealand's regular one-day captain Kane Williamson and stand-in skipper Tom Latham both absent. Williamson is recovering from a knee injury while Latham is among a group of senior players who will miss the games in Bangladesh to prepare for the 50-overs World Cup in India, starting in October. Latham, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee are all rested.

Haaland hits hat-trick to take Man City top, Son treble inspires Spurs

LONDON (Agencies): Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick as Manchester City maintained their perfect Premier League start with a 5-1 thrashing of Fulham on Saturday, as Son Heung-min also netted three times in Tottenham's 5-2 victory at Burnley.

But Chelsea's huge investment in the transfer market is still to reap reward as the Blues lost 1-0 at home to Nottingham Forest, while Newcastle have now lost three consecutive games after 18-year-old Evan Ferguson's hat-trick gave Brighton an impressive 3-1 win at the Amex.

City are two points clear at the top of the table as the only side with four wins from four games, but were again good enough for the victory without ever hitting top gear.

"Every year is like this at this club. We start a bit late and a bit sloppy because we play right until the last game (of the season) because we are the best club," said Haaland.

"We will only get better and better from here."

The English champions were without manager Pep Guardiola as he recovers from back surgery in his native Catalonia.

The home side had not had a shot on target until Julian Alvarez turned home Haaland's cross to open the scoring on 31 minutes.

Fulham responded immediately when Tim Ream tapped in from a corner.



City needed a set-piece of their own to restore the lead in controversial circumstances.

Nathan Ake's header was allowed to stand despite Manuel Akanji, who was in an offside position, jumping over the ball.

Haaland exploded after the break. He became the fastest player to reach 40 Premier League goals, in just 39 appearances, with a cool finish from Phil Foden's through ball.

The Norwegian then put his missed penalty at Sheffield United last weekend behind him to slot home from the spot.

He made it six goals in five games this season by completing his hat-trick in stoppage time.

- Son shines for Spurs -
Spurs climbed to second

after their sparkling start under Ange Postecoglou continued.

Burnley took the lead after just four minutes at Turf Moor through Lyle Foster.

Son, who was moved into a more central role by Postecoglou in place of Richarlison, soon proved his manager had pulled off another masterstroke.

The Tottenham captain's deft chip levelled before a thunderous strike from Cristian Romero put the visitors in front in first-half stoppage time.

James Maddison's curling finish from the edge of the box made it 3-1 before Son took centre stage to score twice in three minutes and complete his hat-trick.

"I'm the captain, but I have great players around

me," said Son, who was handed the armband when Harry Kane departed for Bayern Munich.

"My job is really easy and I try to be an example, try to smile and try to take responsibility on and off the pitch."

- Billion pound Chelsea still toothless -

Chelsea's spending on deadline day took their total splashed on new players in just over a year under a consortium fronted by Todd Boehly to more than £1 billion (\$1.3 billion).

Moises Caicedo's move from Brighton, that could rise to £115 million, broke the British transfer record last month.

But the Ecuador international was at fault for the only goal at Stamford Bridge to leave Mauricio

Pochettino's men embarrassed.

Anthony Elanga slotted home three minutes into the second-half after Caicedo gave the ball away inside his own half.

New £40 million signing Cole Palmer was thrown on to try and turn the game around, but Chelsea's lack of a natural goalscorer, despite their huge outlay, was again exposed.

Pochettino has won just one of his first four games in charge to leave Chelsea already eight points adrift of City.

"We were not clinical in both areas," said Pochettino. "We made a mistake and then we created opportunities, but if you don't score it is difficult to win games."

Caicedo was not missed either by his former club as the Seagulls tore Newcastle to shreds.

Ferguson pounced on Nick Pope's spill from Billy Gilmour's shot to open the scoring.

The Irish international then curled home a sensational second from outside the box before benefitting from a huge deflection for his first Premier League hat-trick.

Bournemouth were denied their first win under Andoni Iraola as Bryan Mbuemo snatched a 2-2 draw for Brentford.

Sheffield United and Everton both secured their first point of the season after a pulsating 2-2 draw in the lunchtime kick-off.

Djokovic's hopes nearly sunk

NEW YORK (Reuters): Novak Djokovic saw his U.S. Open hopes nearly sunk by a fellow Serb while defending women's champion Iga Swiatek sailed into the fourth round of the year's final Grand Slam as an American wave swept across Flushing Meadows.

On the ropes and reeling after dropping the opening two sets of his match to compatriot Laslo Djere, a tenacious Djokovic lifted himself up off the floor, as he has done so many times before, to claim a 4-6 4-6 6-1 6-1 6-3 win.

It marked the 38th time Djokovic has won a five-setter and kept alive the 36-year-old's quest for a fourth U.S. Open crown that would pull him level with Margaret Court's record haul of 24 Grand Slams.

"I hope you enjoyed the show, it was not so enjoyable for me especially in the first two sets," Djokovic told the crowd. "It was one of the toughest matches I have played here in many years."

While Djokovic needed almost four hours to get the job done, Swiatek needed only 49 minutes to book her spot. The Pole showed her best friend on Tour Kaja Juvan no mercy, thrashing the Slovenian qualifier 6-0 6-1.

Americans Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul and Ben Shelton all moved safely through to the last 16, raising hopes of a first homegrown men's champion in two decades.

It has been 78 Grand Slams since Andy Roddick won the 2003 U.S. Open and there is growing belief that the talent is there to end the drought of American champions. Ninth seed Fritz is seen as the main U.S. contender for the title and he blasted his way into the fourth round with a 6-1 6-2 6-0 demolition of 18-year-old Czech qualifier Jakub Mensik.

Tiafoe, who electrified the tournament with his run to the semi-finals last year, is once again exciting the home crowd, advancing with a 4-6 6-2 6-3 7-6(6) victory over crafty French veteran Adrian Mannarino.

Fourteenth seed Paul overcame a third-set hiccup to dispatch Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-1 6-0 3-6 6-3 and will next face 20-year-old compatriot Shelton, a 6-4 3-6 6-2 6-0 winner over Aslan Karatsev.

"Tremendous," said Tiafoe, summing up the U.S. results so far. "We're going to continue to do so. This is a group that had a lot of ability. Always had a lot of talent. You look at a guy, Tommy Paul, took him a while to get going. He believes more than anybody right now."

Sainz gives Ferrari Italian GP hope after pipping Verstappen to pole



MONZA (APP): Carlos Sainz is gunning to end dominant Max Verstappen's record run of Formula One wins after delighting Ferrari's passionate army of home fans on Saturday by claiming pole position for the Italian Grand Prix.

Spaniard Sainz will start at the front of the grid for the first time this season after pipping by 0.013 seconds reigning world champion Verstappen who is hunting a historic 10th straight victory.

Charles Leclerc in the other Ferrari took third to start from the second row alongside the Mercedes of George Russell on a great day for Ferrari in front of a typically colourful sea of support. Sainz trails

Verstappen by a whopping 237 points in the drivers' championship and is yet to claim a podium finish this season.

But the 29-year-old shone in Saturday's qualifying after already showing his speed by topping the times in two practice sessions and celebrated snatching the fourth pole of his career in the final moments with the jubilant crowd.

"It's just amazing you know, the whole weekend really. Since we arrived here on Wednesday the support and the feeling with the crowd and the energy they put into us is incredible," Sainz told reporters.

Ferrari were also boosted by the governing body FIA deciding not to pursue disci-

plinary action on Leclerc and Sainz for breaches to lap time limits imposed on Saturday morning in order to cut down track congestion.

That decision came moments after Sainz beat Verstappen to the top of the grid on a day that will give Ferrari hope of their first win of the season at the iconic Temple of Speed.

"We've got the motivation and the energy to do it. The car has been very good all weekend, especially over one lap," added Sainz.

"From what I've seen through the long runs, I'm not going to lie, it's been trickier. It's not the same picture as in qualifying."

"It's a good opportunity tomorrow, but also being realistic the Red Bull should be quicker. We're just going to try to make their lives as difficult as possible."

- Record hunter Verstappen - Dutchman Verstappen still has a great chance to break the record of nine straight GP wins he shares with four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel after winning a dramatic race on home soil in Zandvoort last weekend.

Verstappen has won 11 of the 13 races so far this

year and leads Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who is the only other driver to win this season and finished 0.394sec back in fifth, by 138 points in the drivers' standings.

Ferrari and Red Bull will do battle at Monza as the two teams did last year when Verstappen eased to victory after superior pit strategy saw off pole sitter Leclerc. "Here in Monza it's always very tight. You might jump ahead and sometimes you're just behind but I'm confident for tomorrow," said Verstappen.

Red Bull's closest challenger Fernando Alonso has a job on his hands on Sunday after he finished over a second off the pace in 10th, while Lewis Hamilton will start Sunday's race in eighth.

Mercedes announced on Thursday that seven-time world champion Hamilton had signed a new deal until 2025 which will extend his career beyond his 40th birthday. Hamilton, 38, is convinced he can win more races and world championships with the Silver Arrows, although he is 183 points behind Verstappen in fourth place.

India defeat Pakistan on shootout to win 5s Asia Hockey Cup

ISLAMABAD (NNI): India Saturday defeated Pakistan in a thrilling final of 5s Asia Hockey Cup on penalty shoot-outs to claim the title of the event.

Pakistan hockey team won the silver medal. Pakistan captain Rana Abdulwaheed Ashraf scored 27 goals and became the top scorer of the event, while Pakistan's goal-keeper Abdullah Ishiaq Khan was awarded the best goal-keeper award. The final of the ongoing five-side Asia Cup in Salalah, Oman was played between two traditional rivals, Pakistan and India, which was tied 4-4 at the scheduled time.

For Pakistan, Arshad Liaquat and Murtaza Yaqoob went for penalty shootout. In the first penalty shootout, Arshad managed to get a penalty stroke on the foul of the opposing goalkeeper. However, Murtaza Yaqoob failed to score the goal on penalty stroke.

Murtaza scored the goal on shootout on his turn but was not given for shielding the opposing goalkeeper. For Pakistan, Rana Waheed Ashraf, Arshad Liaquat, Zakaria Hayat and Abdul Rahman scored goals in the allotted time. For India, Jugraj Singh, Maninder Singh scored one goal each while Mohammad Raheel scored two goals.

Gurjot Singh and Maninder Singh scored goals for India in the penalty shoot-outs.



NEW YORK: Madison Keys of the United States returns a shot against Liudmila Samsonova during their Women's Singles Third Round match.

Ronaldo named in Portugal squad for Euro 2024 qualifiers

PARIS (INP): Cristiano Ronaldo was named in Portugal's squad on Friday for the upcoming Euro 2024 qualifiers against Slovakia and Luxembourg. Former European champions Portugal sit top of Group J in qualifying for next year's finals in Germany.

They face Slovakia in Bratislava next Friday before hosting Luxembourg three days later. "A player with 200 appearances, that's something unique," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez of Ronaldo, who has scored five goals in four qualifying games so far.

"I can tell you I'm very happy to have Cristiano Ronaldo in my team." The 38-year-old Ronaldo, who now plies his trade in Saudi Arabia, celebrated his 200th international appearance with the winner in a 1-0 victory over Iceland last time out for Portugal in June.

Martinez also included Saudi-based midfielders Otavio and Ruben Neves in his squad and called up uncapped Wolves full-back Toti. Portugal squad for Euro 2024 Qualifiers:

Goalkeepers: Diogo Costa (Porto/POR), Jose Sa (Wolves/ENG), Rui Patricio (Roma/ITA) Defenders: Diogo Dalot (Manchester United/ENG), Nelson Semedo (Wolves/ENG), Joao Cancelo (Manchester City/ENG), Danilo Pereira (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Ruben Dias (Manchester City/ENG), Antonio Silva (Benfica), Goncalo Inacio (Sporting Lisbon), Toti (Wolves/ENG).

Midfielders (6): Joao Palhinha (Fulham/ENG), Ruben Neves (Al-Hilal/KSA), Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United/ENG), Otavio (Al-Nassr/KSA), Vitinha (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Bernardo Silva (Manchester City/ENG)

Forwards (7): Ricardo Horta (Braga), Rafael Leao (AC Milan/ITA), Joao Felix (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Cristiano Ronaldo (Al-Nassr/KSA), Pedro Neto (Wolves/ENG), Goncalo Ramos (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Diogo Jota (Liverpool/ENG).



Inoshi Fernando is congratulated by her teammates on taking a catch

England v Sri Lanka

Visitors take historic win in second T20 to level series

CHELMSFORD

(Agencies): England slumped to their first defeat by Sri Lanka in T20 internationals as the visitors levelled the series with an eight-wicket win at Chelmsford.

England collapsed to 104 all out off 18 overs with Sri Lanka's superb spinners taking eight of the 10 wickets.

Charlie Dean's 34 was the only score of more than 20 in England's innings.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu then hit an entertaining 55 from 31 balls as her side reached their target with 40 balls to spare. Athapaththu was dismissed by Alice Capsey with 26 runs still required but Harshitha Madavi and Vishmi Gunaratne calmly completed the chase.

Sri Lanka were understandably jubilant in celebration, Harshitha raising her arms aloft as she sealed the winning runs with a six off Kate Cross.

England opener Danni Wyatt was bowled in the first over to spark a dismal collapse that saw England stutter to 51-6 at the halfway mark, a stark contrast to the 186-4 that they posted in the first T20 at Hove on Thursday.

Poor England outplayed in all departments

England made the decision to rest key players for this series after a hectic Ashes summer, with Sophia Dunkley, Nat Sciver-Brunt and Sophie Ecclestone, who has since dislocated her shoulder, rested.

But a relatively inexperienced England side were still heavy favourites to win all three T20s against Sri Lanka, who are significantly behind the hosts in professionalism, finances and depth of talent.

The joy on the Sri Lankans' faces as they celebrated on the outfield showed exactly how much this historic victory means. They produced an admirable performance, led by an astonishing fightback with the ball from the thrashing in the series opener, using their main strength in spin bowling.

England's batters had no answers, with Amy Jones getting trapped on the crease and Capsey, Knight and Maia Bouchier all gifting catches with loose shots - Athapaththu's sharp turner to bowl Wyatt the only wicket to not feature batter error.

Athapaththu has been Sri Lanka's star for years, their

only batter with franchise experience, but she seems to relish the pressure of leading from the front.

England boast a bowling attack that could defend 104, but she smashed 20 runs from the third over of the chase off Cross, and continued to attack with swagger to ensure the fine bowling performance was not wasted.

Questions surround Wong's selection

England opted to replace 17-year-old Mahika Gaur, who impressed on debut on Thursday, with fellow quick Issy Wong, who burst on to the scene in 2022 as one of the country's brightest young talents before a dip in form this summer.

Wong did not feature at all in the Ashes and continued to struggle in domestic cricket, finding herself dropped from Birmingham Phoenix's side in The Hundred because of issues with her run-up. To use international cricket as a way for a bowler to find form again seemed like a risky move - even against weaker opposition, it is a game in front of a bigger crowd, a bigger TV audience, and with more pressure.

And it did not help Wong, who bowled three

front foot no-balls in her first over and was hit for three consecutive fours in her second as Sri Lanka charged to victory.

She was not the only bowler to struggle, with Cross conceding 33 runs from her 2.3 overs and Dean also expensive. But England have an exciting crop of fast bowlers, including Gaur and Freya Kemp once she is fit again, and it is vital they look after them.

'Huge for women's cricket in Sri Lanka' - reaction

England captain Heather Knight: "Sri Lanka were outstanding. They came out and bowled much better than they did the other night, so credit to them. And then Chamari came out and does what she can do, which is be aggressive and take the game on."

"We had an inexperienced side and at times it showed. And it showed when you are off in international cricket you can get humbled. Issy has been struggling a little bit for rhythm but she had a few good sessions. Finding where she is at is important and in international cricket that is in the middle, not just bowling in the nets."

IEA commends WB report

KABUL (Agencies): The IEA called a recent report of the World Bank on economic situation of Afghanistan an objective fact and praised it. The report was published by the World Bank, which highlighted the economic progress of Afghanistan. The report highlighted reduction of inflation, increased food production, appreciation of Afghani currency, improved banking system, and more facilities for commercial companies and generation of more opportunities in the country.

Effective monetary policy

KABUL (Agencies): Following the Central Bank of Afghanistan's effective measures, the Afghani currency has strengthened dramatically against international currencies, particularly the US dollar, in recent days. According to Hasib Noori, spokesman for the Central Bank of Afghanistan, this development is the outcome of the bank's efficient monetary policy. The bank's goal is to safeguard the Afghani currency's value and create domestic price stability, he said.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Saffar 16, 1445 — Sunday, September 03, 2023

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

Saffron exports increasing, says Agriculture Ministry

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock said that the export of saffron has increased compared to previous years.

Musbahuddin Mustaeen said that in order to promote the saffron yield in the country, 200 farmers have been trained so that they can expand the cultivation of this product in other provinces.

"In recent years, Afghanistan's saffron market was not good, saffron from other countries was smuggled into the country and

exported to foreign countries under the name of Afghanistan, but after the Islamic Emirate, and with the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, the process has been completely prevented," said a spokesman for the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that Afghan saffron has a good market in international markets and the export of the plant is also regular. "In previous years, saffron was cheap and its production was also

reduced, this year the production of saffron is good and will reach 30 tons. The export of this plant is also going on normally," said Khanjan Alokozi, a member of the ACCI.

Based on information from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, last year Afghanistan exported more than 51,000 kilograms of saffron to the countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, the United States of America, Spain, the Netherlands, Australia, and Morocco.

Work begins on 25 km road

KANDAHAR (TOLOnews): The reconstruction work on 25 kilometers of public road between Uruzgan and Kandahar has started.

Local officials of Uruzgan said that the cost of rebuilding the road is 21 million Afghani from the budget of the Ministry of Public Works.

The project that was inaugurated today, the road is from Tarinkot to Wesh," said Adamjan Namani, head of the public works department in Urozgan.

"We monitor the work every day and we hope that the staff will also carry out the project in the right way," said Mohammad Alijan Ahmad, the governor of Uruzgan.

Meanwhile, passengers and drivers asked the officials to do quality work on the road so that they do not face problems in the future.

"We are very tired of this way, let's build the road to reduce the expense (of driving on it)," said Ehsanullah, a driver.

"On this road, injured have died before they reach Kandahar due to the damage of the road," said Niaz Mohammad, a passenger.

"We ask the Islamic Emirate to build the road in a solid way," said Muhibullah, a passenger.

IE committed to execution of Qisas

KABUL (TOLOnews): The deputy of the Supreme Court, Abdul Malik Haqqani said that the Islamic Emirate is committed to the Implementation of Qisas (an Islamic term interpreted to mean retaliation in kind). In an interview with TOLOnews, he denied the existence of a desert court by the officials of the interim government.

"Implementation of hudud (an Islamic method of punishment) is God's order and the Quran's. The Islamic Emirate doesn't listen to illegitimate reactions," he said. Haqqani said that many former employees and attorneys of the republic are working in the Supreme Court.

"Those people who were in the court during the republic, they were the attorneys, most of them are in our formation," he said. Regarding addressing the cases of the Shia citizens, he said: "Many Afghan people are Hanafi school Muslims. The judicial system cannot accept division due to some minorities. Islam has given this right to the Shia brothers that if they have any dispute, we can solve it within the Hanafi school of Islam."

Based on the statement, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul said during the meeting that Iran has remained a good neighbor of Afghanistan throughout history and has always tried to protect the political and economic interests of the two countries.

Qomi added that Tehran is interested in cooperating with Afghanistan in economic, agricultural and industrial and railway areas.

He said that the technical teams of the two countries are negotiating on the mentioned issues.

various sectors.

Mullah Baradar said that after decades of war, an independent and unified system has been established in Afghanistan, and that political and economic relations have expanded, especially with neighboring countries.

He emphasized that in order to strengthen these relations further, it is necessary for Iran and other neighboring countries to take fundamental steps and not give anyone else the opportunity to harm these relations.



KABUL (Agencies): Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the economic deputy of the prime minister, said in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador in Kabul Hassan Kazemi Qomi on Saturday that Afghanistan does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country and does not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs.

According to a statement released by Baradar's office, the two sides discussed political and economic issues and bilateral cooperation in

Iran building Qasem Soleimani hospital

KANDAHAR (Khaama Press): The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced its intention to establish a medical facility named after Qasem Soleimani in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

According to Iran's Fars News Agency, quoting Javad Karimi Ghodoosi, a representative of the Iranian Parliament, the country plans to set up a medical facility in the

province of Kandahar, named after the former commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The facility is reportedly ready for operation, as stated by the Fars News Agency.

The acting government in Afghanistan has not made any statements on this matter so far.

Previously, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the

Taliban administration had announced that a seven-member delegation from the Iranian Parliament had met and held discussions with Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting head of the ministry.

Iran announced establishing a hospital in Kandahar when Afghanistan's citizens have a long history of travelling to neighbouring countries for medical treatment.

100 empowered by women-led Kabul sewing workshop

KABUL (Khaama Press): Farzana Ahmadzai is an entrepreneur who established a tailoring workshop in Kabul, creating opportunities for 110 individuals. She emphasizes that the silence of women in the face of growing constraints suppresses the potential of millions of Afghan girls.

Managing her workshop amidst heightened restrictions on women's education, work and life, Farzana established a tailoring workshop two years ago in Dasht-e-Barchi, Kabul. Currently, alongside men, 35 women between the ages of 15 and 35 who have survived school closures or government job layoffs work at the workshop.

In her workshop, 110 men and women work, including 35 young women who are either school survivors or have been laid off from government jobs. Most of these young women are heads of their households.

Farzana Ahmadzai named her workshop "Frishita Arizoo" and engages in designing and sewing women's, children's, and men's clothing. The products are not only used within the country but are also exported to other countries.

Frishita Arizoo Tailoring



Workshop distributes its products in various parts of Kabul Ghazni province and maintains a small representative office in Pakistan. They also export the famous "Afghan scarf" to Germany. The workshop's founder aimed to escape mental challenges and confront imposed restrictions through its establishment.

Despite Afghanistan's conditions, where women are even constrained in planning their personal

life paths due to pressure from restrictions, Farzana says, "As an Afghan girl, I did not want to be disheartened in these inappropriate conditions and lose myself amidst problems and restrictions. Now I feel proud that I could create opportunities for women."

She views the market conditions and sales of her workshop's products as satisfactory, and they plan to export goods to all 34 provinces of Afghanistan

shortly. "We want our workshop to expand and achieve global export levels. We aim for citizens to use Afghan products instead of Chinese and Turkish goods."

Farzana hopes that national and international institutions supporting small businesses will support her. She continues to encourage Afghan girls not to remain silent in these circumstances and to transform constraints into opportunities.

‘Enemies can’t tolerate country’s freedom’

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister of Interior Affairs Sirajuddin Haqqani says the enemies of Islam and the country cannot tolerate Afghanistan's freedom and are trying to launch a conspiracy against the Islamic system.

On a trip to Paktia, Haqqani with some members of the cabinet of the Islamic Emirate met with some residents of this province and asked them to be united in supporting the Islamic system.

"The enemies of our religion and country cannot take away our freedom and now they are plotting and warning the system, but our belief is firm and our struggle is pure and we are united," said Haqqani in an opening ceremony of a religious center.

Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Khairullah Khairkhan, also asked the people and youth



of this province to make more and effective use of the opportunities created now in the country.

"This is the main way to success and you are lucky that there are scholars and you should make good use of the opportunities given by Allah," said Khairkhan.

At this event, Acting Minister of Economy Din Mohammad Hanif also mentioned the sacrifices made to establish the Islamic system.

"It is known to all of us and to you that the majority of the sacrifices were made by the scholars, the Mujah-

ideen, of course, all the people participated in this, but the leadership was led by the scholars," said Hanif.

Meanwhile, Sirajuddin Haqqani has recently visited many provinces of the country and invited the people to be united in supporting the Islamic system.

Report: 840,000 applicants for US resettlement still in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP): More than 840,000 Afghans who applied for a resettlement program aimed at people who helped the US war effort in Afghanistan are still there waiting, according to a report that lays out the challenges with a program intended to help America's allies in the two-decade long conflict.

The report released Thursday by the State Department's inspector general outlines steps the department took to improve processing of special immigrant visas for Afghans.

But two years after the US pullout from Afghanistan and the return of the Taliban to power, challenges remain.

The visa program was started in 2009 to help Afghans who worked side-by-side with Americans and faced significant risks for doing so. A similar program exists for Iraqis. Both programs have been plagued by criticism that cases move much too slowly, leaving applicants in dangerous limbo.

And since the US left Afghanistan the number of people applying for the visas has skyrocketed.

According to the report, there were a little less than 30,000 applicants in October 2021, but by December 2022 that number had grown to roughly

155,000. Those figures do not include family members who are allowed to resettle with them if their application is approved.

The State Department estimates that as of April of this year more than 840,000 applicants for the special visa program and their family members remain in Afghanistan, the report said. Not everyone who applies is accepted; the State Department noted that about 50% of applicants do not qualify when their applications are reviewed at a key stage early in the process.

The department also said since the start of the Biden administration in January

2021 through Aug. 1 of this year it's issued nearly 34,000 visas for the applicants and their family members, which it said was a substantial increase from previous years.

The report said the department has hired more staff to process applications, coordinated with the Pentagon to verify applicants' employment, and eliminated some of the steps required of applicants. But, the report said, there was more it could do. For example, the report noted that a key position overseeing the special immigrant visa process has seen frequent turnover and vacancies.

Acting Chief of Central Bank injured in traffic accident

FARAH (Khaama Press): Following a traffic accident on the Herat-Kandahar highway, Hidayatullah Badri, the acting head of the Taliban Central Bank, was injured, and his driver died.

The incident occurred on Friday, near the Herat-Kandahar highway, specifically within the Farah province.

According to the report, after the traffic accident, the acting head of the Taliban Central Bank was swiftly evacuated from the scene via helicopter.

The Central Bank has confirmed that this incident resulted from the overturning of Hedayatullah Badri's vehicle. Central Bank officials have confirmed that Mr Badri is in good health and have expressed satisfac-



tion with this outcome. In recent times, there has been a substantial rise in traffic accidents nationwide.

In a similar incident last Friday, local officials reported that six individuals,

including a Taliban commander named "Durran," lost their lives due to a traffic accident in the Yawan district of Badakhshan province. Two others were injured. It is worth noting

that in most cases, the primary causes of traffic accidents in the country have been driver negligence, failure to adhere to traffic laws, excessive speeding, and road damage.

MoI says it installed 62,000 cameras in Kabul and key places

KABUL (TOLOnews): Abdul Mateen Qani, the spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, said in a video that more than 62,000 security cameras have been installed "in Kabul city and important places" for the purpose of providing security.

"Currently, in Kabul city and all-important places more than 62,000 cameras have been installed. The number of secret cameras could be more than that. They have been placed in important and crowded places," he said.

He also said that efforts are underway to implement the process of camera installation in 34 provinces of Afghanistan based on the new framework.

"A security survey is ongoing on it. Whenever its procedure and strategy and security survey is completed, the budget will be approved for it, the security cameras will be installed in all provinces and cities particularly, and capitals," he said.

This comes as the military analysts called the installation of security cameras important for the reduction of criminal activities in the country.

"The crime happens. Then they are recognized, and they are detained. We should prevent the crime before it happens," said Yousuf Amin Zazai, military analyst.

Residents of Kabul expressed optimism about the installation of cameras.

"The security cameras can solve many problems of the people," said Hesamuddin, a resident of Kabul.

"There have been many incidents but now as they installed the cameras, the incidents have dropped. The robbery and murder rates have dropped," said Niazullah, a resident of Kabul.

‘Unemployment forces youth to leave country’

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Some youth in western Herat province have linked growing migration of educated people with unemployment despite improves security nationwide.

Ahmad Zahir Nab, one of the Herat Youth, told Pajhwok Afghan News the only concern of educated people in the country was unemployment, adding that there was no work opportunity available to them in the country.

"Unemployment forced youth and professional individuals to leave the country and now youth started believing that government considered education and professional people in society as common people," he said.

Nab said unemployment forced youth to choose illegal means for migration and go to the neighbouring and other countries to earn livelihood.

Ahmad, another Herat youth, said currently youth and professional individuals are at home and there is no work opportunities for them.

He said it was government responsibility to absorb professional and qualified individuals in the government posts and get full advantage of their knowledge in promoting the capacity

and strength of the government system.

Social Affairs experts in Herat also believed that youth was the most effective and important segment of the society and stressed over the generation for work opportunities for them.

Social Affairs Expert Abdul Qayyum Waziri said the provision of jobs opportunities for youth helped improve security and economic condition and it has far reaching positive impact on the society.

Waziri said youth is the key segment of society and they directly need government support. He deplored that professional and qualified individuals are forced to resign or quit their jobs due to some reasons and this would cause a huge damage to the system in the future.

Governor Spokesperson Nisar Ahmad Elyas said earlier around 300 factories were active in the industrial park of Herat City but now around 650 factories are functional and most people have been able to get working opportunity.

Elyas said government was trying to generate more working opportunities for youth in the province.

PAF JF-17 Thunder participating in air exercise at Egypt

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Multi-national Air Exercise "Bright Star 2023" has kicked off at the Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt. Pakistan Air Force contingent will showcase its exceptional capabilities at the exercise alongside its JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, dedicated air & ground crew.

Originally established as a bilateral training event between the United States and Egypt during the Camp David Accord of 1977, Bright Star Exercise has evolved into a significant multi-national endeavor. Since 1995, nations from around the world have been invited to participate in the mega exercise, transforming it into one of the largest and most intricate joint air force exercises globally.

The exercise aims to promote interoperability among the participating nations, fostering shared learning opportunities. Designed to simulate realistic aerial warfare scenarios, Exercise Bright Star provides an invaluable opportunity for participating Air Forces to assess their operational readiness in real-time. Over the course of two weeks, the exercise will bring together air, naval, and ground assets of the participating nations in the desert terrain of North-West Cairo, Egypt. A total of 34 countries including Pakistan, the United States of America, India, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar will be participating in this prestigious event.



In light of the complex security environment and contemporary strategic challenges, exercises like Bright Star 2023 enable the Pakistan Air Force to enhance its interoperability with friendly nations. Apart from strengthening military relations, this exercise will facilitate the practice of integrated employment of combat and combat support assets. It will also provide an opportunity to formulate and validate tactics against contemporary threats, ensuring preparedness for any future contingencies.

Pakistan Air Force looks forward to contributing to the success of this multinational exercise. Through such endeavors, PAF reaffirms its commitment to regional stability, international cooperation, and the continuous development of own capabilities.

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Pak Navy Flotila visits Iraq

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising PN Ships HIMMAT, DEHSHAT and MUHAFAZ visited Port Umm Qasr, Iraq during Overseas Deployment to Gulf countries.

Upon arrival at the port, PN Ships were received by Commander of Umm Qasr Naval Base Rear Admiral Laith Abdul Satar, senior Iraqi Navy officials and Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Iraq. The Mission Commander along with Commanding Officers of ships called on Commander Iraqi Navy Rear Admiral Mazin Abdul Wahid and senior naval leadership of host Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interest were discussed and enhancements of bilateral ties in all spheres were reaffirmed. Mission Commander conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Iraq in general and Iraqi navy in particular. A reception dinner was also hosted onboard PNS MUHAFAZ which was hosted by Ambassador of Pakistan to Iraq. Officials of Iraqi Navy and notables from Pakistani community attended the reception.

During port call, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard ships, orientation visit of PN personnel to military installations and coordination meetings for exercises at sea were undertaken. Upon completion of port visit, PN ships participated in sea exercise with Iraqi Navy Ship to enhance interoperability. The port visit to Iraq is expected to further enhance existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations between the two countries and the navies.

Qureshi, Fawad denied bail

LAHORE (PPI): In a significant development in the May 9 cases, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Saturday dismissed bail petitions of Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Fawad Chaudhry.

Judge Abhar Gul conducted hearing of the May 9 cases in the Lahore anti-terrorism court. The court ordered cancellation of the bail of Qureshi and Fawad Chaudhary for non-compliance of the cases. It should be noted that Qureshi is currently in Adiala Jail on judicial remand in the cipher case.

A special court on Wednesday sent PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi on judicial remand to Adiala Jail in cipher case. The PTI leader was produced in the Official Secrets Act court after two-day physical remanded earlier given to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Judge Abu al Hasanat Zulqernain heard the case filed by Qureshi's legal team for post-arrest bail. Zulfiqar Naqvi, the FIA counsel pleaded for more physical remand to recover a cell phone and the copy of cipher.

Five women terrorists of Daesh held

LAHORE (PPI): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab on Saturday claimed to have arrested five women terrorists in intelligence-based operations (IBOs) from Lahore and Sheikhpura.

The arrested women were said to be a part of IS. The CTD officials arrested three of the women belonged to Lahore and two to Sheikhpura. They further said that banned books, mobile phones, weapons and cash were seized from the arrested terrorists. Earlier in the day, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) killed eight terrorists in separate operations in Balochistan during the past 24 hours.

According to the spokesperson, the CTD raided a house in Basima – a town and tehsil headquarter in Washuk district on tipoff. The terrorists opened fire on law enforcers, triggering a gun battle that lasted for some time, he said. As a result, five of these terrorists were eliminated while three others managed to escape the scene.



LAHORE: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami holding a protest at Mall road against the surge in electricity and fuel prices and unbearable inflation across the country.

Canada shut its land border to asylum seekers

TORONTO (Agencies): A deal Canada struck this year to stem the flow of asylum seekers entering from the US was, at first glance, a quick success: Within days, the number of people caught at unofficial crossings along the border dwindled to a trickle.

But five months later, the overall number of people filing refugee claims in Canada has risen instead of falling. Many now come by air, while others sneak across the border and hide until they can apply for asylum without fear of being sent back, people working with migrants told Reuters. The numbers show how hard it is for countries to shut the door on desperate people and the challenge unexpected numbers of asylum seekers can pose: In Toronto, hundreds slept on the streets this summer as they struggled to find beds.

"The basic reality is that closing a border doesn't do anything to solve the need for protection," said Shauna Labman, an associate professor and acting director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Winnipeg. "It only increases the desperation." Canada prides itself on welcoming immigrants and aims to bring in a record half a million new permanent residents in 2025 to deal with an acute labor shortage. But it has sought to discourage those applying for asylum, chiefly through an agreement with the US under which each country turns back asylum seekers. Still, last year alone, more than 39,000 asylum seekers entered Canada via unofficial crossings – mostly into Quebec via a dirt path off Roxham Road in New York, prompting the province to complain it could not handle the arrivals. Asylum seekers are drawn by Canada's reputation for swifter processing and greater acceptance of asylum applications compared to the US.

In response, Canada and the United States in March amended their two-decade-old asylum-seeker pact, the Safe Third Country Agreement. The agreement now applies to the length of the countries' 4,000-mile land border, rather than just at ports of entry. The expanded pact led to a dramatic drop in the number of people intercepted at informal crossings – down to double digits in April through July from 4,173 in March.

But overall, the number of asylum seekers entering Canada has surged. The total number of refugee claims made in Canada rose in July to

12,010 – the highest monthly total since at least January 2017 – and up from 10,120 in March, according to data from the immigration, refugees and citizenship department. Some of the higher numbers are being driven by more people filing refugee claims at airports or local immigration department offices – often days, weeks or months after arriving in the country, government data shows. People applying at airports comprised about a third of all refugee claims made in July, up from about 16% in March. Those filing claims at immigration offices accounted for about 54% of July's total, up from about a third in March. The top five countries that claimants came from in the first half of the year were Mexico, Haiti, Turkey, Colombia and India – though the numbers include those who applied before the expanded US pact. At least part of the reason for the latest influx is that Canada is among a shrinking group of countries seen as offering safe harbor while pressures of war, climate change and human rights violations force a greater number to flee, some migrant experts say.

The European Union, for example, recently introduced an asylum seeker pact allowing nations to more quickly send back some migrants. Britain's government is pushing forward on a law making it easier to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, while US President Joe Biden's administration has introduced a rule making it harder for migrants to receive asylum if they cross US borders illegally. "If you're a person who's trying to make this set of decisions, then Canada becomes a more likely option," said Craig Damian Smith, a research affiliate at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University.

"The world is facing unprecedented flows of migrants and refugees, and Canada is not immune to these trends," Remi Lariviere, a spokesperson for the department, said in a statement. Lariviere said Canada amended the deal with the US to address "irregular" crossings and that the expansion "does not mean that claims for asylum will not be made in Canada at all." People working with migrants say some of the people filing claims days or weeks after they arrive in Canada are hoping to skirt a clause in the expanded agreement with the US that says any asylum seeker apprehended within two weeks of crossing the border will be turned back unless they meet a narrow exemption.

That has prompted some to cross over undetected, sometimes with a smuggler's help, and hide until the two-week period elapses. The Refugee Centre in Montreal says it helped four families in one day last week who had been in hiding for a fortnight after crossing overland into the country. "Unfortunately this is not a very safe avenue for them," Executive Director Abdulla Daoud told Reuters. "It promotes bad actors who take advantage of these individuals."

At the FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto, about 20% to 30% of recent arrivals say they crossed into Canada undetected and hid with a smuggler's help. Executive Director Loly Rico said. Reuters spoke with 10 people seeking refugee status who recently arrived in Toronto, Canada's largest city. They came from Sudan, Uganda and Mexico, among other places. All arrived by plane, with valid visas in hand. Some filed refugee claims days or weeks after their arrival.

Though they left for reasons ranging from domestic violence to war, the common draw for all was Canada's reputation for protecting human rights and providing refuge. "It is the first country that I thought about," said Hana Bakhtit. The 35-year-old from war-torn Sudan says she applied for a visitor's visa in May, flew to Canada in July and filed a refugee claim two weeks later.

She has been sleeping in a mosque and a church, calling Toronto's central shelter daily for a bed, only to be told there are none available. Still, she considers herself lucky to be in Canada. With Canada's land border largely closed off, the asylum system now favors people like Bakhtit who can get a visa and plane ticket, refugee lawyer Maureen Silcoff said.

"Some of the most vulnerable people remain barred from accessing Canada's system and I think we have to reflect on the inequity of that development," Silcoff said. Grace Nanziri, 42, was among those with the comparative privilege of being able to get a visa and flight ticket: she applied for a Canadian visitor's visa when her LGBTQ advocacy made her a target in her home country, Uganda. After waiting a year for the visa, she flew to Toronto in August – drawn by Canada's reputation of protecting human rights, she said. "They wanted to kill me," she said. "That's why I came to Canada."

Ranipur missing girl: Court grants remand of Pir

RANIPUR (PPI): A local court on Saturday handed over two suspects to police on physical remand in a missing case of a young woman. The court granted four days physical remand of Sohail Shah and Riaz Mashori to police in 20-year girl Sana Guramani allegedly missing from Sohail Shah's Haveli in Ranipur.

The girl was said to be missing from the Haveli two years ago. The police have failed to trace the

missing girl so far. Reportedly the girl entrusted by her parents to the Ranipur Haveli after a family dispute, was reported missing from the premises.

Caretaker CM Sindh Justice (rt) Maqbool Baqar, had directed Commissioner Sukkur to inquire into the incident and submit immediate report about the girl. He also directed DIG Sukkur to recover the missing girl immediately. The family of

the girl, residing in Mena village, said that their girl was entrusted to the Ranipur Haveli. "We received a phone call from the Haveli and told that our girl has been missing," family members said. "We visited Ranipur Haveli several times but didn't inform about the whereabouts of our girl," parents said. "We also complained with the police station of Ranipur but they did nothing," aggrieved family members lamented.

Haleem Adil handed over to police on physical remand

KARACHI (Agencies): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Karachi on Saturday rejected a plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Haleem Adil Sheikh to release him on bail and instead handed him to police on three-day physical remand.

The PTI leader was produced before the ATC Karachi in connection with a terror case registered at Mubina Police Station. During the hearing, the court rejected Haleem Adil Sheikh's bail plea and handed him over to police on physical remand. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) leader Haleem Adil Sheikh was re-arrested outside the Karachi anti-terrorism court on August 31, hours after an ATC ordered his release orders.

During the hearing, the police sought a physical remand of the former Sindh opposition leader which was rejected by the ATC. The court rejected the police request and ordered the immediate release of PTI Sindh chapter president. However, Sheikh was immediately taken into custody in another case by Sindh police shortly after his release. Sheikh, the former

opposition leader in the Sindh Assembly, who disappeared after the May 9 vandalism, was first arrested on Aug 30 after he arrived in SHC to seek bail in vandalism case. The police were seeking Sheikh's arrest in connection with the May 9 violence. Sheikh is one of the few PTI leaders who have not abandoned the party. Earlier, Haleem Adil Sheikh approached Sindh High Court challenging his non-bailable arrest warrants issued by an anti-terrorism court in Hyderabad in the May 9 mayhem case.

Flood level at Sutlej River declines

HAVELI LAKHA (PPI): Flood level at Sutlej River declined at Sulemanki Headworks are on Saturday. The water inflow in the area was recorded as 67,110 cusecs while outflow was 53,188 cusecs.

Sutlej has also been in low flood at Ganda Singh Headworks with water outflow 55,456 cusecs. The water level in the river at the point has been as high as 18.40 feet. Sutlej flooding has wreaked havoc in Kamera area in Chishtian and swept away roads while over 100 houses have been flooded. Land link has been disrupted, standing crops submerged and people have been stranded with shortage of fodder for their livestock.

Ferocious flow of the river water has swept away protective dykes and roads in Sutlej belt. Floodwater has developed craters at link roads connecting river belt with the main highway. The water level in river gradually going down at Mailis Siphon. Flooding has destroyed small protective dykes along the river, while several areas including Muradpur, Ghoospur, Fatehpur have submerged in water. Rescue teams have been engaged in shifting stranded people to safer areas. Flooding has wreaked havoc in the region as thousands of acres farmland has drowned and crops destroyed in Kasur, Bahawalnagar and Vehari districts.

Hike in power tariff: Siraj urges govt to review decision

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has called upon the caretaker government to reconsider its decision to increase power tariffs, warning them of the public frustration if they failed to do so.

On appeal of JI, a countywide shutter-down strike was observed on Saturday and party chief toured various markets in Lahore and expressed his gratitude to the leaders of the trading community for their support of JI's cause.

Addressing a protest rally against inflation at The Mall, he said that the strike unfolded peacefully, sending a clear message to the ruling authorities that the Pakistani nation sought its rights without resorting to violence. Siraj argued that the caretaker government lacked the authority to make critical decisions, as such matters should fall within the

purview of elected public representatives. He attributed the ongoing inflation to the policies of the previous PDM and PPP administrations, noting that it also represented a continuation of the ill-conceived economic policies of the PTI.

He criticized the former ruling parties for capitulating to the IMF and entering into unfavourable agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). He urged the government to combat power theft and reduce line losses rather than burdening the poor. He questioned the inclusion of various taxes in electricity bills and called for an end to the provision of free electricity to government officials and the ruling elite.

The JI chief took aim at the caretaker prime minister for his statements on inflation, terming it against the ground realities. He held the PDM and PPP's

former unity government responsible for the economic deterioration, asserting that the former prime minister had put the last nail in the coffin of the nation's economy before fleeing to London. The two dominant political families, he said, were overall responsible for the current state of unrest among the people.

Siraj stressed that the country needed political stability, which could only be achieved if institutions maintained their neutrality and remained apolitical. He advocated for free and fair elections as the solution to the nation's problems, calling for polls to be held within 90 days.

Meanwhile, markets and shops remained in Lahore but also in Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, and other major and minor cities. JI leaders led protest rallies against inflation in these cities, demonstrating widespread support for the cause.

18 Iranian pilgrims killed in Iraq road accident

KARBALA (Agencies): A road accident in northern Iraq has killed at least 18 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, as millions of people converge on the holy city of Karbala for Arbaeen, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings.

A traffic accident in northern Iraq has claimed at least 18 lives, the most of them Shia Iranian pilgrims in the midst of one of the largest religious gatherings in history, Arbaeen, which draws millions of people to the holy city of Karbala. According to the state news agency INA, who cited the death toll from Khaled Burhan, the director of health services in Salaheddine province, the accident between the cities of Dujail and Samarra also

resulted in the injuries of at least 13 persons.

Burhan added that the majority of the dead were Iranian tourists but did not go into detail about the crash's causes.

He stated that the injured were transferred to hospitals. On condition of anonymity, because he was not licensed to speak to the media, a medical official in Salaheddine told AFP news agency that two minibuses collided soon before midnight on Friday.

The official stated, citing witness testimony, that it is thought that one of the drivers dozed off behind the wheel. He estimated 18 fatalities. Since the start of Arbaeen this year, 2.6 million pilgrims—many of them from Iran—have visited Iraq either

land or air, according to statistics released on Friday by the interior ministry. The gathering marks the conclusion of the 40-day period of mourning for the death of Imam Hussein, the founder of Shia Islam and the Prophet Muhammad's great-grandson. It ends on September 6 and 7 of this year.

According to figures from the health ministry, more than 4,900 people died in road accidents in Iraq last year, or 13 on average each day. The infrastructure of oil-rich Iraq, particularly its roads and bridges, is in poor condition as a result of conflict, neglect, and widespread corruption. Officials claim that using a phone while driving and speeding can contribute to collisions.

and breadth of occupied Kashmir were involved in gross human rights violations in the region. He lauded the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people and maintained that the day is not far when the people of IIOJK would achieve their cherished goal of liberation of Kashmir from the Indian illegal occupation. He said the Kashmiris living abroad should also play their role in highlighting the freedom movement.

The event was organized in the memory of towering Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani. Paying rich tributes to Syed Ali Gilani, he said the veteran leader was fearless advocate of Kashmiris' right to self-determination who devoted his entire life to the freedom movement of Kashmir.

‘Jammu and Kashmir’s partition unacceptable’

ISLAMABAD (INP): The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while stressing the need for settling the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, has said the fragmentation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was not acceptable to the Kashmiri people.

Addressing a function in Islamabad, the AJK President said, "Let it be clear that Kashmiris will not allow the partition of Kashmir under any circumstances." He said all that Kashmiris want is implementation of the UN resolutions that guaranteed the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He reaffirmed full support to the ongoing freedom struggle in Indian

Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and said that the government and people on this side of the Line of Control (LoC) stand in support and solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren in their struggle against the Indian illegal occupation. He said that all political parties were on the same page on the issue of Kashmir.

Barrister Chaudhry said the BJP-led Indian government was hell bent on changing the demography of IIOJK by settling Hindus in the territory. He said, by altering the region's demography, the Modi government wants to install a Hindu chief minister in the region in order to lend legitimacy to the actions it took on and after August 5, 2019.

The AJK President deplored that India's 900,000 forces' personnel deployed in length