

ANP leader shot dead
F.P. Report

BANNU: Awami National Party (ANP) local leader Sher Wali Baghi was killed by unknown armed men in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. According to police, the incident occurred on Dera Ismail Khan Road near Engineering University Bannu where unknown motorcyclists sprayed bullets at him. As a result of the firing, Sher Wali was killed on the spot.

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Martyrs laid to rest
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Martyrs of Pakistan Navy's helicopter incident laid to rest in native towns as per military honours and tradition. The funeral prayer of Shaheed Lt Cdr Hamza Abid was offered at H-11 graveyard, Islamabad which was attended by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Funeral prayer of Shaheed Lt Cdr Syed Jawad Ali was offered at Karachi.

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Nation stands united with defence forces

PM directs to curb smuggling by enhancing surveillance at irregular border crossings

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that amidst Pakistan facing multiple security challenges of extremism, terrorism and external aggression, the entire nation stood united alongside the Pakistan Defence Forces to thwart evil designs against the integrity and prosperity of the country.

"The world also acknowledges the role our armed forces played in maintaining peace in various countries under the United Nations peacekeeping missions. We are committed to following the policy of peace as a hallmark of our foreign policy," the prime minister said in his message to the nation on the Defence Day, annually observed on September 6.

He said the Defence Day was remembered as the day of vigor, bravery, courage and resilience. It stood out in history as a symbol of national pride, integrity and sovereignty, he added. PM Kakar said that 58 years ago on September 6, Pakistan's valiant armed forces proved that they were ever vigilant and ready to safeguard the territorial integrity and geographical boundaries of their beloved homeland at all costs. He said the glorious day, where the entire Pakistani nation stood side by side with its armed forces, called upon the nation to make a pledge to renew the spirit of loyalty and service to Pakistan and pay tribute to the valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation. "On this day, the brave Pakistani nation displayed unprecedented strength with faith, unity and discipline that galvanized the armed forces - Army, Air Force and Navy," the prime minister remarked.

He said the defence of the country was not limited to September 6 alone, rather stretched upon an entire lifetime and encompassed all dimensions of physical

and ideological frontiers, which needed to be guarded. Prime Minister Kakar said the brave sons of the soil, especially the Shuhada who laid down their lives but did not let the enemy move an inch to fulfill its nefarious designs.

He said the unresolved dispute of Jammu and Kashmir remained a big threat to regional peace and security. "The international community must come forward and play its due role in resolving this long-standing issue. Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir until they achieve their right to self-determination through an impartial plebiscite in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," the prime minister urged.

Prime Minister Kakar said the whole nation stood united with utmost discipline and unwavering faith to make Pakistan strong. "With hard work and dedication, we will make Pakistan unassailable against security and economic challenges," he added. He paid homage to the martyrs of September 6, 1965 and all those who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the country in the subsequent years.

"Together with the backing of our nation, we shall not let go of the sacrifices of Shuhada and Ghazis who deserve the fullest of honours in the most befitting manner," the prime minister concluded the message with the slogans of Pakistan Armed Forces Zindabad and Pakistan Paidabad.

Meanwhile, the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed the Customs authorities to establish a monitoring system at irregular border crossings to prevent smuggling in the country.

(Continued on Back Page)

COAS, Uzbekistan officials vow to boost ties

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS is on a two days official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan. The visit is aimed at enhancing Military to Military cooperation and Defence collaboration.

During the visit, COAS called on H.E Mr Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan, Defense Minister and the Chairman and Secretary of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan.

During the meetings



COAS also emphasized upon enhancing mutual training cooperation and intelligence sharing. COAS appreciated the standard of training and readiness of the Uzbekistan Military Forces and their understanding about regional security issues.

On arrival at the Ministry of Defense, COAS was given a warm welcome and was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent. COAS also laid floral wreath at the Memorial Complex of Martyrs in Tashkent.

SC reserves verdict in NAB amendment case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said Tuesday that a three-member apex court bench hearing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition against the National Accountability Act, 2022 would announce a "short and sweet" verdict soon.

The three-member bench, headed by CJP Bandial, and comprising Justice Mansoor and Justice Ijazul Ahsan, heard Khan's petition and reserved the judgment on the case, saying that the date of the verdict would be announced later. "My retirement is near, [we] will give a decision before retirement," said the CJP, who is set to retire later this month on September 16 and will be replaced by Justice Qazi Faez Issa.

The additional attorney general, who appeared before the bench to represent AGP Mansoor Usman Awan, apologised to the court on behalf of the AGP for skipping the court hearing owing to an important foreign visit. At the start of the hearing on Tuesday, the PTI legal counsel, Khawaja Haris presented his final arguments before the bench.

During his arguments, CJP Bandial remarked that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had submitted its reasons for the references returned by the accountability

ty following tweaks in the law till May. "The reasons for the withdrawal of the reference suggest that the law is biased," he remarked, adding that the people whose references were returned have come on record. "The first amendment was made to section 23 of the NAB law in May and the second in June. References returned before May are still with NAB. Who will answer these questions on behalf of NAB?" the CJP inquired. To this, counsel Haris said that many pending cases had been returned after the amendments. "Be it corruption in state assets, smuggling or illegal transfer of capital, action should be taken," the CJP said, adding that it was disappointing that these crimes are not clearly defined in the law.

At this, Justice Mansoor asked: "Wouldn't it be strange that the state should ask why the punishment was reduced in the amendments of the parliament?" "Can crimes be eliminated by retroactive application of NAB amendments?" the CJP asked, wondering what's the purpose of applying the law to the past events. At this Justice Mansoor asked: "Does parliament not have the power to legislate retroactively?"

"Can the Supreme Court tell the parliament that you made a law based on cunning and malice?" He said that if the apex court did not have the authority to amend the

legislation of the parliament, then it will have to follow it. However, Justice Ahsan contended that parliament is not allowed to do everything.

"Parliament cannot eliminate crime by making a law applicable from the past," he said. However, Justice Mansoor reiterated his question: "What is the provision of the Constitution preventing Parliament from passing legislation with retrospective effect?" CJP Bandial added that it could have been said that the law would be applied retrospectively, but resolved cases will not be opened.

"The NAB law should have been clear," he said, asking, "Can a vague law survive?" "Adding to the chief justice's question, can the Supreme Court send laws back to Parliament?" Justice Mansoor asked. "Parliament is supreme," Chief Justice Bandial said, adding: "If you ask Parliament to reconsider the laws, what will happen in the meantime?"

"How can the amended law be sent to parliament for reconsideration?" Justice Ahsan asked. The court itself can look at the law if fundamental rights are affected, Justice Mansoor said; however, he asked it must be explained what fundamental right was affected by the NAB amendments.

"Corruption in public property affects the fundamental right of every citizen of the country," Justice Ahsan observed.

SC rejects plea to include Musharraf's name in ECL

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday rejected the plea regarding including name of former President Pervez Musharraf in the Exit Control List (ECL).

Headed by Justice Mazahar Naqvi, a three-member bench declared the petition ineffective during the hearing. Justice Naqvi questioned if the application had lost its effectiveness?

The petitioner argued that if the petition had been filed six years ago, it would have had an impact, as their concerns were proven right when Musharraf left and did not return. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail responded by saying, "Let Allah decide now," and the petitioner agreed, stating that they would now leave it in Allah's hands. Finally, the court dismissed the petition to include Musharraf's name in the ECL.

Sino-Pak joint air drills commences

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Sino-Pak joint annual air exercise Shaheen-X has commenced in the Jiuyan and Yinchuan cities of Northwest China. PAF's lead fighter aircraft J-10 C and JF-17 are participating in the exercise along with air and ground crew.

People's Liberation Army Air Force and Pakistan Air Force have been conducting Shaheen joint exercises since 2011 which are being hosted by both countries on an alternate basis. Shaheen exercise aims to enhance the aerial combat practices, operational readiness, promoting interoperability and creating synergy amongst the participating strategic & time-tested allies in the region.

Moreover, incorporation of features like hybrid warfare, cyberspace and computing in this air exercise would augment Pakistan Air Force's effectiveness in the dynamic and evolving landscape of modern warfare. The exercise would leverage the iron-brother countries to develop a comprehensive defence strategy to further consolidate their capacity of safeguarding their aerial boundaries in the face of shared challenges.

The tenth joint aerial exercise between the venerable People's Liberation Army Air Force and Pakistan Air Force heralds a remarkable endeavour to strengthen the bonds of camaraderie and unity between the Air Forces of both the countries. The exercise is all set to elevate the caliber of practical combat training for participating adroit pilots and valiant personnel. Through such joint ventures, PAF reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster regional harmony, international security and perpetual advancement in its own prowess.

SC moved against BHC verdict

QUETTA (PPI): A petition was filed in the Supreme Court (SC) against a decision of the Balochistan High Court (BHC) under which a plea against showing the population of Balochistan less in the new census had been disposed of.

The petition, filed by Hassan Kamran, son of Kamran Murtaza Advocate, demanded that the SC annul the August 29 decision of the BHC. "In the new census, seven million people have been removed from the population of Balochistan. At the final stage of the census, the population of Balochistan was 21.7 million," the petition stated. "[But] the Bureau of Statistics said that the population of Balochistan was 14.9 million.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting on Petroleum Division.

Sugar smuggling on the rise at Torkham border

Public servants' involvement in cross-border smuggling costs public with inflated sugar

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Due to unserious initiatives by the local administration and food department, sugar is excessively smuggled to Afghanistan via Torkham border, locals said. A local sugar smuggler said that he smuggled 70 of 50 kg bags daily in his vehicle in three trips from Landi Kotal to Torkham by paying Rs10 thousand to food department, administration and police officials at Michni checkpoint.

Maximum number of Afghanistan bound trucks, loaded with export or transit goods involved in the unlawful business, he opined. As compared to last week's 150 kg rate of sugar, presently 190 rupees kg has been the noted price of the commodity in the local market.

Layman expressed deep concern over the unprecedented rise in the price of sugar and said it was an additional burden put on the middle class citizen who priorly could not feed his family three times meal,

in view of the poor economic condition in the country.

A local taxi driver, Bakhmal Khan said that his income was decreasing while prices of daily usage increased and the incompetent officials intended to deprive the poor of their right of living. He went on that under the nose of the concerned officials; loaded vehicles of sugar, smuggled from Landi Kotal warehouses to Afghanistan through Torkham border at night compelled them to buy sugar 190 rupees per kg in the local market.

Zahoor Khan, retail seller in Landi Kotal bazaar said that rapid change in sugar rate from the wholesale dealers not only confused shopkeepers but also the consumers.

In one day, the price of the sugar was raised to 500 rupees per 50 kg bag, he added and said because of uncertainty prevailing in the market pertaining to the price of sugar, the selling rate of the commodity was different from the price in the evening.

When a wholesaler of sugar and ghee in the local bazaar, Nasrullah Afridi was asked about the quick rise in price of sugar he added that the mill owners of sugar were responsible for the price hike of the commodity. He maintained that as for smuggling purposes, demand of sugar in the national market was raised therefore the mill owners increased the rate of sugar.

Commenting on the matter in a statement, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Khyber office stated that the district administration strived hard to halt illegal export of sugar smuggling however the initiatives would be effective if the entire concerned department collectively vow to stop it.

It further stated that so far 56250 kg of smuggling sugar had been confiscated by the administration officials in raids carried out in Landi Kotal and Torkham. As per reliable source as many as 0.4 lakh tons of sugar has been smuggled to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Parvez Elahi yet again, rearrested by CTD

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Liberty eluded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi once again on Tuesday as the former Punjab chief minister was taken into custody by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) shortly after being released by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police in compliance with the orders of the IHC, the spokesperson added. He will be produced before an anti-terrorism court in Islamabad on Wednesday (tomorrow), the sources added.

On March 18, charged PTI workers broke the security barrier of the Federal Judicial Complex to enter its premises in a show of solidarity with the party's Chairman Imran Khan when he reached there in a case relating to Toshakhana gifts. Ahead of Khan's arrival at Islamabad's Judicial Complex, the area was put on high security to ensure law and order and avoid any untoward situation. The situation worsened when the PTI workers suddenly began pelting stones at the authorities inside the premises of the complex, resulting in tear-gas being spread to the courtroom where the hearing was to be conducted.

The former ruling party's

workers also heavily damaged three police mobiles and used slingshots to hit law enforcers with stones, which forced police to fire teargas at them. Due to the violence that erupted inside the complex, the judge allowed the former prime minister to mark his attendance from his car and exempted him from attending the hearing in the courtroom. While PTI workers clashed with police and caused damage to public property.

The very next day, a terrorism case had been registered against PTI workers at the CTD police station for vandalism at the capital's judicial complex during Imran Khan's appearance at the court in the Toshakhana case. The case was registered under various sections of 10 crimes including terrorism against arrested the PTI workers and wanted party leaders.

About 17 leaders including Ali Amin Gandapur, Murad Saeed, Aamir Mehmood Kiani, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz, Asad Umar, Omar Ayub Khan, Ali Nawaz Awan, Hassaan Niazi were named in the first information report (FIR). "About two police vehicles and seven motorcycles were burned, and the official vehicle of the station house officer (SHO) was damaged," it added.

Three abductees recovered as Kashmore sit-in continues

KASHMORE (INP): Police have announced recovery of three abductees in Kashmore as protest sit-in against abductions continued in Kashmore.

SSP Amjad Shaikh has announced recovery of three hostages from bandits including Mukhi Jagdeesh Kumar, Jaideep and Dr. Muneer Naich. In a media talk the district police official said that the police

recovered abductees in an operation in katcha area at Ghepur.

He promised recovery of other hostages from bandit gangs involved in rampant lawlessness in Kashmore and adjoining districts of Sindh. It is pertinent to mention here that heavily armed bandits had kidnapped

Ahmad Naich from his private clinic within the limits of Guddu police station last month.

Eyewitnesses said that Dr. Munir Naich was abducted by four armed bandits who came on motorcycles when he was sitting at his private clinic. The kidnappers held all the staff and patients present in the clinic hostage.

ISPR releases new song on eve of Defence Day

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has released new song to pay tribute to the martyrs on Defence Day.

The song is written by renowned lyricist Khalilur Rehman Qamar. 'Qurban Huway' is sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and the song was composed by Naveed Naushad.

All the martyrs of army, air force and navy have been paid rich tributes in the video. The song is an excellent depiction of thousands of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for this motherland. The sons of the soil sacrificed their lives to protect this land and video of 'Qurban Huway' showed it in an excellent way.

Meanwhile, Defence and Martyrs Day will be observed today to pay tribute to the martyrs and ghazis, and reaffirm commitment to defend the motherland against all threats.

It was on this day in 1965 that the Indian forces crossed international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan, but our valiant armed forces backed by the entire nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy. The day laid dawn with 31-gun salute at the federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals.

Special prayers will be offered after Fajr in mosques for the progress and prosperity of the country and independence of the occupied Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of India. Fateha and Quran Khwai will also be held for the martyrs.

Italian Navy ship visits Pakistan

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Italian Navy Ship MOROSINI visited Karachi and conducted bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy. Upon arrival at Karachi Port, Italian Navy Ship was warmly welcomed by senior officials of Pakistan Navy and Ambassador of Italy.

On completion of the port visit, Pakistan Navy Ship SHAHJAHAN with embarked helicopter and PAF fighters carried out sea exercise with visiting Italian ship to enhance interoperability between both navies. The sea exercise is aimed to strengthen mutual professional skills through cooperation and learning from each other's experience.

Concurrent to ship's visit, Director of Military Personnel of the Italian Navy, Vice Admiral Andrea GUEGLIO visited Pakistan and called-on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and avenues for future collaboration to enhance regional maritime security were discussed. An Italian Defence Industries delegation led by Chairman M/s Fincantieri, General (Retd) Claudio GRAZIANO (former Italian COAS) also visited Karachi to showcase capabilities of Italian defence industry and ship-building.

US ambassador calls on Punjab CM

LAHORE (APP): U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome, accompanied by U.S. Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins, called on caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Tuesday. According to U.S. Mission spokesperson Jonathan Lalley, opportunities for increased U.S. trade and investment, importance of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of religious minorities, and respect for democracy and rule of law came under discussion during the meeting.

Ambassador Blome reiterated his commitment to expanding U.S.-Pakistan economic ties and cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

CM inspects development projects in city: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited "Punjab Quaid District Project" in the Center Point area, Lahore, specifically inspecting progress on the Center Point Underpass Project along Walton Road CBD (Central Business District).

During the visit, CBD

officials briefed the CM on the newest underpass in Lahore, highlighting the installation of soft lights designed for safe driving, a first-of-its-kind feature in an underpass in the city. CBD CEO Imran Amin briefed the CM on the "Punjab Quaid District Project," and revealed that the earthwork for the road from Center Point to the Walton Overhead Bridge had been completed and was scheduled for asphalt laying by September 15. Once completed, this connection between Center Point and Walton Road was expected to reduce travel time to just three minutes.

The briefing further informed that the Akbar Chowk project was slated to become a state-of-the-art addition to Lahore, with plans to complete the Ghora Chowk and ADA Nala projects within their respective time lines.

The CM also assessed the commencement of the overhead bridge project on the Walton railway track. He issued directives to expedite the Walton Overhead Bridge project and ensure effective

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hayat Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muzam Begum citizen number 16101118/0888 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Zahida Bibi (Daughter) 2. Hayat Muhammad (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, MAHDAN-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Haseba Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Saad Hussain citizen number 1330203453542 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Haseba Bibi (Mother) 2. Mumtaz Ahmad (Father)

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

PID(I) 1476/23

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, HARIPUR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jehangir Tariq with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan citizen number 1330133132283 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Alamgir Tariq (Son) 2. Jehangir Tariq (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, HARIPUR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shah Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shah Wali citizen number 1310109659957 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Bibi Afza (Daughter) 2. Bakht Jan (Spouse) 3. Shah Hussain (Son) 4. Shah Zaib (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, ABBOTABAD-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Khatyat Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ahmad Ali citizen number 1730128167957 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Haseba Nadeem (Daughter) 2. Fouzia Abdus Samad (Spouse) 3. Abdul Basit (Son) 4. Muhammad Fahd (Son) 5. Muhammad Saad (Son) 6. Abdul Wasae Samad (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Nadeem Haider with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Haider Zaman Khan citizen number 1330113270663 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Ibrat Sultana (Daughter) 2. Nighat Khan (Daughter) 3. Nadeem Haider (Son) 4. Akhtar Zaman (Son) 5. Qamar Zaman Khan (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, HARIPUR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hazrat Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muzball Khan citizen number 1730113733539 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Nakhima (Daughter) 2. Shah Jehana (Daughter) 3. Bibi Anwarzia (Daughter) 4. Naseema (Daughter) 5. Safina (Daughter) 6. Shah Hussain (Son) 7. Sami Ullah (Son) 8. Ahsan Ullah (Son) 9. Hazrat Hussain (Son) 10. Shah Faisal (Son)

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

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, ROAD-DSFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Saad Hafeez with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Hafeez Ur Rehman citizen number 1310109075191 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Maghina Hafeez (Daughter) 2. Ruksana Bibi (Spouse) 3. Zain Ul Abideen (Son) 4. Saad Hafeez (Son)

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

PID(I) 1476/23

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA, HARIPUR-SFU

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids (in accordance with PPRA Rule No. 36(b) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pak Rs.:-

Description & Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis PKR (Price)
Procurement of New IP-EPABX system for Faisalabad Airport (With Installation & Commissioning) HQCAA/1992/214/XXLN	2,500/-	Rs. 693,850/-	26-09-2023 1100 Hours	26-09-2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	25-09-2023	F.O.R.

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in Bidding documents downloadable from the website www.caapakistan.com.pk (visible / downloadable after publication/ uploading of invitation to bid notice) and obtainable physically from the address given below on any working day between 0900 Hrs to 1230 Hrs by paying Bid Fee (non-refundable) through deposit slip in Account No. 6-1-2-20614-714-115525 (Title of account "Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority") in Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd. Star Gate Branch Karachi and submitting the request letter along with bank deposit slip, proof of Active Taxpayer, GST/NTN certificates of the bidder. No Bidding Documents would be issued on the Bid opening date. Bids must be dropped in Bid drop Box placed at under mentioned office by or before due date as per schedule.

Note: All bidders downloading the bidding document from CAA website shall immediately inform PCAA through intimation letter (along with proof of active taxpayer list [ATL for sales tax and income tax] of FBR) at the address below OR on email: sajid.noor@caapakistan.com.pk, for inclusion in subsequent communication. PCAA will not be responsible for any lack of communication or non-receipt of information/intimation letter by bidders due to ignorance / violation of this instruction.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.

PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder, if found fake or got dishonored at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

Additional Director, Logistics (ANS),
Logistics Center (South), HQs Civil Aviation Authority,
JIAP Karachi Pakistan Tel: 021-9907-2265 Fax: 021-99242675

PID(K)#723/23

www.caapakistan.com.pk

Ministry of Science & Technology
Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TENDER ENQUIRY NO: PLC/UCCC/2022/003

PCSIR Head Office, Islamabad (PCSIR) invites sealed tender under the Project titled "Up-gradation of Calibration Centre Capabilities, PCSIR Labs. Complex, Peshawar" from well reputed & registered Manufacturers, Sole Agents, Authorized Dealers, Suppliers and Government Contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department and who are on Active Tax Payer on List of FBR for the "Procurement of Laboratory Equipment and Accessories."

S. No.	Name of Item	Quantity
1.	Universal Dial Indicator Testing Machine	1
2.	Scale and Measuring Tape Calibration Unit	1
3.	Pneumatic dead-weight tester	1
4.	Electronic Deadweight Tester	1
5.	Hydro Static Pressure Testing Machine (UPVC, PE, PRC-C pipes)	1
6.	AC withstanding Voltage Tester up to 11 kV	1
7.	Digital Profile Projector	1
8.	Compression Load Cells with Digital Console	1
9.	Wireless Data Loggers	1
10.	Calibration standards for testing the wavelength accuracy of spectrophotometer	1

Terms & Conditions:

- Tender document containing specifications of Laboratory Equipment along with terms & conditions can be collected from the address mentioned below during office hours on payment of Rs. 3,000/- (Non-Refundable) in cash.
- The sealed Bid prepared in accordance with the instruction in the bidding documents along with brochure /specification of Laboratory Equipment must reach this office before 11:00 A.M on 21.09.2023 which will be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M by the Tender Opening Committee in front of the representatives of the bidders at PCSIR Head Office, G-5/2, Islamabad.
- Single stage two envelopes process shall be adopted. A single package containing two separate envelopes shall be submitted by the bidder. The envelopes shall be marked as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion.
- 2% earnest money is to be deposited in shape of bank draft/call deposit from any scheduled bank in favor of Project Director, PCSIR along with the Tender form.
- The place of delivery will be PCSIR Laboratories, Complex, Peshawar on F.O.R basis.
- This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk and www.pcsir.gov.pk.

The Director (Technology) PID(I) 1453/23
PCSIR Head Office, 1-Consitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad
Ph: 051-9225395-99 (Ext#251) Website: www.pcsir.gov.pk Email: technologywing@yahoo.com

6th September
Defence Day

مزدوروں اور ان کی فیملی کیلئے صحت علان کی سہولت

انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کڈنی ڈیزیز برن اینڈ ٹراما سنٹر پشاور

نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کڈنی ڈیزیز لاہور

نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کارڈیو و اسکولر ڈیزیز سکھر سندھ (NICVD)

مختارے شیخ ہسپتال ملتان

قوم کے جری جوانوں کو ہمارا خراج عقیدت

قوم کی خدمت بہار شکار

وزیراعظم پاکستان و معاون خصوصی وزیراعظم برائے ادورسین پاکستانیز اور ہیومن ریسورس ڈیولپمنٹ کا پیغام

"اس یوم دفاع کے موقع پر ہم اپنے بہادر سپاہیوں کے غیر متزلزل جذبے اور قربانیوں کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں۔ افواج پاکستان اور ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ خوشحال پاکستان اور ورکرز کی فلاح کیلئے پرعزم اور متحد ہیں۔"

6 ستمبر 2023 دفاع پاکستان کے دن ہم اس عہد کی تجدید کرتے ہیں کہ نئے پاکستان کو ایک مزدور دوست فلاحی مملکت بنانے کیلئے شب و روز کوشاں رہیں گے۔

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ کے قابل ذکر کارنامے

- شادی گرانٹ - 200,000/- روپے سے بڑھا کر - 400,000/- روپے
- ٹرانسپورٹ کی رقم 1500 روپے سے بڑھا کر - 6000 روپے کر دی گئی ہے
- کے پی کے میں فانا کے نئے ضم شدہ علاقوں میں ہیپتالوں کو ایوبیوسٹر کی فراہمی
- آلہ سماعت کی امداد / مصنوعی اعضا / جوائنٹ اور امپلانٹ، مالی امداد، بجلی کے باکس

ریٹپارچ اینڈ سولر ٹیج کے ساتھ

ملک بھر میں میرج گرانٹس، ڈیجیٹل گرانٹس اور تعلیمی وظائف

ڈیجیٹل گرانٹ - 400,000/- روپے سے بڑھا کر - 800,000/- روپے

WWF میں ورکرز کی سہولت کیلئے بہت ستر کا افتتاح کر دیا گیا ہے

کے پی کے میں فانا کے نئے ضم شدہ علاقوں میں کمیونٹی سنٹر کا قیام

سلائی مشین، سائیکل، وہیل چیئر، دائمی بیماریوں کا علاج، سولر ٹینگ، ای کامرس ٹریننگ، زون-V

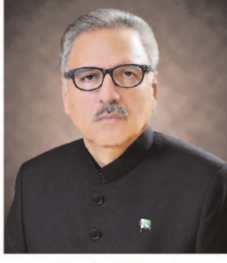
میں VTI یونیورسٹی، میڈیکل، بائیومیڈیکل لیب اور ٹیکنالوجی کی تربیت اور لیب ٹاپ کی تقسیم۔

وزارت سمندر پار پاکستانیز و ترقی انسانی وسائل، حکومت پاکستان

ورکرز ویلفیئر فنڈ

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OUR MARTYRS OUR PRIDE



Dr. Arif Alvi
President
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

We observe 6th of September as Defence & Martyrs Day to pay tribute to our martyrs and their families who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. On this day, 58 years ago, our Armed Forces and the entire Pakistani nation displayed extraordinary courage and indomitable spirit, and thwarted the evil designs of the enemy. The 1965 War stands out in our history as a symbol of unwavering national resolve, preparedness, professionalism, patriotism and sacrifice. The sons of soil fearlessly fought against the enemy and wrote a shining chapter in history.

Today, we salute the martyrs who laid down their lives for the homeland, and also honour their families for setting examples of sacrificing their loved ones for country's defence. Our Ghazis deserve respect for giving a tit-for-tat response to enemy's attacks on Lahore, Sialkot and other sectors. Our soldiers and the nation fought with passion in 1965 and they continue to display the same courage, commitment and professional excellence in all testing times. They have displayed the same spirit during the two-decade-long war against terrorism and extremism. Our successes in this asymmetrical war are testimony to our Armed Forces' capacity to evolve into a unique force having the ability to match the modern-day combat requirements.

On this day, we reiterate Pakistan's commitment to peace and its policy of peaceful coexistence. We are aware of our national as well as international obligations and are playing our part towards world peace under the banner of the United Nations. Our own region is awaiting the resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which needs international community's immediate attention. This dispute has to be resolved as per the UN Security Council Resolutions for ensuring peace, security, and development in the region. Today, we also remember the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, women and children, which they have rendered during the decades-long struggle for their right to self-determination. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for their right to choose their own destiny.

This day also calls for keeping always first the sovereignty of state and integrity and honour of our motherland. Pakistan is the centre of our hopes. On this Defence & Martyrs Day, we continue to honour and respect the sons and daughters of soil, who never hesitate in giving their own life for the defence of motherland, its development and prosperity.

Armed Forces of Pakistan, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.



Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar
Caretaker Prime Minister
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The 6 September is remembered as the day of vigor, bravery, courage and resilience. It stands out in history as a symbol of national pride, integrity and sovereignty. On this day, 58 years ago, our valiant Armed forces proved that they are ever vigilant and ready to safeguard the territorial integrity and geographical boundaries of our beloved homeland at all costs. This glorious day, where the entire Pakistani nation stood side by side with its Armed Forces, calls upon us to make a pledge to renew the spirit of loyalty and service to Pakistan and pay tribute to valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation.

On this day, the brave Pakistani nation displayed unprecedented strength with faith, unity and discipline that galvanized the armed forces - Army, Air Force and Navy. The defence of the country is not limited to 6 September alone, rather stretches upon an entire lifetime and encompasses all dimensions of physical and ideological frontiers, which need to be guarded. The brave sons of soil, especially the Shuhada who laid down their lives but did not let the enemy move an inch to fulfil its nefarious designs and the entire Pakistani nation deserve salutes.

Today, when Pakistan is confronted with multiple security challenges in the shape of extremism, terrorism and external aggression, the entire nation stands united alongside Pakistan Defence Forces, to thwart evil designs against the integrity and prosperity of Pakistan. The world also acknowledges the role our armed forces played in maintaining peace in various countries under the UN Peacekeeping Missions. We are committed to following the policy of peace as a hallmark of our foreign policy.

The unresolved dispute of Jammu and Kashmir remains a big threat to regional peace and security. The international community must come forward and play its due role in resolving this longstanding issue. Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir until they achieve their right to self-determination through an impartial plebiscite in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Today, the whole nation stands united with utmost discipline and unwavering faith to make Pakistan strong. With hard work and dedication, we will make Pakistan unassailable against security and economic challenges. I once again pay homage to the martyrs of September 6, 1965 and all those who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the country in the subsequent years. Together with the backing of our nation, we shall not let go of the sacrifices of Shuhada and Ghazis who deserve the fullest of honors in the most befitting manner.

Armed Forces of Pakistan, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.



Lt General Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd)
Federal Minister for Defence
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

6th September is a milestone in the annals of our national history. It reminds us of the indomitable courage and unparalleled sacrifices rendered by our Armed Forces for the defence of our Motherland. We hold our **SHUAHADA** and **GHAZIS** in high esteem and are profoundly indebted to them for offering the ultimate sacrifice and thwarting nefarious designs of the enemy.

Pakistan is a responsible state with impregnable defence. Over the years, Pakistan's defence capability has evolved substantially and **Alhamdulillah**, the country has made significant strides towards self-reliance in the field of defence. The entire nation and Government of Pakistan commend the sacrifices, professionalism and grit of our Armed Forces.

I would like to reiterate on this occasion that Pakistan will continue to contribute towards promoting peace in the world. Pakistan will Insha Allah soon rise above all challenges and as always our Armed Forces, with their valor and bravery, will continue to defend every inch of our sacred land.

On this historic day, let us renew our pledge to remain united, vigilant and ready for the defence of our beloved country at all costs. May Allah give us the courage and strength to live up to the expectations of our valiant nation, Aameen!

Pakistan Armed Forces, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.

عظیم شہیدوں اور غازیوں کو ہمارا سلام

بیرونی جارحیت، قدرتی آفات یاد ہشت گردی کا انتشار
پاک فوج، دفاع وطن کیلئے ہمیشہ تیار!

یوم دفاع پاکستان

ستمبر



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In brief

PSF holds protest
F.P. Report

SHAH DADKOT: People's Students Federation (SPSF) protested in front of the press club while patrolling the city from Brohi Mohalla with a picture of WAPDA on a donkey against the payment of excess electricity bills and taxes. The demonstration was carried out. Placards and banners were held in the hands of the demonstrators, on which the slogans of WAPDA people's cruelty were written. Members of the Central Council of Shaheed Bhutto Lala Abdul Hafeet Pathan, Muhammad Jan Brohi, Comrade Ayaz Hussain Mirjat and other activists protested and said that the storm of inflation has crushed the people's right to live after the caretaker government was imposed in the country. Artificial inflation, the prices of petroleum products are being increased, but the government does not care about the people, while the poor working people. In order to feed their children, they have been forced to commit suicide due to inflation. They have demanded that the artificial storm of inflation should be regulated so that relief facilities are available to the people of Sindh province. Meanwhile, a sit-in was held by the civil society against the relocation of NADRA office in Shahdadkot at Koto Moto Chowk. The speakers said that the NADRA office was established in the city at the convenience of the citizens, which is being moved three kilometers outside the city, which is a complete abuse and injustice to the people of the tehsil. He demanded the Director General NADRA and Regional Director NADRA. The transfer program of NADRA office from the city should be canceled keeping in mind the facilities of the citizens, otherwise we will be forced to take extreme measures, the responsibility of which will be imposed on this administration of NADRA.

119 affected with chickenpox
F.P. Report

CHITRAL: The number of people affected by chickenpox disease crossed the 100 figure in areas of Upper Chitral, said District Coordinator EPI, Dr Wali Khan on Tuesday. He said, in Laspoore valley of Upper Chitral, 34 school children including the head mistress of Government Girls Middle School, Harchin were found affected with the chickenpox. After the spread of chickenpox in the area, he said the provincial government had issued a red alert, following which a people awareness campaign was started in all the villages of Mastuj tehsil. Meanwhile, he said in Barep, Sur Laspoore, Broke, Booni and Seht village of Morkhore tehsil, dozens of children were found affected with the disease. Dr Wali Khan said a total of 119 people, mostly children, were affected by the chickenpox in Upper Chitral. He said reports of chickenpox spread were also received from the far-flung valley of Tarich in Upper Chitral.

Blind murder case solved

MANSEHRA (INP): The Shinkari police claimed to have solved a blind murder case within 24 hours and arrested two accused here on Tuesday. According to police sources, the accused were identified as Ali, 19 years old and Israr, 16 years old both sons of Omar Din. The motive behind this murder was a domestic dispute between the two brothers. Further probe was underway.

Special children to titled with 'Stori Da Mardan'

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Mayor Mardan city Hamayatullah Khan Mayar on Tuesday said that in order to boost the morale of special children through the enhancement of their auditory and visual abilities, they would soon be included in the "Stori Da Mardan Program".

"Under this program, special children who gets positions will also be awarded incentives and certificates," he added. Mayor Mardan City Hamayatullah Khan Mayar made these claims while addressing a program held at the Special Education Complex Mardan.

On the occasion, cash rewards and certificates were distributed among special children who achieved success in metric results. A significant number of special children and their teachers participated in the program. Addressing to participants of the program, Mr. Hamayatullah Khan Mayar said that the Mardan City Local Government would take initiatives to provide modern machinery, audio therapy machines for children, and new kits for them.

"Cooperation will be extended to fulfill ongoing issues and other basic necessities at the Special Education Complex, aiming to provide special children with the best and conducive learning environment. The treatment and examination of these spe-

cial children are a reflection of our society, and they deserve respect and special attention. This will enable these children to become better individuals for society," he added.

He praised the organization for its 40-year commitment to serving special children in education, training, and their mental development, creating a better learning environment for them. He also extended appreciation to all teachers of the Special Education Complex and educators in other institutions, acknowledging their hard work in educating and motivating these special children to excel and progress.

Mayor Mardan Hamayatullah Khan congratulated the special children who succeeded in their metric results and expressed happiness over their achievements. He instructed relevant officials to prepare reports on pending issues and requirements so that work on them could be begun promptly.

LG members demands provision of funds: Various neighborhood and village council chairmen of Mardan district have demanded that the funds released by the Provincial Finance Commission for office expenses are insufficient the process of disenfranchisement of Mardan district should be stopped and its share should be given according to its population. Speaking at the press

conference here, Chairman Rahim Shah, Sohrab Afridi, Qari Junaid, Walid Mir, Yousuf Khan, Haji Noor Gul, Pir Salman, Mansoor Khan, Shah Khalid, Zahirullah, Muhammad Ali, Sherizad Bibi and others said that Mardan is the second largest city in the province in terms of population but this city is being deprived of its legitimate right. 153 deputy and village councils of Nowshera district have been given 1 lakh 8 thousand rupees per council in monthly expenses, 70 thousand rupees to Haripur district with 23 NC, VC while Mardan district 31 thousand were issued for 231 NC, VC which is injustice which we reject.

He said that two years have passed since the municipal elections, but neither the powers have been assigned nor the funds of one rupee have been given. He said that most of the representatives, due to lack of office rent and expenses, removed the offices and transferred the goods to their homes and rooms. After the immediate decision was pronounced on the case, the local body representatives took out a protest rally in which the women councilors also participated and raised slogans in favor of the demands and said that if our legitimate demands are not accepted, they will protest and resign in front of the Supreme Court.



MANSEHRA: KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the 13th convocation of Hazara University.

Awareness about pollution
Umm-e-Fizza

POLLUTION, in all its forms, is wreaking havoc on our environment. From the air we breathe to the water we drink, pollution is causing serious harm. It's not just affecting nature, but also our own health and the well-being of wildlife.

We need to shed light on the different types of pollution, such as air, water, and land pollution. By understanding the sources and consequences of pollution, we can take steps to combat it. It's crucial to emphasize the importance of reducing waste, supporting renewable energy, and adopting eco-friendly practices in our daily lives.

Let's join hands and spread awareness about pollution. Together, we can make a positive impact and create a cleaner, healthier planet for future generations.

Thanks for listening, and let's take action!

PRCS commitment in health bring hope in BHU

F.P. Report

MIRAN SHAH: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department and the Norwegian Red Cross has made the first-ever baby birth at the Balochkot Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Upper South Waziristan.

The dedicated health staff of the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Balochkot successfully ensured a safe and healthy delivery for the proud parents. After a series of regular check-ups, the delivery was conducted, resulting in the birth of a beautiful and healthy baby.

Following the birth, the trained health staff meticulously examined both the mother and the child, providing necessary instructions and medications. The mother and child were discharged in good health, with the added honor of receiving a birth certificate issued by the Pakistan Red Crescent health staff.

PRCS Merged Areas spokesperson Salman Ali Shah expressed his satisfaction with this landmark achievement. He stated, "We are proud of our dedicated health staff who have demonstrated their commitment to providing quality healthcare services to the community. This successful delivery is a testament to our efforts in enhancing maternal and child healthcare in the region."

The Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Merged Areas, Imran Khan Wazir, commended the collaborative efforts that made this achievement possible. He said, "The Basic Health Unit (BHU) Balochkot has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department and the Norwegian Red Cross. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when organizations come together for the betterment of society."

The Basic Health Unit (BHU) Balochkot is one of

the two BHUs in Upper South Waziristan established by the Pakistan Red Crescent in adherence to international standards. These health facilities are fully staffed, equipped with essential medicines, and provide ambulance services to the local population.

PRCS secretary Syed Kamal highlighted the ongoing efforts in the region, saying, "The Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Norwegian Red Cross continue to collaborate with PRCS in establishing free & Stranded health facilities in Upper South Waziristan."

Additionally, PRCS is actively involved in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives within the local communities, aiming to reduce the prevalence of diseases and promote a healthier society. Several water supply schemes have already been completed, and others are in progress. Hygiene kits are also being distributed to further improve living conditions."

Tehsil council members hold protest against inflation

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Tehsil Council protested against the ongoing inflation and a local government representatives not giving authority and threatened to take to the streets in favor of the demands.

Tehsil Chairman Timergara Mufti Irfanuddin TMO Kashif Rasheed, TOR Hanifur Rahman, Finance Officer Badshah Muhammad and many local representatives attended the meeting. Members of Tehsil Council Mian Ahmed Sadiq, Maulana Nabi Shah, Muhammad Ibrahim, Shahab Umani addressed the meeting. Sarzamin Khan, Sadwish Kumar,

Sultan Muhammad, Mian Sajid, Kaleemullah Sarhadi, Yusuf Khan and others said that despite the passage of more than a year, the local government representatives did not get funds or authority due to which the local government system was completely paralyzed.

And now the authority to sign has been withdrawn from the local government representatives, which is injustice and abuse of the local government representatives. They do not cooperate, funds are not available to solve the small problems of the people and local government representatives have not been able to show their faces to the

people. There is no peace for the people. The local body representatives threatened and said that if they are not given powers and funds, they will come out on the streets very soon.

Tehsil Chairman Timergara Mufti Irfanuddin said that the government authorities are correct in their Qiblah. Do it and those government officials who don't cooperate, then don't expect cooperation from us. They have formed a committee to solve the problems of the local body representatives, which will meet the governor and caretaker chief minister and inform about their problems and problems.

ECP empowering marginalized communities

Shabir Khan

THE inclusion of women and their participation in electoral process is extremely significant for the progress and happiness of any society in the world. It is crucial that women in Pakistan also actively participate in political activities along with their men for realizing the dream of a progressive and vibrant society. Equal participation of men and women is a fundamental political, economic, social and human right. The Universal Declaration for Human Rights-1948, in its first article declared that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

These guiding principles became part of all the subsequent international, regional, and national laws for the comity of nations. Developed societies that have recognized and acted upon this principle have embarked on a journey of political, economic, social, and human advancements which were once seems impossible. After the creation of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the country not only became member of several international and regional organizations but Pakistan also signed and ratified many bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions whereby Pakistan as a member state, pledged to provide equal opportunities to men and women in political and electoral processes. These international agreements and conventions include but not limited to UDHR, CEDAW, ICCPR, CRPD, ICESD, and SDGs.

According to the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Election Act 2017, the right to vote and exercise of free will is not only women's legal and constitutional right but also their national obligation and responsibility. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is committed to ensuring that women are able to exercise their constitutional right to vote, thereby women in this country are able to participate in the electoral process of the country. Through their vote and representation in parliament, women become equal partners in the decision-making process of the country. It is the constitutional responsibility of ECP to conducted free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections which ensure that all citizens of Pakistan participate in the democratic progress of the their motherland. The ECP is taking special measures to ensure

that women in this country are able to participate freely and equally without any fear and discriminations in all stages of electoral cycle. As part of these efforts, ECP has established a full-fledged Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) Wing, headed by a woman to ensure the participation of women, transgender, people with disabilities (PWDs), and religious minorities in the electoral process. Similarly, at the provincial level, the same wing exists in provincial headquarters, with the primary objective of implementing policy guideline and modern approaches at grassroots level to provide equal opportunities to marginalized sections of the population in Pakistan's electoral processes. Since 2016, ECP has formed Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG), at Islamabad and provincial capitals that works with relevant stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs) with significant field experience in electoral issues and gender mainstreaming. Representative of Women, PWDs, Transgender and religious minority organizations are permanent members of this platform. The group meetings are held regularly at the offices of the provincial election commissioners, or at any other location if need be, where challenges and issues related to the political participation of women, transgender, PWDs, and minorities are thoroughly discussed among ECP's officials and other members. Suggestions and feedback from members are solicited and strategies are developed to address the challenges faced by the marginalized communities in the electoral process in any part of the country.

In this regard, ECP is grateful to its development partners who have always provided support and technical assistance to ECP in its efforts to provide equal opportunities to every eligible voter to take part in the electoral process of the country. Furthermore, to ensure inclusion and raise awareness among public, every year, ECP vigorously celebrates International Women's Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), International Transgender Day of Visibility, and Voter Day. These days are not only celebrated at Secretariat but in all provinces with the aim to educate general public on electoral issues, mobilize political will and resources to address challenges, and to celebrate ECP's achievements in social inclusion in

electoral arena.

In line with the ECP's third Strategic Plan 2019-2023, ECP is implementing numerous policy options to ensure that all eligible citizens, especially women and socially excluded classes, obtain identity cards and are included as voters. For this purpose, ECP welcomed and entered into a collaboration with its development partners and stakeholders such as NADRA, civil society organizations (CSOs), political parties, media, and parliamentarians. As guided by its strategic plan, affirmative actions have been taken to facilitate female staff and socially excluded groups, especially in terms of separate restrooms, day-care facilities, separate space for prayer, special measures for transport during elections, strict compliance to the prescribed government quotas in recruitment and favorable consideration in transfers and posting decisions.

Furthermore, to ensure that the office environment is secure and conducive for women and socially excluded groups, an overarching framework is being established through Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) to supports and complements the effective implementation of the ECP's Strategic Plan. In order to achieve these objectives, ECP has conducted multiple consultations workshops, round-table and focused group discussions (FDGs) and debriefs with all stakeholders in all four provinces of the country which has resulted in the first draft of GMSIF document in line with the international standards and protocols which will soon be presented to the Commission for approval. As a legal framework, Elections Act 2017 ensure women's equal participation in elections. There are several provisions that encourage and deals with the women participation in electoral process. One of these provisions binds ECP to conduct polling in any constituency where women's turnout is less than 10% of the total votes polled on the election day. Moreover, any action that prevents women from voting or participating in elections is now considered a crime. A per the Elections Act 2017 political parties are now required to nominate at least 5% women candidates on general seats. ECP is also encouraging the establishment of polling stations specifically for women, where female polling staff are deputed on election day. ECP research and baseline

surveys suggest that in addition to other reasons, the main reason for women's low turnout on poll day is because women as voter are less registered than men. A few years ago, the voter lists in Pakistan recorded gender gap of 12% on voter lists. This means that 12% of women in Pakistan, who are eligible to vote, were not able to participate in the electoral process due to the lack of an National Identity Card (NIC). As per the Elections Act 2017, on urgent basis, ECP took several measures to reduce the gender gap. These measures included ECP-NADRA Joint Campaign for Women NIC/Voter Registration in all districts of the country.

The special campaign was launched in 2017 with its Phase-V still being implemented in many districts of the country where women can obtain their identity cards through mobile registration vans (MRVs) in their locality and do not have to travel long distances to NADRA registration centers. As a result gender gap in electoral rolls has been reduced to 8% with addition of millions of women as a voter. This is a significant success story for ECP, NADRA, other stakeholders, and people of Pakistan. ECP will continue this campaign in collaboration with all stakeholders till further minimization of gender gap whereby all eligible citizens in the country can participate in electoral process.

Along with this, District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) have been established by ECP in all districts of the country. These committees include representatives from local government, civil society organizations (CSOs) political parties and media. Monthly meetings are held on voter awareness and voter education programs to provide information to general public about the electoral process. In addition, various seminars and workshops are held at the provincial level, and special awareness programs are broadcasted on TV and social media platforms, in which election commission officials participate to provide information and guidance to public and sensitize them on the importance on a variety of subjects related to elections. The main purpose of these activities is to encourage the participations of underprivileged classes in the electoral process and inform them on ECP's special measures for providing a conducive environment for everyone to be part of Pakistan democratic process.

Martyrs of Pakistan Armed Forces have Sacrificed their lives to defend geographic boundaries of our motherland and Martyrs of ANF Sacrificed their lives to protect our youth from menace of narcotics. Their sacrifices will be remembered forever.

On the Occasion of Pakistan Defence & Martyrs Day we as a Nation pledge that we will continue our struggle to protect the sovereignty & integrity of our country.

One Nation One Destination Drug Free Pakistan

Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan

1483-D/23

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Sudan's top general meets with S Sudan's president on the war

CAIRO (AP): Sudan's top military general held talks in Juba with South Sudan's president on his second trip abroad since the war in his country started earlier this year. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, chairman of the ruling Sovereign Council, arrived in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, and was received by President Salva Kiir. Both leaders inspected an honor guard and then headed for talks that focused on regional efforts to find a settlement to the conflict in Sudan, according to the Sovereign Council.

In April, simmering tensions between the military, led by Burhan, and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in the capital and elsewhere. The fighting has reduced Sudan's capital, Khartoum, to an urban battlefield, with neither side managing to gain control of the city. The military headquarters, where Burhan has purportedly been stationed since the conflict began, has been one of the epicenters of the conflict. In the western Darfur region - the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s - the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the

United Nations. Meanwhile, in his trip to Juba, Burhan was accompanied by acting Foreign Minister Ali al-Sadiq and Gen. Ahmed Ibrahim Mufadel, head of the General Intelligence Authority, and other military officers, according to the Sovereign Council.

South Sudan's Minister of Cabinet Affairs Martin Elia Lomuro said that the South Sudanese president has a solution "to resolve the conflict" in Sudan, according to a statement by the South Sudanese presidency. "It is known that President Kiir is the only person who has intimacy and knowledge about Sudan and can find a solution to the Sudanese crisis," Lomuro said. Al-Sadiq, the Sudanese acting foreign minister, meanwhile, was quoted as saying that South Sudan is the best candidate to meditate the ongoing conflict "because we have been one country for so long and we know each other, we know the problems and we know our needs." South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after a long conflict. Early in the ongoing war in Sudan, South Sudan's Kiir attempted to mediate between the warring generals, as part of an initiative by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, an eight-member regional bloc that includes Sudan. The Sudanese leader met

with President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt last week in the Egyptian coastal city of el-Alamein. It was his first trip abroad since the war. The conflict is estimated to have killed at least 4,000 people, according to the UN human rights office, though activists and doctors on the ground say the toll is likely far higher. More than 4.8 million people have been displaced, according to the UN migration agency. Those include over 3.8 million who fled to safer areas inside Sudan and more than 1 million others who crossed into neighboring countries. The United Nations and 64 other humanitarian agencies appealed for \$1 billion to help over 1.8 million people expected to flee the war to five neighboring countries by the end of 2023. Those neighboring countries include Egypt, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The UNHCR said the funds are a two-fold increase of what was initially estimated in May, as displacement and needs continue to soar. "The crisis has triggered an urgent demand for humanitarian assistance," said Samadou Dian Balde, a regional director at the UNHCR. "It is deeply distressing to receive reports of children dying from diseases that are entirely preventable, should partners have had sufficient resources."

Two military officers are arrested in Congo

GOMA, Congo (AP): Two high-ranking military officers in northeast Congo were arrested for taking part in a crackdown on protests last week that left 43 people dead and another 56 severely injured, authorities said. Interior Minister Peter Kazadi said police arrested Commanders Mike Mikombe and Donat Bawili, who respectively headed the Republican Guard unit and the Congolese armed forces regiment in Goma, the eastern city where the violence unfolded.

Defense and security forces in the Central African nation used lethal force last Wednesday to repress planned anti-UN protests in the city. A government delegation arrived in Goma to hold hearings and other proceedings "to establish responsibility," the interior minister said. "We have no interest in hiding anything. The whole truth will be known," Kazadi said. Authorities called on families of the people killed in Goma to come forward with information for the inquiry. On Aug. 23, Goma's mayor banned a protest organized by a sect called the Natural Judaic and Messianic Faith Towards the Nations, known colloquially as Wazalendo. Its supporters planned to demonstrate against the regional East African Community organization and the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Congo. The UN mission, which is known by its French acronym of MONUSCO, has faced increased pressure to withdraw from Congo after more than two decades in the conflict-burdened country.

Advocacy group Human Rights Watch said Thursday that before the protests could take place, armed forces fired on Wazalendo demonstrators in the streets, kicking off an "apparent massacre" in the city. National authorities said 43 civilians died and 56 were badly hurt. The UN human rights office said more than 220 people were arrested in connection with the planned protests and the subsequent crackdown.

Gaza landfill fire rages for days

GAZA (Reuters): Authorities in Gaza have appealed for help to put out a fire that has been burning for days in a waste landfill site, sending foul-smelling smoke spiralling across the blockaded enclave which already suffers from severe environmental problems. "We are working day and night, but unfortunately fires may go on for at least till the end of the week," said municipality spokesperson Hosni Mhana. Boosted by a severe heat-wave, the fire, southeast of Gaza City, close to the separation fence with Israel, has been burning in an area of roughly 50,000 square metres (539,000 sq. ft) of a landfill site which has swollen in the absence of recycling facilities. "We have been unable to tolerate the smell of the fires for three days, it is not normal, you can't breathe," said Salem Abeid, 64, who lives around 1 km (0.6 mile) away from the landfill.

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S Korean teachers hold protest rally after colleague's death

SEOUL (Reuters): About 50,000 South Korean teachers rallied in Seoul to demand better protection of their rights and spotlight what they called widespread harassment by overbearing parents that has spurred some colleagues to take their lives. After a young teacher was found dead in an apparent suicide in July, complaints by public school teachers have grown sharply over mistreatment by parents and students, such as accusations of child abuse for disciplining pupils.

"To inquire is to mourn," read some of the banners displayed at the protest, which was peaceful. Legal measures had been inadequate and government officials passive when it came to protecting teachers against problems, said one teacher who participated in the rally, but gave only her surname, Lee, so as to protect her anonymity. "On top of classes, there have been unnecessarily heavy workloads and excessive complaints from students and parents," she added. "They have been a comprehensive problem, which I experienced throughout my 15 years of teaching." During the six years to June, about 100 public school teachers have committed suicide in South Korea. Fifty-seven taught at elementary schools, government data showed.

President Yoon Suk Yeol ordered officials to listen to the teachers' demands and work to protect their rights, his office said. Scores of teachers had vowed to take a leave of absence in protest, as government and school board officials scrambled to avert major disruptions of classes and promised legal steps to boost protection.

Apart from the Seoul protest, about 60,000 to 70,000 teachers held rallies elsewhere, organisers estimated. Authorities warned that collective action by teachers to disrupt classes was illegal and threatened discipli-



nary steps. The South Korean teachers' union was not involved in demonstrations, however, said the group leading the protests, Everyone Together As One. "We will protect them (the teachers) and make changes so that not one more teacher chooses to take their life," protest organisers said in a statement. In July, an elementary school teacher was found dead at school after reportedly expressing anxiety over complaints by a parent regarding a dispute among students.

Among the visitors to the memorial for the teacher set up at an elementary school in Seoul was Jung Chai-jin, 67. "They studied hard to go to education schools and became teachers because they loved children," she said. "And they have to die like this in the classroom?" Ku Bo-na, a fifth-grader from another school who also visited the memorial, said, "Teachers are those who make me grow, so it will be sad if my teacher passes away." Teachers have held nationwide vigils and demonstrations each weekend since to mourn the death, culminating in a

rally that drew as many as 200,000 teachers near the National Assembly in Seoul. South Korea has the highest rate of suicide among developed countries, data from the World Health Organisation and OECD shows, with more than 20 people per 100,000 of its population taking their lives.

The education ministry has vowed to prevent incidents of teachers being punished for legitimate educational activity, and to improve communication between teachers and parents. "The number of indiscriminate child abuse reports has been increasing, as students' rights were overly emphasised, while those of the teachers were not respected," it said in a statement. "We will support teachers so that they can focus on education, free of concerns over getting indiscriminate complaints of child abuse." The ministry set up a task force to strengthen legal measures and take steps to guarantee teachers' rights, such as not taking telephone calls from parents on their personal phones, but did not give a specific timeframe.

Court orders Okinawa to allow plan to build US military runways

TOKYO (AP): Japan's Supreme Court dismissed Okinawa's rejection of a central government plan to build US Marine Corps runways on the island and ordered the prefecture to approve it despite protests by locals who oppose the American troops' presence. Ruling upheld a high court ruling in March that the central government's plan and its instruction for Okinawa's approval are valid. It will move forward the suspended construction at a time Okinawa's strategic role is seen increasingly important for the Japan-US military alliance in the face of growing tensions with China.

Japan's central government began the reclamation work at the Henoko area on the eastern coast of Okinawa's main island in 2018 to pave the way for the relocation of the Marine Corps Futenma air station from a crowded neighborhood on the island. The government later found out about 70% of the reclamation site is on soft ground, and submitted a revision to the original plan with additional land improvement. The Okinawa prefectural government rejected the revision as insufficient

and suspended the reclamation work. The ground improvement plan requires tens of thousands of pillars and massive amounts of soil, which opponents say would damage the environment.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki has called for a significant reduction of the US military in Okinawa, the immediate closure of the Futenma base and the scrapping of the base construction in Henoko. Tamaki said he will not back down and continue with the demands despite the ruling. The Okinawa government will carefully examine the ruling to decide on a next step, he added. "The ruling is extremely disappointing because we had expected a fair and neutral judgement based on respect for the local government autonomy," Tamaki told a news conference. The ruling nullifies an independent municipal decision and could even disregard their constitutional right to local autonomy, Tamaki said. "It deeply concerns me." The Japanese and US governments initially agreed in 1996 to close the Futenma air station, a year after the rape of a schoolgirl by three US military personnel led to a

massive anti-base movement. But persistent protests and lawsuits between Okinawa and Tokyo have held up the plan for nearly 30 years. Tokyo and Washington say the relocation within Okinawa, instead of moving it elsewhere as demanded by many Okinawans, is the only solution.

Okinawa, which accounts for only 0.6% of Japanese land, is burdened with the majority of the 50,000 American troops based in the country under a bilateral security pact, and 70% of US military facilities are in Okinawa. The Japanese government in recent years has increasingly stepped up its own defenses to deal with China's growing assertiveness, triggering fear among Okinawan residents that they will be the first to be embroiled in a potential conflict. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno welcomed the ruling and said the government hopes to achieve the complete reversion to Japan of the Futenma airfield and relieve Okinawa of the burden of shouldering US military bases while providing a thorough explanation to the local community.

Reshaped Death Valley park could take months to reopen after damage from Hilary

DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION, Calif. (AP): It's unclear when Death Valley National Park will reopen to visitors after heavy rains from Tropical Storm Hilary forged new gullies and crumbled roadways at the site of one of the hottest places in the world, officials said. The storm dumped a furious 2.2 inches (6 centimeters) of rain Aug. 20, roughly the amount of rainfall the park usually receives in a year.

This year's rainfall broke its previous record of 1.7 inches (4 centimeters) in one day, set in August of last year. "Two inches of rain does not sound like a lot, but here, it really does stay on the surface," Matthew Lamar, a park ranger, told the Los

Angeles Times. "Two inches of rain here can have a dramatic impact." The park, which straddles eastern California and Nevada, holds the record for the hottest temperature recorded on the planet - 134 degrees Fahrenheit (57 degrees Celsius), reached in 1913. Officials say it could be months before the park reopens. It has been closed since Hilary, the first tropical storm to hit Southern California in 84 years, swept through the state in August. Christopher Andriessen, a spokesperson with the California Department of Transportation, also known as Caltrans, told the Times that about 900 of the park's nearly 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) of roads have been

assessed. Repair costs are estimated at \$6 million, but only for one of the park's main roads, State Route 190, and a small part of State Route 136. "We don't have a timeline yet," park spokesperson Abby Wines told The Associated Press. "Caltrans has said they expect to fully open 190 within three months, but they often are able to open parts of it earlier." Some familiar sites survived the storm, including Scotty's Castle, a popular visitor destination. Young and adult endangered pupfish at Devils Hole cavern survived, although eggs were likely smothered by sediment, the park said on social media last month.

A building marked by fire and death shows the decay of SA's 'city of gold'

JOHANNESBURG (AP): One of the few things that survived the fire and smoke that caused at least 76 horrific deaths in a rundown apartment block in Johannesburg is a circular plaque hanging on the brown brick exterior. It has a five-sentence inscription outlining the building's history.

No. 80 Albert Street - the scene of one of South Africa's worst inner-city tragedies - was a central pass office during the apartheid era of racial segregation, a checkpoint for enforcing a despised law that controlled the movement of Black people nearly everywhere in the country. Without a pass from the apartheid government to work there, people were "denied a place" in Johannesburg, the inscription reads.

What it doesn't say is that the building still saw people excluded up until last Thursday, nearly 30 years after apartheid ended, when a fire swept through it and killed dozens of South Africans and poor foreign migrants clinging on at the fringes of society in a city claiming to be Africa's richest. The approximately 200 families living there were desperate for some form of accommodation and found a five-story block that had been left

derelict and abandoned by authorities. They were paying rent to unofficial "landlords," who had illegally taken over the building. It's what is known in Johannesburg as a "hijacked building." There are hundreds of them in the crumbling city center.

They've come to embody the decay of South Africa's most important city and, beyond that, what so many view as the larger failure of a post-apartheid government to provide a dignified life for many of the poor Black majority. What appeared to anger South Africans in the aftermath of the nighttime fire that killed entire families was the admission by city officials that it was a city-owned building. Yet they hadn't taken responsibility for it or for its inhabitants, who lived in shacks crammed into every corner, even the parking garage. "This has been a long time coming and it will keep happening until the city wakes up. It's devastating," said Angela Rivers, general manager of the Johannesburg Property Owners and Managers Association. Rivers said that numerous government departments were aware of the appalling conditions of hijacked buildings across the city

center, but "they don't take it seriously." South African President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the scene of the fire, put himself among the poor of downtown Johannesburg, and tried to reassure them.

"We are a caring government," Ramaphosa said. "It may fall short, but the determination to care for the people of South Africa is a priority." The promises are wearing thin from the government of the ruling African National Congress party, which led South Africa out of apartheid and has been in power since the first democratic elections in 1994. Johannesburg is a focal point for the perceived failures. The infrastructure of the city is in deep trouble almost everywhere, from burst water pipes, cracked roads, a malfunctioning electricity supply, and trash piling up on street corners. Founded on a huge gold reef little more than 100 years ago, Johannesburg was always a destination for Black South Africans, initially men who left their wives and children to board steam trains to the city to work in the gold mines, a journey jazz great Hugh Masekela sang about in "Stimela." It is one of the most vivid songs of South Africa. The

city saw rapid and recent urbanization after apartheid and its pass laws were dismantled, going from a population of 1.8 million in 1990 to an estimated 6 million now. People keep coming to the "city of gold."

What they find now is the surrounding Gauteng province's unemployment rate of 36% - even higher than South Africa's national figure of 33%, itself the worst in the world. Around 1.2 million people in the province don't have housing, officials said, with much of the crisis playing out in Johannesburg. "The general sense is that things have gotten worse with time," said Lebogang Lechuba of the South African Cities Network, which analyses urban development. "(But) there are more people coming to the city. That does not change." The warning signs for Johannesburg began in the late 1990s as the big companies left downtown for the new financial district of Sandton, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the north. Johannesburg still has more millionaires than any other city on the continent, according to this year's World's Wealthiest Cities Report. But the chasm between the silver high-rises of Sandton and the old heart of

Johannesburg underlines why South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world.

As the money seeped away, the degradation of central Johannesburg initially was slow, said Volker von Widdern, a risk analyst for businesses, until it reached a tipping point. "One domino falls, maybe. We don't fully appreciate what the full effect of 20 dominoes falling may be," von Widdern told the Moneyweb financial news website. "It has a cumulative impact and then, unfortunately, it has a catastrophic impact." Johannesburg voters have turned away from the ruling ANC recently, but that has done nothing to enhance the city's prospects and has only led to a series of political coalitions that have failed. The city has had six mayors in less than two years.

The failure of basic infrastructure also brings a much greater threat to the social foundation of a country, said professor Yunus Ballim of Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand. Ballim, a civil engineering expert, went on national television last month following an underground gas explosion in Johannesburg about a mile from

Albert Street that was blamed on poorly maintained pipes. But what he started to speak about was that every failure to provide a house, running water, and electricity for South Africans eroded their faith in their post-apartheid democracy, which has guaranteed freedom for every citizen and no more pass laws, but hasn't yet delivered housing or jobs for millions.

Ballim posed a question on why frustrated, poor protesters sometimes burn clinics or schools. "Perhaps ... they've lost their confidence in the ability of the clinic to do what it was meant to do," he said.

Rivers, whose association works with derelict buildings in Johannesburg, said one of the most desperate situations she came across was a pregnant woman going into labor alone in the wet, cold basement of a hijacked property that had no electricity or running water. The woman, Rivers said, refused to go to a hospital because she was so scared she'd lose her place to live in the building and had no faith there'd be another home for her and her child. "This baby was born in the dark," Rivers said.

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Grain deal, will the West swallow a fly knowingly?

RECENTLY, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Russian counterpart President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea coastal resort of Sochi. Both leaders held in-depth discussions about a possible revival of the grain deal which is very crucial for easing a worsening food crisis by getting Ukrainian grain to the global market. Russia quit the deal in July a year after it was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles.

The war in Ukraine has brought unimaginable woes and diverse crises that equally affected all nations, communities, businesses, and economies across the globe. Russia and Ukraine are major producers and suppliers of food grains, and fertilizers to the rest of the world, particularly a majority of the nations to most countries in the world. After the Kremlin launched its so-called special operation against Kyiv, Ukrainian grains were stuck at Seaports, food storages and farmhouses due to Russia's blockade of Ukrainian Seaports. This situation caused a food crisis worldwide, along with blocking the provision of finances to Ukraine which was essential to strengthen Kyiv's defences against the Russian invasion. Previously, Turkey's Erdogan and the UN Secretary-General played a pivotal role in materializing the Russia-Ukraine Grain deal last year. Later, Moscow quit the agreement in July accusing Western nations of blocking Moscow's agriculture exports. Presently, Western nations have moved the UN and Turkish President to revive the grain deal to manage funds crucial to boost Ukraine's war efforts along with easing global food crises but clever Putin has prepared a tactical plan to counter Western strategy through a tit-for-tat move. Putin said Russia could return to the grain deal if the West fulfils a separate memorandum agreed with the United Nations at the same time to facilitate Russian food and fertiliser exports. Russia also demanded the West include the Russian Agricultural Bank in the SWIFT international payments system, which was previously cut off by the European Union as part of sweeping sanctions in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The reports suggest that Putin has a plan to supply up to 1 million tonnes of Russian grain to Turkey at reduced prices for subsequent processing at Turkish plants and shipping to countries most in need in prevailing food shortages. Russia aims to close a deal with six African countries over a plan to supply Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic and Eritrea with up to 50,000 tonnes of grain each free of charge. Interestingly, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan has earned great respect, and economic and monetary benefits for its nation through kinetic diplomacy during the war in Ukraine. Previously, Turkey championed the grain deal received tremendous appreciation and grabbed strategic objectives from both sides. Now Erdogan is endeavouring to strike a win-win deal that not only fulfils the economic interests of warring nations but also brings lucrative benefits to Turkey.

Currently, global competition between the US-led Western bloc and Russo-China alliance is at its peak. Both contesting groups are persuading progressing nations in Asia and Africa to join their clubs, while diverse incentives are being offered including economic grants, technical assistance, trade incentives and others. The US-Africa Summit and the Russia-Africa Summit are two conflicting ideas of major contenders, which fueled this hostility. Presently, Putin has planned to manoeuvre its economic influence in Africa on the cost of the Ukraine grain deal which would be a two-edge weapon for the West. It would not only consolidate Moscow's influence in that region but would be a great blow to US strategy in the entire continent. Putin's plan is tactical and interesting, however, time will decide whether Western nations ostensibly get swallowed a fly in favour of Ukraine or otherwise.

Sugar mafia and leaders' miligenance

SUGAR price spiked to a record high across the nation while it surged to over Rs 230 per kg in retail markets of Balochistan. The prices got a straight jump of Rs. 20 after cargo trucks halted at the Sindh-Balochistan border due ban on inter-province transportation of commodity.

A sudden sugar crisis emerged in the country in recent days, after the PDM government relinquished office and the Kakar-led interim setup took the ruins of the government about two weeks ago. The ministry claims that the country has over 2 million metric tons of sugar which is sufficient stock to fulfil domestic needs til December, while the government has ordered the import of sugar from Brazil or any other nation that can supply dearly needed commodities on an urgent basis. Meanwhile, the poor masses suffer another shock at the hands of their rulers amid an ever-growing brunt of inflation, over-billing and unscheduled electricity load shedding that turned the nation not less than havoc.

There are contradictory claims by the previous rulers and the bureaucrats sitting in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) that deals in imports/ exports of the country with the rest of the world. Mr. Dar claimed to have sufficient sugar in government stocks and termed the current crisis a result of dishonest business practices, hoarding, and overpricing by the traders along with the malignancy of the top bureaucracy and powerful sugar mafia for the sole purpose of illegal money generation. Dar criticized the PPP-led Ministry of Commerce for exporting the bulk of sugar before the start of the crushing season that led the nation to this crisis. The interim government mulls importing costly sugar from other countries to resolve the problem after the previous rulers created havoc by exporting homegrown cheap cane sugar.

Interestingly, this was not the first time that such kind of blunder had been staged by the trio-nexus of leaders, bureaucrats and cartel through a pre-planned game of export/imports and price hikes which cost billions of dollars to national exchequer along with pickpocketing hard-earned money from the public. Such episodes had been staged multiple times in the past, however, no self-claimed public leader or Khadim of the nation could neither prevent this fiasco nor expose the faces of the crooks/criminals to the nation.

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Taiwan billionaire's presidential bid adds uncertainties

William Yang

Taiwan is expecting an unusually competitive presidential election in January 2024 after Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of main iPhone manufacturer Foxconn, announced his bid to run for the top office as an independent candidate. Analysts say his entrance will add more uncertainties to the presidential race and further divide votes among the China-friendly opposition parties.

"Gou's entrance into the race will further divide the opposition's votes," Wen-ti Sung, a political scientist at the Australian National University, told VOA in a phone interview. While opposition parties continue to explore possibilities of joining forces in the presidential race, Sung thinks Gou's bid to run as an independent would increase the difficulties for the opposition camp to find common grounds. Gou's lost in the main opposition party Kuomintang's (KMT) presidential primary in 2019. After KMT chose New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih, a police chief-turned-mayor, as its 2024 presidential candidate in May, Gou began to campaign around Taiwan and made several high-profile overseas trips to the US and Japan. During a news conference announcing his presidential bid on Aug. 28, Gou said his candidacy is aimed at facilitating an alliance among opposition candidates because that's the only way to defeat current Vice President Lai Ching-te, who is the presidential candidate for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

"We must take down the corrupt and incompetent DPP in order to realize the transition of power and put the future of the Republic of China back on the right track," Gou said during the presser. "My candidacy is to facilitate alliance-forming among opposition forces and that is the only way to win the election." However, several opinion polls show that his entrance to the race will weaken support for the two main opposition presidential candidates, Ko Wen-je from the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), a doctor-turned-mayor, and Hou from KMT. Several opinion polls show Lai leads the race with around 35% of the support while Hou and Ko rank second and third with

support rates between 15 and 20%. Gou currently trails behind in the four-way race scenario, with a support rate of around 15%. Even though opposition parties say attempts to form an alliance continue, some experts say the possibility of an opposition alliance

Taiwan Strait for the next 50 years," he said during the presser. "Give me four years, and I will develop technology and economy so that Taiwan will overtake Singapore in 20 years."

Gou's campaign promises received mixed responses from Taiwanese voters.

However, since Gou has two months to collect 290,000 signatures to officially qualify as a presidential candidate, Chen said all scenarios remain possible. Highlighting his track record as a successful businessman, Gou promised not to let Taiwan "become the next Ukraine" and vowed to make Taiwan the richest place in Asia. "Give me four years, and I promise I will bring peace to the Taiwan Strait for the next 50 years," he said during the presser. "Give me four years, and I will develop technology and economy so that Taiwan will overtake Singapore in 20 years." Gou's campaign promises received mixed responses from Taiwanese voters. "As the international situation gets more and more dangerous for Taiwan, we need a leader who can fulfill promises and who has a track record of achieving great success, and Gou's business success proves he is the best candidate to be Taiwan's next president," Judy Huang, a 52-year-old housewife in Taipei, told VOA in a phone interview.

remains slim. "I'm not too optimistic about opposition parties' attempts to join forces, because each camp has its own agenda and calculation," Chen Fang-yu, a political scientist at Soochow University in Taiwan, told VOA in a phone interview. However, since Gou has two months to collect 290,000 signatures to officially qualify as a presidential candidate, Chen said all scenarios remain possible. Highlighting his track record as a successful businessman, Gou promised not to let Taiwan "become the next Ukraine" and vowed to make Taiwan the richest place in Asia. "Give me four years, and I promise I will bring peace to the

"As the international situation gets more and more dangerous for Taiwan, we need a leader who can fulfill promises and who has a track record of achieving great success, and Gou's business success proves he is the best candidate to be Taiwan's next president," Judy Huang, a 52-year-old housewife in Taipei, told VOA in a phone interview. Other voters say the billionaire failed to offer concrete plans to back up his "flashy" campaign promises and that his business interests in China make him the candidate with the highest possibility to "sell Taiwan out to Beijing." "He is making all kinds of empty promises, but he doesn't say how he plans to

fulfill those pledges," Wayne Lai, a 46-year-old engineer, told VOA in a phone interview. "He only sees the power that presidents hold but has never thought of the huge responsibility that comes with the position." Some analysts think Gou is trying to gain support from voters who are nostalgic about Taiwan's economic success between 1990 and 2000. "Based on the policies he has proposed, including doubling the rate of Taiwan's economic growth, Gou is trying to attract voters who got rich during the same period as him," Austin Wang, an expert on Taiwan politics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, told VOA in a phone interview.

He adds that since Gou was once the richest man in Taiwan and he helped Taiwan acquire vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, voters who are tired of the longstanding competition between the two major political parties or who value Taiwan's economic success may find Gou more attractive. However, there is still a level of public suspicion about how Gou may handle the growing pressure from Beijing, which views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to reunite with the island through force if necessary. "I have never been under the control of the People's Republic of China," Gou said on Aug. 28. "I don't follow their instructions." In an announcement on Sep. 2, Foxconn, which has huge business interests in China, said Gou has resigned as a company board member due to "personal reasons" and reiterated that the billionaire had handed over the role of chairman four years ago.

Even though his presidential campaign is driven by "a sense of mission," Wang from UNLV said Gou lacks political resources and a stable support base that other presidential candidates have. In his view, these factors could limit the prospect of Gou's candidacy. "If he doesn't form his political party, Gou's campaign may look like an avocation and he may only attract politicians who see the short-term benefits of following him, which will not be good for Gou either," Wang told VOA.

VOA

Action must for protection of Palestinian kids

Ramzy Baroud

ISRAEL kills Palestinian children as a matter of policy. This claim can easily be demonstrated and is supported by the findings of the latest Human Rights Watch report. The question is why? When a police officer or soldier shoots a child anywhere else in the world, though utterly tragic, it can be argued, at least in theory, that the killing was an unfortunate mistake. But when thousands of children are killed or wounded in a systematic, routine and comparable method within a relatively short period of time, it must be deliberate.

In a report titled "West Bank: Spike in Israeli Killings of Palestinian Children," which was published last month, Human Rights Watch reached a strong conclusion based on an exhaustive examination of medical data, eyewitness accounts, video footage and field research, with the last of these pertaining to four specific cases. One of the cases was that of Mahmoud Al-Sadi, a 17-year-old Palestinian from the Jenin refugee camp, who was killed last November some 320 meters away from the clashes in the camp between invading Israeli forces and Jenin-based fighters. Mahmoud was on his way to school and carried nothing that could be seen, from the soldiers' point of view, as threatening or suspicious. His story is typical and is often repeated throughout the West Bank, sometimes daily. The predictable outcome, as Human Rights Watch put it, is that these killings are followed up with "virtually no recourse for accountability." As of Aug. 22, 34 Palestinian children had been killed in the West Bank in 2023, adding yet more tragic numbers to a foreboding year that promises to be the most violent since 2005. This year "already surpasses 2022 annual figures, and the highest figure since 2005," in terms of casualties, reported UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Tor Wennesland during a briefing last month. These numbers, among other factors - including Israel's expansion of illegal Jewish-only settlements in the West Bank - threaten "to worsen the plight of the most vulnerable Palestinians," according to Wennesland.

However, these "most vulnerable Palestinians" exist beyond the realm of mere numbers. When Israeli soldiers killed two-year-old Mohammed Tamimi on June 5, the little boy's name was added to an ever-expanding list. The memory of the infant, like those of all other Palestinian children, is etched into the collective consciousness of all Palestinians. It deepens their pain, but also compels their struggle and their resistance. For Palestinians, the killing of their children is not a random act of a military that lacks discipline and fears no repercussions. Palestinians know that the Israeli war on children is an intrinsic component of the larger Israeli war on all Palestinians. Israel does not officially declare that it is deliberately targeting Palestinian children. That would be a public relations disaster. However, some Israeli officials have, in the past, let their guard down and offered a strange and troubling logic. Palestinian children are "little snakes," politician Ayelet Shaked wrote in 2015. In a Facebook post published by The Washington Post, Shaked declared war on all Palestinians and called for the killing of "the mothers of

the (Palestinian) martyrs." She wrote: "They should follow their sons, nothing could be more just." Shortly after, Shaked ironically became Israel's justice minister.

Data collected by international human rights groups leaves no doubt that the nature of the killings shows they are part of a comprehensive strategy deployed by the Israeli military. In all the cases recently investigated by Human Rights Watch, "Israeli forces shot the children's upper bodies." This was done without the "issuing of warnings or using common, less lethal measures." Specifically, the killing of Palestinian children is a centralized and deliberate Israeli military strategy. The same logic now being applied in the West Bank has already been used in the besieged Gaza Strip. UN figures show that, in the Israeli war on Gaza in 2008-09, 333 Palestinian children were killed. Other estimates put the number at 410. In 2012, 47 children were killed during Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense. In July and August 2014, 578 children were killed during Israel's assault on the Strip. The 2021 attack killed 66 children, while in 2022 the number was 17, and so on. Between March 2018 and May 2019, 59 Palestinian children were killed in what was known as the "Great March of Return" - mass protests that took place at the fence separating Israel from besieged Gaza. All of them were killed from a distance by Israeli snipers.

When the numbers of dead and wounded children are tallied, they are counted in the thousands. To be exact, there were more than 8,700 Palestinian child casualties between 2015 and 2022, according to the UN. Even the callous and often dehumanizing logic of "collateral damage" cannot justify such figures. Though the war on Palestinian children is intentional, protracted and ongoing, not a single Israeli military or government official has ever been held accountable in an international court. Even the UN's "list of shame" for killing children has never included Israel, even though other countries have been "shamed" for far fewer crimes against children. The killing of children is perceived - according to the twisted logic of the likes of Shaked - to be functional. And, in the absence of any accountability, Israel has no reason to end its war on Palestinian children.

With the constant loosening of the rules of military engagement in Israel and the terrifyingly genocidal language used by the country's far-right ministers and their massive constituency, more Palestinian children are likely to lose their lives in the near future. Yet, the most that UN officials and rights groups seem to be able to do is to tally the alarming casualty figures. Alas, no number is large enough to dissuade Israel from killing Palestinians. The problem for Palestinians is not just that of Israel's violence, but also the lack of international will to hold Israel accountable. Accountability requires unity and a decisiveness of will and action. This task should be a priority for all countries that genuinely care about Palestinians and about universal human rights. Without such collective action, Palestinian children will continue to die in large numbers and in the most brutal ways - a tragedy that will continue to pain and shame us all.

The Guardian

Britain is a notorious haven for dirty money

Lucy Nash

TODAY, this government will have an unprecedented opportunity to end Britain's role as a hub for kleptocrats and criminals who want to launder their cash. The long-awaited economic crime and corporate transparency bill returns to the House of Commons, where MPs will vote on a slew of amendments from the Lords that seek to close gaping loopholes.

The role of the UK and its offshore territories in pandering to wealthy foreigners was thrown into sharp focus by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Those closest to Vladimir Putin and his war machine - many of whom have long used "Londongrad" as a playground - were slapped with sanctions, and their known assets frozen. The government hastily passed its Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022, making it easier, among other measures, to prose-

cute anyone involved in busting sanctions.

But how to freeze assets if we don't know where they are? There are 93,537 properties in England and Wales owned through opaque offshore companies, from luxury Knightsbridge penthouses to mansions in Surrey. Though the 2022 act brought in the new Register of Overseas Entities, where beneficial owners must be logged, there are still legal ways round this; and figures released by Transparency International in February suggest the owners of more than 50,000 offshore-held properties remain anonymous. Take Kensington Palace Gardens. It's one of the most expensive streets in London to buy a home, a stone's throw from Kensington Palace - Prince William's official residence. The Land Registry lists the owner of one of the future king's neighbours as "A. Corp Trustees". No beneficial owner is logged with Companies House. In fact,

the mansion is reported to have been owned by the now-sanctioned former Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich by journalists who delved into his affairs; but you can't see a trace of whether he was, or is, still involved. Similarly, over in Lennox Gardens, an exclusive square near Harrods including properties worth £40m, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) identified two properties whose owners appear to have gone out of their way to stay hidden. They're both owned by overseas companies. Their owners could include sanctioned oligarchs, drug barons or kleptocrats, or just very private individuals - we simply don't know.

An amendment to the new bill proposed by the Conservative peer Lord Agnew could help fight pervasive secrecy in UK property ownership by closing one of the loopholes that

allow for such opacity. It would require Companies House to collect and publish information about the beneficial owners of trusts, a type of legal arrangement historically used as a kind of ultimate secrecy tool. The Treasury has so far blocked this move, arguing that further consultation is needed. A further potential tool in the fight against oligarchs and fraudsters comes in the form of another amendment proposed by the crossbench peer Lord Vaux. It would require nominee shareholders to declare themselves and, if passed, would mean journalists and other investigators could establish the beneficial owner of any UK-registered company. This would not only improve transparency in property ownership but also help expose scammers. An investigation by BIJ earlier this year revealed dozens of companies being used in a scam known as

"pig butchering". They were all registered to one address in south Croydon, which is also supposedly the headquarters of more than 10,000 other firms. The new amendment would mean the real owners could be easily revealed by journalists or law enforcement.

Another problem facing those in the UK tasked with tackling high-powered criminals is the sheer cost. During debates on the bill, Andy Slaughter MP, the shadow solicitor general for England and Wales, lamented that law enforcement agencies "go after the small fry rather than the bigger fish" because ultra-wealthy individuals and firms take them to court, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money. One proposed amendment to the bill would cap the costs to law enforcement bodies, allowing them to pursue asset recovery more aggressively. These amendments, among several others aimed at

robustly tackling economic crime, could be a big opportunity for this government to crack down on dirty money. If the Tories don't seize the moment, their majority in the lower chamber means it's unlikely the amendments will pass. The likeliest scenario may be a ping-pong situation, with the bill bouncing back and forth between the two houses before reaching a compromise. The need to be tough on kleptocrats, dictators and those looking to hide their ill-gotten gains is not purely economic. The democratic world is facing a series of grave threats: the war in Ukraine, the climate emergency and a rise in illiberal dictatorships. The UK needs the money it is owed in taxes to counteract such perils and reestablish order. If MPs do grasp this opportunity to pass the amendments, it could help to end our role in facilitating those who seek to avoid accountability for wrongdoing - and clean up the UK's financial act.

Send illegal migrants to Islington - see how liberal opinion likes it then

Douglas Murray

JUST when you think things cannot get any worse, illegal migration across the Channel now seems to have got so bad that the Government is relying on the weather to bring the numbers down. Last Friday more than 800 illegal migrants successfully made the crossing. That was the highest daily total this year. But it also stood out in the stats because choppy waters had delayed crossings for a week, allowing some officials to pretend the problem was on the way to being solved.

I sometimes wonder if this Government will be reduced to simply praying to the sky gods to solve this problem. Because otherwise it seems that they are out of ideas. It's really very simple; the only way to stop illegal immigration is to either repel people at your borders or deport them when they come into the country. Both of these take a minimal amount of political capital to be spent. Both need to be done in the face of small but vocal lobbies of activists who pretend that everyone arriving is a legitimate asylum seeker, namely those who find France insufficiently commodious to their requirements. All weak governments find it easier to put the problem off for another day. The Conservative Party has been in power for over 13 years. In 2016 some of its members successfully led this country to vote to leave the EU because (among other things) if we remained in the bloc we could not get immigration under control. The country voted to leave, but the Government failed to deliver and

get immigration under control, quite the opposite. Indeed, last year saw a record net migration into the UK of 600,000. So the idea that the Conservative Party has the political will to get any of this under control is for the birds. Of course it is a unique tragedy of UK politics that the only party likely to replace the Conservatives as the party of government would actually be worse on this fundamental question of our time. In the US Joe Biden's failure to control his southern border is one of the two leading factors that could propel a Republican into the White House next year. But in the UK the party of opposition will not campaign against illegal immigration and will, without doubt, do even less than the current Government to get the problem under control.

In this situation it is easy to be fatalistic. Plenty of politicians and other officials clearly are. They take the old approach, which has existed in this country since at least the 1960s; that immigration is one of those issues best dealt with by leaving it to your successors to address. The case backlog is too long, the details too difficult, the pushback from the system too extreme, they mutter. Some of this has merit. The fact that the woman recently in charge of asylum policy at the Home Office - Emma Haddad - left her job to join the open border organisation Amnesty is a sign of where we are. Personally I do not believe this phenomenon is also in the hands of the sky gods - something impossi-

ble to change. As I have long argued, I want to see the names of people in the Home Office who have allowed in - for instance - terrorists and other criminals who have gone on to cause terrible harm in this country. Just as people in the system are made to pay for scandals that obsess the Left - the Windrush scandal comes to mind - so it should also be the case that people in the system pay if they do things as a result of perceived "virtue". Letting the Manchester Arena bomber's family into this country, for instance; or the Parsons Green bomber. I want names, firings and - where possible - prosecutions of public servants who cannot be bothered to enforce policy that would actually protect the public. But again, this Government seems not to have the courage to do that. Anymore than they have the courage to withdraw this country from the out-dated and unworkable ECHR. Again they seem to think that they can leave the problem for another day.

And again, their Democrat counterparts in the US think a similar thing. Record migration from the southern border in the US has led to Republican governors in Arizona and Texas bussing some of the illegal migrants who arrive in their states into Democrat-run "sanctuary cities". Places like New York and Chicago, which have talked of the importance of allowing migrants in, now have to cope with housing thousands of illegals. Staggeringly, one answer to the billions of dollars this now costs

offered by Democrat politicians is to argue that illegal migrants should be allowed to work as soon as they arrive, thus alleviating the cost to the taxpayer. What they do not realise is that this will cause the desire to come to the States illegally to sky-rocket. You can already cross the border with ease and then get put up in a NY hotel. If you can also earn many times what you would have earned back home then this becomes the best deal of all, and makes a mockery of the labyrinthine system that is the legal route to working in the US. At some point this will come to a political head in Washington. It should do in the UK as well. All of this is simply unsustainable; something has to give. Let me make a suggestion that may be unpopular, but is necessary. Let the Conservative government stop trying to "hide" the unprecedented numbers of arrivals into our country. Stop sending them to corners of Liverpool where any local objection can be snorted at as "racist" by right-on Londoners and others. Work out the parts of the country that are most in favour of illegal migration - Islington springs to mind - and send the illegal migrants there.

When their streets are full of the consequences they might realise the most basic fact of all: you cannot put this off till tomorrow. Because the problem is already here; the future arrived faster than expected. Rub that in the noses of the people who wanted this to happen. It would comprise some justice at least.

The Telegraph

Ukraine may have a better chance to win in 2024

Max Boot

SOME US military officials appear Astonished that the Ukrainian counteroffensive has not made a rapid breakthrough - and, through anonymous quotes to the news media, they are laying the blame on the Ukrainian military. Retired US Army Brig. Gen. Mark Arnold, by contrast, isn't the least bit surprised at the slow pace of the advance - and he's blaming the Americans, not the Ukrainians.

Arnold, a cheerful former Special Forces officer with three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, has spent extensive time near the front lines advising the Ukrainian military (at his own expense). He has come away impressed by the professionalism and élan of the Ukrainian army - while also cognizant of the limitations of the training and equipment they have been provided by the West. I first met Arnold in Kyiv in May. Even back then - weeks before the start of the Ukrainian counteroffensive - he was telling me that the Ukrainians would not be able to make a breakthrough this year. However, he was - and remains - more optimistic about the prospects for decisive operations next year.

After getting back from Kyiv, I have kept in touch with Arnold and have found him a consistent font of realism. Mark on June 23, at the very start of the counteroffensive, he emailed me: "I remain very skeptical that a decisive battle will occur this year that makes a material effect toward Ukrainian victory. That can happen next summer when the majority of maneuver equipment arrives from NATO into Ukraine." More recently, he has lamented to me: "The Ukrainians lack the mobility equipment necessary to breach high-density minefields and obstacles. US Army mechanized infantry and armor battalions have tanks with antitank mine blades and heavy rollers in each company team. The Ukrainians do not." It is not just mine-clearing equipment that the Ukrainians are short of. Last week, Arnold emailed me: "If you add all the Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Leopard 2 and Challenger 2 tanks, and other equipment, the Ukrainians could outfit only one brigade. Only six battalions of the ~350 battalions in the ground forces have been trained in combined arms by NATO." That simply is not enough, he said, "to move the needle."

The Ukrainian attackers are further hindered because they lack, as he noted, air superiority. In many instances, Russian attack helicopters have tar-

geted Ukrainian armored units as they were trying to clear minefields, slowing their advance to a crawl. While some in the United States criticize Kyiv's conduct of the counteroffensive - which appears to finally be gaining some momentum as the Ukrainians breach the first line of Russian defenses in the south - Arnold does not. "The US military would be hard-pressed to achieve much better results without air dominance and long-range artillery systems," he told me. "So, I am pleased with the progress the Ukrainians have demonstrated to date." Arnold rejects many of the specific criticisms being made by the Pentagon, including the charge that the Ukrainians have diverted too many resources to Bakhmut in the east. He argues that the offensive there "has not consumed large volumes of mechanized equipment" and that "Ukrainian operations in multiple geographic areas are essential to tying down Russian military resources and defending Ukrainian ground in the northeast."

While some in the Pentagon apparently want the Ukrainians to risk heavy casualties by charging straight into the teeth of Russian defenses, Arnold believes Ukrainian commanders have made the right choice to proceed more cautiously. "Prudently valuing and expending human resources during the counteroffensive while also waiting for the majority of armor and mechanized equipment to arrive next year is wise," he told me. Arnold's argument - that Kyiv can achieve even greater gains next year - runs counter to the assumption among some US officials that it's 2023 or bust for the Ukrainian advance. "We built up this mountain of steel for the counteroffensive. We can't do that again," one former US official told the Wall Street Journal. "It doesn't exist." But is that really true? The West is ramping up production of ammunition: The US Army expects that its output of 155mm artillery shells will increase from 24,000 a month this year to at least 80,000 a month next year. At that time, the Ukrainians should also have M-1 tanks and F-16 fighter aircraft. Moreover, the Ukrainian troops who have taken part in this counteroffensive - and survived - will emerge much more experienced and adept at offensive operations.

Of course, the Russians will have an opportunity to rebuild their defenses over the winter, but, by advancing further south, the

Ukrainians can bring more of the Russian supply lines in Crimea and southern Ukraine within range of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, commonly known as HIMARS, impeding Russian efforts to restock over the winter. Arnold is optimistic that the Ukrainians can break through next year - provided they get more training and equipment than they received this year. "If the Biden administration is interested in ending this war," he told me, "then it will provide the long-range weapons (Army Tactical Missile System, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, Reaper drones, F-16s), more M113 armored personnel carriers, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams tanks." But it's not just a question of more weapons. The Ukrainian military also needs more training. "The Western training of Ukrainian military during the past 15 months is 85 percent basic training, 5 percent small unit leader training and 10 percent battalion training," Arnold says. "Those efforts have trained less than 5 percent of Ukraine's ground forces, and almost no officers at battalion level and above." The results of that inexperience were evident in the faltering pace of the initial counteroffensive. Arnold has been lobbying the Ukrainian General Staff and the Defense Ministry to recruit retired Western officers to train brigades inside Ukraine rather than making them go to other countries, because this will enable more units to be trained more quickly. He believes it is also essential to train corps-level staff in higher-level command functions so they can more effectively maneuver these units in combat. While retired Western officers would initially lead the training, they would be "training the trainers" so that Ukrainians could take over the courses themselves. Arnold is also trying to raise private-sector funds to expand the training and equipping of combat medics so that Ukrainian troops will be more likely to survive their wounds in combat.

"I find it frustrating, and the Ukrainians find it excruciating, that the West has the ability to do so much more to help end the war, but we're not doing it," Arnold told me. That needs to change. Rather than fall prey to the US military's "short war obsession" - imagining that every war will end quickly - the Biden administration would be well-advised to set up the Ukrainians for greater success in the future even if they aren't able to achieve all of their objectives during this counteroffensive.

The Washington Post

Jacksonville shootings spotlight disturbing trend

‘A country free of this anxiety and terror and trauma’ are words of anguish spoken by Tennessee state Rep. Justin Jones who went on to declare that Americans "don't have to live this way" following a racially motivated killing of three African American individuals at a store in Jacksonville, Florida last week.

The killer, a 21-year-old white male armed with an automatic rifle and handgun and outfitted like he was preparing for combat in Iraq or Afghanistan made his way to the budget store and upon spotting a black man out in the parking lot, shot him in cold blood. He then walked in the store and shot at two other black people killing them instantly before turning the gun on himself and taking his life. Just before he died, he texted his father to check his computer on which there were 'several written manifestoes' upholding white supremacist ideology and a hatred of all people of colour.

Following the shooting, the sheriff of the community declared, "This is a dark day in Jacksonville's history. There is no place for hate in this community ... I am sickened by this cowardly shooter's personal ideology." But he was not alone in his condemnation. US House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries wrote: "We will never bend the knee to violent extremists who worship at the altar of white supremacy," while South Carolina Senator, and GOP presidential candidate, Tim Scott wrote that

Tariq A. Al Maena

he was "devastated" at the senseless act. "There is nothing more hateful than murdering someone because of the colour of their skin; violence of any kind has no place in our country," he wrote. Florida's lax gun laws came under fire by Shannon Watts, founder of gun control advocacy group Moms Demand Action, who pointed out recent gun legislation that went into effect in the state: "Florida's lax gun laws - like permitless carry - make it easy for criminals and white supremacists to access guns." Although Florida Governor Ron DeSantis condemned the shooting, it was he who over objections from many quarters signed a law last April, which went into effect on 1 July allowing anyone who can legally own a gun in Florida to carry a concealed gun without a permit, and does not require training or a background check. The shooting drew a scathing prompt from Florida Democratic Rep Maxwell Frost, who pointed the finger at the governor.

"A racist bigot walked into a store to murder Black people. A racist bigot felt comfortable enough to walk into a store to murder Black people. The far-right fascist movement, embraced by Gov @RonDeSantis, is murdering people," he tweeted. Recent data shows an increase in hate crimes in the United States. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, hate crime

incidents rose to the highest level in 12 years in 2020, with more than 10,000 people reporting being victims of hate crimes. Furthermore, the Department of Justice reported an 11.6% increase in hate crime incidents in 2021 compared to the previous year. It is important to note that these statistics and examples reflect a broader trend of rising hate crimes in the United States. Efforts to combat hate crimes and promote inclusivity and tolerance are necessary to address this issue. But that is not going to happen if the polarisation currently in America continues.

We have seen hate crimes in other parts of the world but the US is steadily gaining on them to be the hotbed of racially motivated violence. And guns are the vehicle used to promote such hateful ideology. One just has to look at our region in the GCC to see that such events are totally alien to us. To my knowledge, I have never come across a news item describing an outburst of gunfire killing others because of their race. The reason? Primarily because guns are not easily available and the laws against taking lives indiscriminately are very clear. Nor are their politicians pushing their personal agendas to push people to buy more guns. Yes, guns alone do not kill people, but left in the hands of men with an axe to grind, the outcome is nothing short of tragic.

Gulf News

Feeding big agribusiness, starving Africans

Mutintu Nketani & Timothy Wise

ON September 5, the annual Africa Food Systems Forum, organised by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), will launch in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Government officials, experts, policymakers and business leaders will come together to discuss - in their words - "building back better food systems and food sovereignty".

Sponsored by international philanthropic and bilateral donors and agro-chemical and biotech companies such as Yara, Corteva and Bayer, the forum promotes hybrid and genetically modified seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides used in the type of industrial-scale agriculture that has failed to deliver "better food systems" or "food sovereignty". This approach to growing food, involving problematic practices that harm soils, pollute the environment, and favour large landowners and big agribusiness, has been pushed on Africa in the past few decades. But it has not helped the continent overcome food insecurity.

AGRA's work is a case in point. It has failed to deliver on its own promises to increase productivity and incomes for 20 million farm households while halving food insecurity by 2020. Of the 13 countries it has primarily worked with, three have reduced the number of malnourished people over the past 15 years: Zambia by 2 percent, Ethiopia by 8 percent and Ghana by 36 percent, still short of the 50 percent target. In countries like Kenya and Nigeria, both of which have embraced industrial agriculture policies, the number of undernourished people has grown by 44 percent and 247 percent, respectively. Taken together, the population of undernourished people in the 13 states AGRA has primarily worked with has actually risen by 50 percent over the past 15 years. A donor-commissioned evaluation released in 2022 also confirmed that AGRA "did not meet its headline

goal of increased incomes and food security for 9 million smallholders" in the previous five years.

That is because the industrial agriculture practices AGRA and others promote degrade soils over time and decrease productivity - as our research has shown. Still, under pressure from foreign donors and big agribusiness, countries across Africa have been adopting policies that reflect this harmful approach to agriculture. Zambia is one of them. Despite having one of the highest adoption rates for commercial seeds and fertilisers, the country has poor development outcomes. It has decreased malnourishment by 2 percent, but three-quarters of rural Zambians continue living in extreme poverty.

To address these failures, a new National Agricultural Investment Plan was being developed by the Zambian government in open consultation with farmers, experts and civil society. Among other practices, it was going to promote a wider diversity of crops and not just maize, which has been favoured by industrial agriculture proponents. Surprisingly, the government introduced instead a "Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme" (CATSP) as its new development strategy, which favours larger agricultural businesses and which is backed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). CATSP focuses on supporting farmers growing maize and soybeans, along with other export crops, at the expense of the more diverse food crops grown by Zambian farmers, such as millet and sorghum. Worse still, it will extend a farm blocks programme that allots vast tracts of land for farming.

Smallholder farmers figure almost nowhere in the CATSP scheme, except as occasional beneficiaries of

the controversial Farmer Input Support Programme, which is rife with corruption and waste. The programme's input subsidies keep farmers locked in the production of maize and soybeans and dependent on chemical fertilisers, pesticides and hybrid seeds. All are expensive and have failed to turn a profit for most farmers. They have also been shown to weaken crop and diet diversity while damaging the environment. Such schemes benefit multinational seed and fertiliser companies, which make windfall profits from countries like Zambia, which become hooked on their products. This type of agriculture development reflects the growing perception of farming and food production in Africa as a new money-making opportunity.

Back in 2014, Nigeria's agriculture minister, Akinwumi Adesina, who is now the head of the African Development Bank, made that clear when he quipped: "Agriculture should be our next oil." But African farmers and community leaders are not ready to see their lands and cultures destroyed in another wave of neocolonial plunder. There is growing pushback against the promotion of industrial farming in Africa.

Ahead of AGRA's forum, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), which represents millions of small-scale African farmers, held a press conference denouncing the exclusion of their voices. "Where are the farmers?" asked Tanzanian farmer leader Juma Shabani at the press event. "They are clearly excluded in the coming 2023 AGRF meeting in Tanzania, a country with more than 70 percent of its population engaged in agriculture." AFSA and other grassroots organisations on the continent call for agroecology - low-input farming that builds on traditional peasant practices but innovates with the help of scien-

tists. This is a much more sustainable, efficient and healthy way to grow food. Farmers working with agroecologists are getting far better results than industrial agriculture programmes, improving food productivity while restoring degraded soils with climate-resilient practices such as intercropping, manure applications, and organic fertilisers produced using local materials.

The simple and low-cost innovation of creating "green manure cover crops", for example, has scientists working with small-scale maize farmers across Africa to plant local varieties of trees and nitrogen-fixing food crops in their maize fields, increasing maize harvests at no cost to the farmer. "Food security and nutrition can no longer be measured in yields or high productivity based on fertiliser, hybridised and GMO seed," said Juliet Nangamba of the Zambian Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity at the August 30 press conference. "We need to transition to agroecology." It is time donors and listen to such voices. It is time to drop stubborn adherence to a failing agricultural dogma. It is time to protect the lands and livelihoods of small-scale farmers and end the sort of corporate-driven, top-down development that has failed so miserably.

It is time to give African farmers a seat at the table, rather than excluding them from gatherings like the Africa Food Systems Forum. Food sovereignty means allowing people to choose how they grow their food, respecting local cultures, and supporting practices that restore soils, promote biodiversity and make farming more resilient to climate change. It is the right to choose what you eat and how you produce it - free of foreign control. The estimated 784 million food-insecure Africans need to eat. And African farmers know how to feed them.

Aljazeera

Is the UK falling behind other rich economies?

Andy Beckett

NOW, more than ever, complaining about the state of the country is one of the main ways that Britain talks about itself. But in all the endless exchanges about the decay of public services and the cost of living, there is one theme that typically is raised only briefly before the conversation moves on. How does today's Britain compare with other rich countries? The answer is increasingly unsettling. Despite facing many of the same problems, such as an ageing population, the climate crisis and the diminishing returns for most people from modern capitalism, Britain seems to be struggling more than other western states. From our fragile education and transport infrastructure to our sluggish productivity, our unusually high inflation to our relatively poor public health, it appears to be falling behind traditional peers such as France and Germany, while being steadily caught up by previously much poorer societies such as Slovenia and Poland.

Comparing our quality of life unfavourably with the rest of Europe's is a traditional post-holiday ritual for some Britons, as another underwhelming British summer peters out. Yet usually this sense of inferiority doesn't linger, as the parochial nationalism of much of our media discourages such unpatriotic thoughts, and the particularly demanding rhythms of British working life reassert themselves. Differences in customs, social values and the worth of currencies also make precise comparisons with other countries difficult. It's easier to put envy of other societies down to the sun and long lunches we enjoy in them, and move on. This summer, however, the unease about this

country's performance became more public. "Why has Britain become so poor?" asked the Sunday Times in July. "Even eastern Europe is catching up with our sluggish GDP." Last month, Tim Harford wrote in the Financial Times after visiting Germany, "This is what prosperity looks like - and the UK doesn't have it." In the same paper, another respected data journalist, John Burn-Murdoch, calculated that without London, the UK would be poorer, in terms of GDP per capita, than even the poorest US state, Mississippi. Mississippi is a sometimes beautiful, sparsely populated place with lingering poverty and illiteracy - the latter partly caused, a local journalist told me when I visited in the 90s, by some white residents refusing to send their children to school alongside Black pupils. For a supposedly modern, often self-important European country to be unflatteringly compared to one of the most maligned parts of the deep south comes as quite a shock.

In fact, "the Mississippi Question", as Burn-Murdoch calls it, was first raised nine years ago, in a Telegraph article by the Tory journalist Fraser Nelson, partly about Britain's alleged backwardness compared with most of the US. Then, as now, the Conservatives were in power. Unlike the last period in our history when there was widespread talk of national decline - the 1970s - the country's deep problems can't be simplistically pinned on Labour administrations, however hard some Tories still try to blame the distant governments of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, or the modest powers of the London mayor, Sadiq Khan. Instead, today's declinists make a more subtle, but not neces-

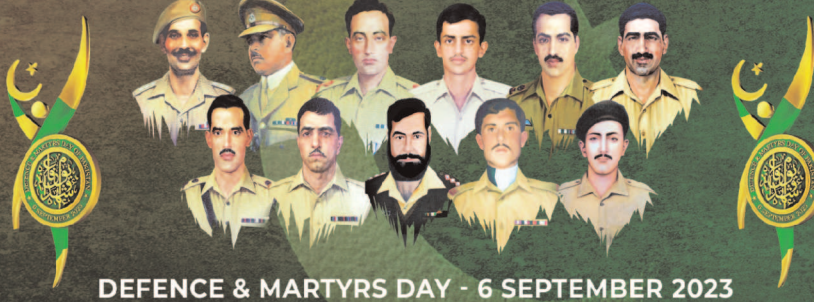
sarily less rightwing argument. They describe Britain's troubles as primarily economic. And, within those limits, they focus on the classic capitalist concerns of productivity, growth and wealth, rather than the distribution of assets and income, or the extent to which Britons are satisfied by their work. Meanwhile, other aspects of how the country is doing - social, cultural, environmental - barely feature in these gloomy state-of-the-nation assessments. Life for Britons is reduced to playing a part in a never-ending competition between nations, in what the government of David Cameron and George Osborne, joylessly called "the global race", a phrase that, depressingly, Keir Starmer also sometimes uses.

This notion of Britain as an economy rather than a society feels like a backward step. Fourteen years ago, in their acclaimed book The Spirit Level, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett described in convincing detail "the contrast between the material success and social failure of many rich countries". They explained: "As affluent societies have grown richer, there have been long-term rises in rates of anxiety, depression and numerous other social problems." The economically resurgent Britain for which the declinists are yearning would almost certainly bring new problems, just as the boom of the 80s created a harsher, more individualistic country after the less dynamic but more egalitarian Britain of the 70s. A country can be seen as a success story by the media, many of its citizens and foreign observers while the lives of some of its people get worse, such as the millions of people made unemployed in the 80s so that Britain

could become more "competitive". Then again, there is an argument that we live in such tough times now - in many ways tougher than the 70s or the 80s - that economic revival has to be the national priority. Without it, there won't be enough money to repair the damage the Tories have done to public services and to Britons' individual finances. In essence, this has become Labour's position under Starmer, as it has gradually given up on the idea that a better Britain can be created partly by increasing taxes on the elites who have exploited our profoundly unequal economy. It will be interesting to see if abstinence from such populist, and potentially highly popular, tax-raising policies remains Labour's position if it makes it into office.

Even if a Starmer government does return Britain to its accustomed place among leading European economies, the issue of the country's decline, relative to other countries, will never completely go away. As the first state to have an Industrial Revolution and one of the first global empires, and a place with a modest population and resources, Britain was never going to maintain its preeminence once other nations inevitably modernised. Realists have understood this for a very long time. In 1835, after visiting the US, the British entrepreneur and economic reformer Richard Cobden wrote: "Our only chance of national prosperity lies in the timely remodelling of our system, so as to put it as nearly as possible upon an equality with the improved arrangement of the Americans." Economic decline compared with some other countries has always been our destiny. We need to accept that, and instead worry more about the state of our society.

OUR MARTYRS OUR PRIDE



General Sahir Shamshad Mirza
Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M)
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

6th September reminds us of the enemy's aggression which was successfully thwarted by our resilient nation and military. This day signifies the unflinching resolve, unity and sense of sacrifice to defend our motherland at all cost. It is also a day to pay homage to those sons of the soil, who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom and sovereignty. Their actions continue to resonate, urging us to strive for a better tomorrow.

Following the legacy of our Great Heroes of 1965 war, Armed Forces in unison with people of Pakistan remain ever ready and fully determined to squarely meet all external and internal challenges to protect our ideological and geographical frontiers. Today we as a Nation must renew our resolve to block and prevent the sinister efforts of enemy's of Pakistan trying to create a wedge between Defence Forces and people of Pakistan – we were, we are, and will remain United as One Nation. Insha Allah.

On this day, we must remember the utmost sacrifices of the people of Kashmir, who are suffering under the yoke of Indian tyranny and oppression for the past seven decades. The Kashmir dispute is an unfinished agenda of partition and the world should know that without resolving this issue, there can be no lasting peace in South Asia. Therefore, it is time that the UN fulfills its promise to Kashmiris and gives them their right to self-determination under the umbrella of relevant UNSC Resolutions.

Today, we bow our heads in reverence and gratitude for the martyrs, who have engraved their legacy in the annals of history, reminding us of the freedom that we cherish. Let's renew our pledge that following the footsteps of the Shaheed and Ghazi of 1965 war, we will leave no stone unturned in the defence of our motherland and we will always work towards making Pakistan a great country.

May Allah Almighty be with us all.

**Armed Forces of Pakistan, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.**



General Syed Asim Mirur
Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M)
Chief of Army Staff

The Defence & Martyrs Day of Pakistan stands as an important milestone in our national and military history, serving as a reminder of the enduring sacrifices borne by our valiant Armed Forces in the unwavering defense of our Motherland. In the 1965 War, the dauntless courage and unwavering professionalism exhibited by the sons of this soil were nothing short of unprecedented. It was through their indomitable spirit and unyielding dedication that the Pakistan Armed Forces successfully repelled the aggressions of our adversaries on all fronts. The charisma of that moment, characterized by a unified national spirit and solidarity, continues to resonate as a source of profound pride and honor, not only for our Armed Forces but also for the generations yet to come. Even today, we stand resolute in the 'spirit of September', steadfastly safeguarding our frontiers.

The Pakistan Army holds a distinctive position among the contemporary armies, distinguished by its exceptional professional standards and discipline. Our guiding ethos, encapsulated by the motto, 'The unflinching faith, devotion, and resolve to fight in the way of Allah', remains our most formidable asset in confronting the vicissitudes of time, surmounting the hurdles and trials, and thwarting the nefarious designs of those who would seek harm to Pakistan. Armed with state-of-the-art weaponry, rigorously honed combat skills, and a commitment to professionalism, the Pakistan Army stands prepared to respond fittingly to any challenge or aggression.

The hallmark of Pakistan Army is a constant commitment to prioritize the defense of the Motherland above all else, even at the cost of one's own life. The sacrifices made by the shuhada and the feats of our ghazis serve as guiding beacons for all of us. In the discharge of their duties, the shining standards of valor, courage, and fearlessness set forth by our soldiers and officers continue to steer our collective dedication towards our mission accomplishment. We must always bear in mind that the torch of freedom has been ignited by the blood of these martyrs, and their sanctity and reverence stands paramount. The capacity of our nation and Armed Forces to unite in times of trial is an invaluable quality and, for us, an essential facet of our national defense and security.

Recently, certain misguided elements attempted to sow discord and erode the trust that binds the Pakistani nation to its Armed Forces. These nefarious endeavors, however, were thwarted through the restraint demonstrated by our Armed Forces. Above all linguistic, regional, and sectarian prejudices, the Pakistan Army has consistently embodied the ideals of Unity, Faith, and Discipline. Guided by these enduring principles, the Pakistan Army has set new benchmarks in its unrelenting fight against the scourge of terrorism. This noble feat stands as a glorious testament to the unflinching resolve of our gallant sons, who have never hesitated to offer the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of our Motherland. In the face of ever-mounting challenges and a volatile security environment, the Pakistan Army reaffirms its commitment to remain steadfast.

We must bear in mind that the Pakistan Army represents the linchpin of the hopes and aspirations of the people of Pakistan. We pledge to uphold this relationship of mutual trust above all else. Besides the defence of motherland, the way Pakistan Army has been playing its role in national building, it will also support recently launched economic recovery plan by the Government focusing corporate farming (agriculture and livestock), mines & minerals and Information technology. We are cognizant of the fact that strong economy is vital for the strong defence. With the blessings of Allah and through mutual cooperation, Pakistan is poised to realize the aspiration of self-reliance through the path of economic progress.

The Defence & Martyrs Day serves as a moment of recommitment. As we pay tribute to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifices, let us rededicate ourselves to selflessly serve the cause of Pakistan's security, safety, and prosperity, all while keeping the spirit of September alive. Our unity stands as our paramount strength. Let us join hands in unison, forging ourselves into a formidable force, such that no earthly power would dare to imperil our security and sovereignty.

Pakistan Army, Zindabad. Pakistan, Paindabad.



Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi
Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M)
Chief of Naval Staff

6th September is a special day in our nation's history when the valiant Armed Forces with the support of our people, repulsed blatant aggression of the enemy and foiled its nefarious designs. The day exudes the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland and glorifies the indomitable bond of our Nation and the Armed Forces to stand together in the face of adversity and belligerence.

The daring 'Operation SOMNATH' by Pakistan Navy Ships knocked out Indian radar station and shore installations at Dwarka, on the Gujarat Coast thus blinding the enemy's maritime picture and attaining psychological ascendancy. Pakistan Navy Submarine Ghazi acted as an impregnable shield at sea, effectively confining the Indian Fleet within the harbour. Today, we owe special tributes to the daring acts and sacrifices of our war heroes who dwell and thrive in our hearts.

Pakistan Navy, entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding maritime frontiers of the motherland, vigilantly undertakes round the clock operations to defend our waters and ensures that maritime domain is not exploited for illicit activities. In today's changing maritime environment, Pakistan Navy is ensuring safety and security of international waters through a variety of collaborative and independent initiatives and arrangements.

In the present era, only a strong economy can ensure credible defence. Our maritime sector has tremendous potential to contribute towards the national economy, provided it is facilitated and appropriately developed. In this regard, Pakistan Navy continuously strives to promote Blue Economy which will open new vistas of opportunities for our national progress.

Pakistan Navy maintains perpetual readiness to deter war, ensure maritime defence and proactively contributes to nation building initiatives.

Today we acknowledge the sacrifices made by our Shuhadas and Ghazis who have displayed unflinching resolve against a much larger adversary. All the Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians reaffirm their resolve to defend our maritime frontiers with absolute faith and unremitting perseverance.

May Allah be our Guide and Protector (Ameen).

**Pakistan Navy, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.**



Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu
Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M)
Chief of Air Staff

Defence Day of Pakistan symbolises the exemplary courage, consummate professionalism and matchless spirit of sacrifice of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The day holds a special significance in our history, as it revives the memory of our nation's resolve in the face of aggression. On this historic occasion, the aggressor challenged the very existence of a peaceful country, little knowing about our indomitable will to fight. Alhamdulillah, in a remarkable show of unity, the people of Pakistan and its Armed Forces took up the gauntlet and routed the enemy. Undoubtedly, Pakistan Air Force, in unison with sister services, delivered a knock-out punch to the enemy and set a legacy of fighting outnumbered.

While commemorating this great day of national pride, we salute and pay homage to all those who laid down their lives for motherland. Certainly, they added a new chapter to history through glorious deeds of heroism and set a supreme example of sacrifice for posterity to emulate. Indeed, we owe our heroes an eternal debt of gratitude for what they have done for us. We also salute those veterans who returned home to tell their sagas of courage from which we continue to draw strength and inspiration.

My Dear Countrymen! Our glorious history is witness to the fact that, as a nation, we have always displayed great solidarity, especially in times of crises and as such always emerged triumphant. I am sure that on the strength of our national cohesion, we can surmount every challenge, however daunting. On this occasion, let us solemnly pledge that we will make every effort for the progress and development of our country. I assure you that Pakistan Air Force is fully capable to defend the aerial frontiers of our sacred motherland.

On this special day, we must not forget our Kashmiri brethren who have been fighting against occupation for over seven decades. We renew our resolve to support their just struggle for self-determination.

May Allah Almighty give us the strength, courage and vision to prove equal to our nation's expectations (Aameen).

**Pakistan Air Force, Zindabad.
Pakistan, Paindabad.**

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Salutes Our Valiant Soldiers



PAEC Contributes:

- Six Nuclear Power Plants providing over 3500MW Electricity
- 20 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals provide **Diagnosis & Treatment of Cancer**
- Over 150 new crop varieties Developed by Four **Agriculture & Biotechnology Research Centres**
- Quality Education & HRD through **PIEAS, CHASCENT, KINPOE**



Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission
Committed to Serve the Nation

**DHA KARACHI PAYS HOMAGE TO THE
INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF OUR ARMED FORCES**

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In brief

Pakistan, India World Cup tickets C O L O M B O (Agencies): Ticket prices for the Pakistan vs India match at the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 have surged to unprecedented levels. Official outlets quickly sold out their available tickets within just one hour on both August 29 and September 3. Nevertheless, a report from NDTV reveals that certain tickets are still accessible on the secondary market but at exorbitant prices. "For instance, a South Premium West Bay ticket is currently listed at an astonishing ?19.5 lakh on Viagogo, an online sports ticket platform," the NDTV report stated. "There are only two tickets remaining for the upper tier, offering an unobstructed view, and they are being sold for an astonishing ?57 lakh each," it added. This has sparked anger and disappointment among fans, who are concerned that they will not be able to afford to watch the match. The price surge has also raised questions about the accessibility of cricket for fans.

Shadab named head coach

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shadab Iftikhar would lead the U19 Football team as Head Coach in the SAFF U19 Championship 2023, scheduled to be held in Nepal from September 21 to 30. Pakistan Football Federation has introduced Shadab Iftikhar as the newest addition to their technical team, according to a press release. Holding a UEFA A Licence Coach certification, Iftikhar boasts a rich background. He fulfilled the role of a scout under Roberto Martinez, contributing his expertise to both Wigan Athletic and Everton Football Club, each for a two-year span. He has also worked for the Royal Belgium Football Federation as an opposition scout during the Euro 2020 and Qatar World Cup 2022. At the end of November 2021, Iftikhar was appointed manager of Fort William in the Scottish Highland Football League. Furthermore, he has been associated with several academies in England such as Bury FC and Morecambe FC.

National MMA C'ship from Friday

I S L A M A B A D (APP): The 2023 National MMA Championship (men & women) will roll into action in Karachi on Friday, Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation (PMMAF) said on Tuesday. The three-day event is taking place under the auspices of PMMAF in collaboration with Pakistan Sports Board and Sindh Mixed Martial Arts Association. Zulfiqar Ali, the president of PMMAF said in a statement. The championship will witness male and female fighters from all over Pakistan who will be competing against each other in the upcoming fights for the ultimate title gain of the championship. "The fighters will have fights in two different categories including MMA and striking MMA. However, individual category is divided into different weight categories in which fights will be contested," he added. Zulfiqar said that athletes from all the affiliated units of PMMAF would be featuring in the championship, which include Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK.

Heartbreak for Afghanistan as SL qualify by slimmest margin

LAHORE (Agencies): Afghanistan won hearts and minds, but it was Sri Lanka who won the contest, in a game for the ages in Lahore. The scorecard will say Sri Lanka won by two runs - and in the process recorded their 12th straight ODI win - but that barely scratches the surface in a game that could've gone either way. After their heavy loss to Bangladesh, Afghanistan knew at the toss that any chase would have to be completed in around 37 overs for them to get their NRR to qualification standards. Adding a bit of spice to this scenario was the fact that, if they succeeded in doing so, Sri Lanka's NRR would then drop below that of both Bangladesh's and Afghanistan's, thus eliminating the defending champions. As it transpired, with Sri Lanka ending on 291 for 8 - courtesy an 84-ball 92 from Kusal Mendis and a late stand between Dunith Wellalage and

Maheesh Theekshana - Afghanistan needed to reach their target in 37.1 overs. For much of the chase Sri Lanka had the game in hand, but then Mohammad Nabi's 32-ball 65 lit the fuse of belief that spread through the Afghan camp. Nabi walked in in with 171 required off 110, and by the time he fell, the equation had dropped to 91 from 64. In between, he had pulled, swatted, cut and slapped Sri Lanka's bowlers all over the Gaddafi Stadium in an innings that included six fours and five sixes.

Such was the impact of Nabi's innings that the rest of the batters - the same ones that had struggled to maintain a high strike-rate against Bangladesh two days prior - would find the boundaries when required to keep up with the run-rate.

In the end though it was left to Rashid Khan, who would strike three boundaries in the final four balls

of the 37th over to leave Mujeeb Ur Rahman needing to score three off one. Mujeeb would hole out at long-on, but that wouldn't be that. As the math would have it, Afghanistan could have still qualified if they were to get their score up to 295 in 37.5 overs - essentially with a single six. But incredibly, it appeared this wasn't communicated to the Afghan players. And so, Farooqi, as the No. 11, would play out two defensive strokes, before being trapped lbw while attempting a third block. Rashid at the other end cut a forlorn figure as Sri Lanka secured an improbable win to finish atop Group B.

Until Nabi's intervention though, Sri Lanka were comfortably in control, more so after the power-play. Kasun Rajitha, who finished with 4 for 79, was the early enforcer with wickets of top-order batters Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran.



Mohammad Nabi smashed Afghanistan's fastest ODI fifty.

ICC Men's ODI Worl Cup 2023 Trophy Embarks on a Historic Tour to Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): The ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 Trophy has made its grand arrival here and commenced a three-day tour filled with iconic moments, engaging activities, and an opportunity for cricket enthusiasts to get up close with this prestigious trophy.

The ICC Men's World Cup 2023 Trophy began its tour in India, the host of the tournament, since June 27. It has travelled to Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the USA, West Indies, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Bahrain, Italy, France and England.

The ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 Trophy, one of the most coveted prizes in the world of cricket, touched down in Lahore on 4 September and is scheduled to depart on 6 September. During this brief yet momentous visit, the trophy is being embarked on a swift journey, making stops at historical landmarks, cricket academies, and educational institutions, providing fans from all walks of life a chance to witness the glory of cricket up close.

The trophy will be on display at the National Cricket Academy's outdoor area on 6 September at 10 am for 40 minutes.

The ICC Men's World Cup 2023 is all set to take place in India from 5 October to 19 November. Pakistan, currently the number one side in the 50-over format, clinched the title in 1992 under the leadership of Imran Khan when they defeated England by 22 runs in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia. In the last edition of the ICC Men's World Cup held in England in 2019, Pakistan narrowly missed an opportunity to qualify for the semi-finals, ending with 11 points from nine games and finishing in fifth place.

BCCI, PCB on path to mend cricket ties

LAHORE (APP): Vice President Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Rajiv Shukla has said that cricket strengthens bond between the people and brings nations together.

Speaking at the grand gala dinner by the PCB in honor of BCCI delegation and Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan cricket teams at the Governor's House the other night, he hinted at the magical power of cricket to bring people and states closer with desire to mend relations between the boards like the past.

The trio from the BCCI and PCB including Roger Binny, Rajiv Shukla and Zaka Ashraf expressed the positive intent mend relations for the fans on both sides of the border.

Reminiscing on successful tours by the Indian team in the past despite concerns on players' security, the BCCI vice president said there were security concerns prior to the Indian team's Pakistan tour in 2004 but we went ahead with the tour through the backing of the BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya and it was followed by a tour in 2006.

"2004-06 was the golden era in Pakistan-India relations while cricket served as the track II diplomacy," Shukla said, adding that it helped promote people to people ties.

Shukla spoke freely of his fondness of Lahore and how he enjoyed coming back to the historic city. He reminisced of a similar day at the Governor's House when former Indian Prime Minister addressed the audience at the sprawling lawns of Governor's House.

He also made a special mention of the warmth and hospitality extended to him every time he had visited Lahore, adding he was enamoured by the personal care he received every time he was here in Lahore.

Shukla promised enviable hospitality to the visiting Pakistan team during the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 in India from October 5, adding he looked forward to welcome all the team there.

The BCCI vice president congratulated PCB on the successful conduct of the Asia Cup 2023. Chairman Management Committee PCB Zaka Ashraf urged the need to revive love and

develop brotherly relations among the cricketing nations of the world.

Welcoming the BCCI President Roger Binny, Vice President Rajiv Shukla, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka cricket teams, office-bearers and officials to Lahore, he underlined the need of unity among the cricketing nations as cricket brings countries and nations together. He expressed the hope that the Asia Cup will promote brotherly ties.

Referring to the recent Pak-India tie in the Asia Cup 2023 in Kandy, Sri Lanka, Zaka Ashraf said it was great sight cricket from both the teams hugging each other at the end of the match, adding that cricket is a binding force.

BCCI President Roger Binny also reiterated his desire to strengthen the ties between the cricket boards and promote cricket.

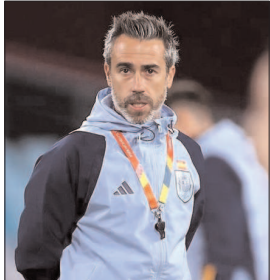
Later, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf presented mementoes to the visiting ceicket teams and office bearers of other boards.

Spanish football federation fires controversial women's coach Vilda

LONDON (Agencies): The Spanish football federation said Tuesday it had fired controversial coach Jorge Vilda who oversaw Spain winning the Women's World Cup in the fallout following a major sexism scandal.

"The Royal Spanish Football Federation... has decided to dispense with the services of Jorge Vilda as sports director and women's national team coach," the RFEF said in a statement. The 42-year-old, who has been the team's coach since 2015, is known for being close to Luis Rubiales, the suspended RFEF president who forcibly kissed a World Cup player after the final, sparking outrage.

Vilda's dismissal had been widely expected after he was seen applauding a belligerent speech by Rubiales to the RFEF in which he refused to resign



and railing against "false feminism". The coach later spoke out against Rubiales' behaviour, describing it as "inappropriate and unacceptable" but did not offer his own resignation.

The RFEF said Vilda's dismissal was "the first of a string of restructuring measures" aimed at improving the governance within the federation in the wake of the Rubiales scandal, which has exposed what critics say is a deep-rooted misogyny within

Spanish football.

Vilda came under fire a year ago after 15 players on the women's national team said they would not continue to wear the national shirt while he remained as coach, pointing to incidents under his leadership that were affecting their performance on the pitch.

The RFEF statement contained no criticism of Vilda, saying he had been "key to the remarkable growth of women's football and that had left Spain as world champions and second in the FIFA rankings".

The announcement came shortly after the RFEF sent its "most sincere apologies" for the "totally unacceptable behaviour" of suspended Rubiales and pledged immediate action to improve its governance and "to repair, as far as possible, the damage caused".

Hockey training camp underway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The training camp of national players under the auspices of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) in preparations for the Asian Games was underway here at the Naseer Banda Hockey Stadium of the Pakistan sports Complex.

According to camp commandant and head coach Olympian Shahnaz Sheikh, the players were training in morning and evening sessions in the camp. The selected team from the players would feature in the Asian Games to be played in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8.

He said a lot of players were new in the camp and were preparing hard for the mega event.

To a question, he said he

was fully satisfied with the facilities, accommodation, food, and other facilities provided by the Pakistan Sports board (PSB). The hostel employees were also very cooperative.

The 36 players participating in the camp from all over the country include Goalkeepers: Akmal Hussain (Wapda), Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan (Mari Petroleum), Waqar (Wapda), Ali Raza (Punjab), Abdullah Sheikh (Sindh), Defenders: Muhammad Abdullah (Mari Petroleum), Arbaaz Ahmed (Mari Petroleum), M Sufyan Khan (KP), Aqeel Ahmed (WAPDA), Bilal Aslam (Customs),

Midfielders: Osama Bashir (PAF), M Murtaza Yaqoob (Wapda), Arbaaz Ayaz (Sindh), Ehtisham

Aslam. (Mari Petroleum), M Baqir (Punjab), M Nadeem Khan (KP), Mohammad Imran (PAF), Syed Shahbaz Haider (Navy), Forwards: Rana Abdul Waheed (Wapda), Mohammad Imad (Customs), Afraz (Mari Petroleum), Roman (Wapda), Arshad Liaquat (Mari Petroleum), Abdul Qayyum (Customs), Abdul Rahman (Wapda), Waqar Ali (Mari Petroleum), Muhammad Arsalan (Punjab), M Umar Bhatta (Wapda), Abdul Hanan Shahid (Wapda), M Shahzeb Khan (Customs), Abdul Wahab (Sindh), Zakaria Hayat (Navy), Basharat Ali (Navy), Rana Waleed (Punjab), Hamza Fayyaz (Punjab) and Abdul Rehman (PAF).

De Kock to retire from ODIs after World Cup

CAPE TOWN (Agencies): South Africa batter Quinton de Kock will retire from one-day international cricket after the upcoming World Cup in India.

Former Proteas captain De Kock, 30, will continue to play T20 internationals.

The announcement came shortly after South Africa named their 15-player World Cup squad, to be led by batter Temba Bavuma.

South Africa play their World Cup opener against Sri Lanka on 7 October.

"Quinton de Kock has been a really good servant to South African cricket," said South Africa's director

of cricket Enock Nkwe.

"He set the benchmark with his attacking batting style and was a key member of the squad for a number of years." The wicket-keeper-batter has played 140 ODIs, scoring 5,966 runs at an average of 44.85. He retired from Test cricket in 2021 to spend more time with his family, having played 54 Tests.

De Kock was recently rested for South Africa's T20 series against Australia, which they lost 3-0, but is expected to feature in the ODI leg which starts on Thursday.

He has been signed by

Melbourne Renegades in Australia's Big Bash League, which clashes with South Africa's home white-ball series against India.

The World Cup starts on 5 October with the final taking place on 19 November.

South Africa squad for World Cup: Temba Bavuma (captain), Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Sisanda Magala, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen.

Gauff thrashes Ostapenko to reach US Open semi-final

NEW YORK (Agencies): Coco Gauff thrashed Jelena Ostapenko in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the US Open for the first time on Tuesday.

American sixth seed Gauff dominated Latvia's 20th seed Ostapenko from start to finish, winning 6-0, 6-2 in just 1hr 8min.

Gauff, 19, will face either Czech 10th seed Karolina Muchova or Romania's Sorana Cirstea in the last four on Thursday.

Gauff, beaten in the quarter-finals last year, is the first American teenager to reach the US Open semi-finals since 2001.

"It feels great, I'm so happy," said Gauff. "Last year I lost in the quarter-finals stage and wanted to do better this year. I have a long way to go but I'm happy and will be ready for the next one."

"I didn't feel comfortable at all the whole match, even at match point. She has the ability to come back no matter the scoreline so I was just trying to play every ball and hit it deep." On Tuesday's evidence,

the American teenager will head into the last four brimming with confidence after producing a superb display to overwhelm Ostapenko.

Ostapenko had produced the shock of the tournament in the last 16 on Sunday, ousting world number one and reigning women's champion Iga Swiatek in three sets. But amid furnace-like heat on the Arthur Ashe Stadium, the inconsistent Latvian wilted in the face of a scorching performance from her American opponent.

Gauff broke her opponent's serve three times in a lopsided first set which was over in 20 minutes, with the Latvian coughing 15 unforced errors to Gauff's two. Ostapenko was soon in trouble in the second set, suffering a service break in the opening game when Gauff's sublime drop shot left the Latvian scrambling to the net. However Ostapenko finally got on the board with a break of serve in the next game only to surrender that momentum in the next game when Gauff broke her for the fifth

time for a 2-1 lead.

The next three games went with serve before Gauff turned the screw to break for a 5-2 lead that left the teenager serving for the match. Although Ostapenko defiantly saved two match points, Gauff clinched victory with a forehand winner.

Alcaraz into US Open last eight as Pegula, Jabeur crash out: Carlos Alcaraz surged into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Monday as upsets dominated the women's draw with Ons Jabeur and Jessica Pegula becoming the latest highly ranked players to go crashing out.

Defending champion Alcaraz, who has only dropped one set on his journey into the last eight, produced a dominant display to overwhelm Italian world No.61 Matteo Arnaldi, winning 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr 57min. Alcaraz will face 12th seed Alexander Zverev in Wednesday's quarter-finals after the 2020 US Open finalist from Germany defeated Italian sixth seed Jannik Sinner in a five-set duel tinged with

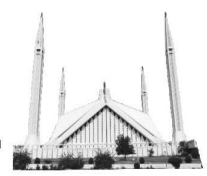
controversy.

Zverev, who is returning to his best form after a gruesome injury at the French Open last year that forced a six-month layoff, downed Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 4hr 41min battle, which wrapped at 1.39am local time, saw an ugly incident in the fourth set when Zverev complained of a "Hitler phrase" being shouted from the stands as he prepared to serve.

"He just said the most famous Hitler phrase there is in this world," Zverev told the umpire, "This is unbelievable." A male fan was subsequently identified as the alleged culprit and ejected from the arena before Zverev went on to seal victory.

"I love when fans are loud, I love when fans are emotional but I think me being German, and not really proud of that history, it's not really a great thing to do," Zverev said of the incident afterwards. "If I just don't react I think it's bad from my side."



In brief

Police arrest six for possessing weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted six accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Race Course, Airport, Taxila, Mandra and Kalar Syedan police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested six namely Tayyab, Nabeel, Majeed, Raheemullah, Nawazish and Salahuddin and recovered five 30 bore pistols, a dagger and ammunition. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. Divisional Superintendents of Police said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the law-breakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon holders would continue.

NHA awarded leadership award

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has been awarded the Development Leadership Award for outstanding national service. The award was presented by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms in recognition of the NHA's achievements in the road network, NHA Spokesman said on Tuesday. Over the years, the NHA has completed many major highway projects, including the Lahore-Multan Motorway, the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway, and the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway. These projects have had a positive impact on Pakistan's socio-economic development, by improving connectivity and reducing travel times. The NHA has also been praised for its visionary leadership and its commitment to quality. The authority has a strong focus on safety and sustainability, and it is committed to providing world-class infrastructure to the people of Pakistan. The award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the NHA staff. The authority is committed to continuing its work on road development, and it is confident that it will continue to make a positive contribution to Pakistan's development.

Rs 77.8 bln projects for remote areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): To provide connectivity to remote and unserved areas across the country 83 projects worth Rs 77.8 billion would be completed by December 2023 under the Universal Service Fund (USF). The official of the IT ministry said the primary objective of the USF was to connect all citizens of the country, as digitalization had become a crucial priority for both businesses and communities. Under the Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services programme, he said, the USF had made significant strides, contracting over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC), which was expected to benefit approximately 31.5 million people nationwide.

12 more dengue cases reported

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 12 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 277 here on Tuesday. District Coordinator, Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr. Sajjad Mehmood, said that, among the new cases, nine patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area, two from the Chaklala cantonment, and one from the Municipal Corporation area.



ISLAMABAD: Defence analyst and security expert, Mr. Ikram Sehgal called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Mushaal Mullick calls on FM Jilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Tuesday called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

The discussion focused on enhancing collaboration between the ministries of foreign affairs and human rights and projecting Pakistan's point of view at international fora, including the upcoming session of the United Nations General

Assembly.

The foreign minister and the SAPM also discussed the plight of the thousands of political activists, journalists and human rights defenders, who have been arrested by the Indian authorities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

They expressed grave concern over the Indian authorities' fresh plea to seek the death penalty for one of the most important Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen

Malik, who was awarded a life sentence, last year.

They emphasized the urgent need for the release of all political prisoners; halting human rights violations; reversal of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019; and implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir so that the Kashmiri people could realize their inalienable right to self-determination.

Dewatering teams mobilized in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration mobilized its teams after heavy rain and thunderstorms last night to clear waterlogged roads and drains in Islamabad. Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates assessed the situation to ensure that all necessary measures were taken to mitigate the impact of the flooding, ICT spokesman said on Tuesday.

The dewatering process was carried out by CDA, MCI, and Emergency and Disaster Management teams. They were using pumps and water tankers to remove the water from the roads and drains, adding said the teams were also clearing fallen trees and debris from the roads, he added.

Interior Minister vows to tackle Illegal immigration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Tuesday vowed to tackle the illegal immigration issue and provide foolproof security to the foreigners. He was chairing a meeting on law and order situation in the country here, which was attended by senior officials from the police, security agencies, and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated.

He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners living illegally in Pakistan. Sarfraz Bugti also ordered completion

of the action plan to open three more border crossings on the Pakistan-Iran border.

The minister stressed the need to clearly define the scope of police and security agencies in order to improve their performance. He also directed the authorities to provide state-of-the-art training and resources to the civil armed forces.

Regarding the security of foreigners, the minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct by finalizing it.

He also ordered the provision of all possible facilities to visa applicants for business and investment.

The minister called another meeting next week to review the implementation of the National Action Plan.

First-ever art exhibition of Pakistani artists held in Budapest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Hungary organized the first-ever art exhibition of Pakistani artists in Budapest to showcase the works of talented artists and provide a platform for cross-cultural exchange.

The exhibition titled "ChaharBagh" (four gardens of paradise) showcased the artwork of eight Pakistani artists, according to a press release received on Tuesday. Organised in cooperation with the Embassy of Türkiye in Hungary and Yunus Emre Institute, the exhibition will continue till September 8, being held at the said Institute in Budapest.

The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of participants including Hungarian dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, art enthusiasts, students, and media persons.

The ambassadors of Pakistan and Türkiye along with Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Jakob inaugurated the exhibition on September 4.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador

Asif Hussain Memon highlighted the theme of exhibition and the rich art tapestry of Pakistan. He also underscored the importance of organizing such art and cultural events regularly to foster cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Hungary. He also thanked the Turkish ambassador for their support.

The Turkish ambassador to Hungary highlighted the historic bond between Türkiye and Pakistan and assured support for joint collaborations.

Additional Secretary for Asia Pacific department Peter Jakob highlighted growing bilateral relations between Hungary and Pakistan in diverse areas including arts and culture and welcomed the Pakistan embassy's efforts in this regard.

Sundas Azfar, curator of the exhibition, in her recorded video message, highlighted the theme of the exhibition.

The participants appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Embassy in organizing the exhibition and providing the opportunity to exhibit the rich art culture of Pakistan at the heart of Hungary for the first time.

Defence Day – Manifesting an indomitable resolve against aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): The valiant nations always rise to the call of duty by emerging stronger and resolutely to demonstrate unwavering resolve and determination to defend their homeland and honor.

Whether it is internal strife or foreign aggression, these nations exhibit unyielding courage with their valiant fighters even laying down their lives for the independence, sovereignty and well-being of their people.

Such a day was experienced by the Pakistani nation on September 6, 1965, when its neighbouring enemy India imposed unwanted aggression ambushing in the darkness of night with an ambition to kneel down its people. But our valiant armed forces, backed by the nation's courage and determination, defended the motherland's sovereignty and integrity with unparalleled valor.

From the initial clashes along the Eastern Border to the full-fledged war, Pakistan embarked on a path of glory that showcased its mettle on the ground. It sent a clear message to the world, "When this nation unites with its armed forces, no enemy can shake its resolve." Since then, the Pakistani nation has observed Defense Day every year on September 06, with great zeal and enthusiasm to reaffirm its commitment to defending our country against all threats.

On this day, the nation pays tribute to brave sons and daughters of Pakistan who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and passed on the legacy of valor and loyalty to future generations. Fifty-eight years ago, Pakistan found itself engaged in a full-fledged war with India. The initial Indian incursion into Pakistani territory occurred in April 1965 in the Rann of Kutch. Pakistan forcefully ejected them, with both sides fully mobilized, standing face-to-face. Pakistan proposed a ceasefire, which India accepted, leading to an agree-

ment and the disengagement of forces.

However, the situation escalated on the night of September 5-6 when the Indian army, without a formal declaration of war, crossed the international border, launching attacks on the Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan's Army and Air Force halted the offensive, inflicting significant casualties on the aggressor.

On September 7, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, a PAF pilot, achieved an unmatched feat by shooting down five Indian Air Force Hunter aircraft in a single sortie. Pakistan's Special Services Groups executed para-drops on Indian Air Force bases at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara on the same night to neutralize them.

To relieve pressure on the Lahore front, Pakistan's armoured and mechanized units, backed by artillery and the PAF, swiftly overran the Khem Karn area, penetrating six to eight miles into Indian territory. Key Indian positions in Sulemanki and across Rajasthan and Sindh were captured in bold and rapid offensives.

Simultaneously, an Indian Army Corps launched a major thrust east of Sialkot with armoured and infantry divisions, supported by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). This prompted a swift response from Pakistan, with a 30-mile front established to halt the enemy's advance. The Chawinda front witnessed the largest tank battle since World War II, led by 6 Armored Division, valiantly supported by 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and 4 Corps Artillery. The Pakistan Air Force played a crucial role in turning the tide of battle. Before a counteroffensive by the 6 Armored Division on September 22, India requested a ceasefire through the United Nations.

India's aggression, without a for-

mal declaration of war, came at a significant cost, resulting in heavy personnel, material and economic losses, along with the loss of 1617 square miles of territory compared to 446 square miles of Pakistan's open and undefended land.

Many of Pakistan's martyrs received awards for their gallantry and bravery, including Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, who was posthumously awarded the highest military honor, Nishan-i-Haider, for his exceptional role in defending Lahore at Bedian.

While the armed forces showcased their mettle, the entire nation stood shoulder-to-shoulder, united against the enemy's aggression. Pakistani artists, including Mehdi Hassan, Alam Lohar, Noor Jehan, Saleem Raza and others, played a vital role in boosting morale with patriotic songs, fostering a sense of unity and resilience. The enemy had suffered a resounding defeat with our forces silencing India's reckless territorial ambitions and ill-will towards Pakistan. "The victory in the 1965 war was made possible by the national spirit and unity that must always be remembered and upheld," stated Lieutenant General (Retd) Amjad Shoaib.

"On this day the whole nation especially people from Lahore, Sialkot and other border areas demonstrated unique unity," he added. Other defense analysts also underline the importance of this day and call on the nation to always emulate the spirit and determination of that historic day. "India had been relentlessly seeking to destroy Pakistan since its inception, but it is our unity as a nation that foiled all bids of our enemy," remarked Lieutenant General (Retd) Ghulam Mustafa. Brigadier (Retd) Mahmood Shah has also reiterated that Pakistan's victory in the 1965 war was due to national unity and the heroic performance of its armed forces.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a review meeting.

Afghanistan exports 45b

KABUL (Agencies): In the first five months of the current solar year, Afghanistan exported 45 billion Afghanis worth of various goods to foreign countries. 60% of these items include fruits, vegetables, saffron, coal, etc., while the other 40% includes other various export items. The statement also revealed that 96.5% of these items were exported to Tajikistan, India, Iraq, Turkey, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Frontier Post

Saffar 19, 1445 — Wednesday, September 06, 2023

4 common markets opened

BADAGHSHAN (TOLOnews): Four common markets between the border areas of Afghanistan and Tajikistan were reopened. These common markets, which were closed four years ago due to the spread of COVID-19, have started to operate again with the understanding between the two countries. "With the discussion of the MoF and DG of Customs, they were able to solve the problems this week and open the markets," said Shafaqtullah, head of Customs Department.

UN urged to establish independent investigation

KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and 63 human rights groups have jointly appealed to the UN Human Rights Council, urging the establishment of an independent investigation mechanism for Afghanistan.

The recent letter highlights a disturbing trend over the past two years, characterized by a surge in reprisal killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, and enforced disappearances. This distressing situation encompasses human rights defenders, journalists, and artists and extends to around 800 former govern-

ment officials and national security personnel. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has documented these troubling occurrences in its latest report.

The letter underscores the grave concerns surrounding escalating acts of violence and human rights violations. It brings attention to the distressing reality of increased reprisals, torture, and ill-treatment, along with the unjust detention and disappearance of numerous individuals, including activists, journalists, former government members, and security personnel. The findings pre-

sented by UNAMA serve as a significant indicator of the challenging and profoundly concerning situation unfolding in Afghanistan over the past two years.

The report also indicated that there have been crack-downs on civil society and violations of fundamental human rights based on discriminatory reasons.

The letter highlighted that the Council has addressed similar grave situations as in Afghanistan by setting up inquiries for Syria Ukraine, an investigative mechanism for Myanmar, and a fact-finding mission for Iran.

"By establishing a fully resourced independent investigative mechanism on Afghanistan, the Council will act consistently with its approach to these situations and demonstrate that it can take meaningful steps towards ensuring accountability for violations and abuses committed in Afghanistan," the statement read.

The letter urged the extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate for Afghan human rights. It emphasized the need for substantial action on their report and the Working Group's report on gender discrimination.

Farah families end 4-year-old enmity, live peacefully



FARAH (Pajhwok): A four-year-old enmity between two families in Bakwa district of western Farah province has come to an end after mediation of elders and religious scholars.

The families of Noorul Haq and Sharafuddin reconciled two weeks ago and have since been living a peaceful life.

Haji Sakhi Jan Jamal, a tribal elder of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News

that a clash over land ownership took place between the two families four years ago, which resulted in the killing of four individuals.

Eventually, the enmity came to an end and both families reconciled following the mediation of religious scholars, tribal elders and government officials.

"Four years ago, three people were killed from Sharafuddin's family and one from Noorul Haq family

in the clash," he added. He praised the rival families for accepting the request of tribal elders and local officials to reconcile.

The two families are also glad that they now live a peaceful life and are no longer enemies of each other.

Sharafuddin said: "Four years ago, our families, who are cousins, clashed over a land dispute in which three members of

our family were killed, since then we have not seen peace and we left our area."

He said he was happy that religious scholars, tribal leaders and local officials were able to end their four-year-old enmity and make peace between them.

He added: "The end of every conflict is peace, no matter how many people are killed, we have to make peace in the end, so it's good that we reconciled."

Maulvi Abdul Majeed Samim, director of the vice and virtue department, said that it was his responsibility to make people aware of the dangers of conflict and enmity and call them to reconciliation.

"Fortunately, last week, with the mediation of a number of tribal leaders, officials and scholars, we were able to achieve peace between the two families. The enmity has taken four lives," he added.

Maulvi Samim added they were trying to resolve other such disputes.

Abdul Khaliq Rohani, a religious scholar, said: "Allah created us to live peacefully with each other."

Rehabilitated drug addicts get vocational training: Ibrahimi

KABUL (Pajhwok): Hundreds of rehabilitated drug addicts have been provided with vocational training opportunities in the Aghosh Complex in Afghan capital Kabul, an official said.

Samiullah Ibrahimi, spokesperson for the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, told Pajhwok Afghan News upon the direction of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) Supreme Leader Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhund two years back a committee was formed to round up drug addicts and the Ministry of Works and Social Affairs was also its member.

He said after treatment these addicts are provided vocational training by the ministry and vocational training centres in this regard are created nationwide.

He said the Vocational

Training Centre of Omaid was created in Aghosh 5,000-bed Hospital's complex in Kabul and in its first batch 530 rehabilitated drug addicts completed their vocational training.

He said these individuals got the training of shoe, bag, electric items repairing, tailoring and electricity training.

He said funds for this centre are provided by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and two trainers are assigned to each skill in two shifts.

Ibrahimi said efforts were underway to generate work opportunities for these individuals after completing their training.

He said the vocational training centre started functioning five months ago and currently it is about to complete the training of its first batch.

As many as 200 of the trainees would be provided with necessary equip-

ment after they complete the training.

Ezzatullah Rahmat, deputy head of the centre, said the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) plans regarding the treatment of drug addicts was very affective and urged the IEA to create work opportunities for addicts who complete training.

He said efforts were on to explore market for the items produced by these individuals and this plan had been shared with the leadership of the social affairs ministry.

Syed Nazir, one of the rehabilitated drug addicts who is currently learning skill in this centre, said he was addicted to drug from the past three years in Turkey but currently after four month he is being rehabilitated.

He said he was happy to have an opportunity for vocational training and daily he sew two or three

suits. Mohammad Naseer Anwari, one of the trainees of electricity, said he was addicted to drugs one year ago and from the past four months he was provided with treatment here.

He said after the completion of training he wanted to open an electronic items repair shop and serve the masses.

Bilal Ahmadi, who is busy learning tailoring, said from the past six months he serve in this centre and in the tailoring section 108 individuals were getting training in two shifts.

He said rehabilitated drugs addicts have high skills and if proper training is provided they could learn more.

It is pertinent to mention that this vocational training centre was opened in May at the cost of 30 million afs.

Afghanistan's economic challenges

KABUL (Khaama Press): After about two years, the Afghan currency's value against the US dollar suddenly and significantly improved, reaching an exchange rate of 72 Afghanis per US dollar in recent weeks. However, the prices of food and non-food items in the markets did not decrease.

Despite being largely import-dependent, Afghanistan receives most goods in exchange for dollars. With the expectation of a lower dollar value, it was anticipated that the prices of both food and non-food items would decrease.

Economic experts attribute the fluctuations in the dollar's value in the markets to two main factors: government monetary policies and the presence of an "economic mafia" in the country.

Irregularities in the dollar's value are often attributed to manipulations by these economic groups that adjust exchange rates for their benefit over specific periods.

Economic analyst Iraj Faqiri mentioned on Khaama Press Twitter Space that control over currency markets lies more in the hands of "mafia groups" that adjust exchange rates according to their interests, despite the Afghan Central Bank injecting more than ten million US dollars weekly to maintain the Afghan currency's value.

However, economists argue that the weekly influx of dollars into the markets is a temporary and inadequate solution for maintaining the Afghan currency's value and dollar balance, leading to short-term instability and economic hardships.

Factors like the bankruptcy of Afghanistan's banking system, reduced foreign aid, and the US freezing of around 9.5 billion dollars of Afghanistan's assets, which served as a backing for the Afghan currency, have contributed to Afghanistan's economic collapse following the rise of the Taliban administration.

Economists emphasize that sustainable economic growth relies on security, economic stability, and the rule of law.

Currently, Afghanistan lacks these factors, and its economy is considered to be propped up by a "false economy." One economic observer named Hamdard on Twitter said, "Afghanistan's economy is mostly money-centered and fake. A sustainable economy requires continuous circulation and foundational projects."

However, the Taliban administration views preserving the value of the Afghan currency against foreign currencies as one of its significant achievements over the past two years.

Meanwhile, four common markets between the border areas of Afghanistan and Tajikistan were reopened after four years of being closed.

According to local officials of Badakhshan, these common markets, which were closed four years ago due to the spread of COVID-19, have started to operate again with the understanding between the two countries.

Malaysian envoy visits Afghanistan



KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Amir Khan Muttaqi has met with Malaysia's special envoy for Afghanistan, Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, the ministry said on Tuesday.

According to a statement released by the Ministry, Ahmad Azam said in the meeting that he traveled to Afghanistan with a special message from the Foreign Minister of Malaysia as he hopes relations between the two countries would expand like in the past. The diplomat added that he expects to carry a message of expansion of relations and cooperation from Kabul.

Meanwhile, Muttaqi said in the meeting that the message of the foreign minister of Malaysia is very important and that he believes it will help strengthen relations between the two countries.

He added that there are good trade and investment opportunities that should be used effectively.

IEA foreign minister meets with Japanese

envoy: The foreign minister of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi met with the Japanese ambassador to Kabul, Takashi Okada where the two diplomats discussed a number of issues including security, counter-narcotics and economic growth in Afghanistan.

Okada said at the meeting: "I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Japanese government to develop and strengthen relations with the Islamic Emirate and also provide information about the second meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Afghanistan."

"We want to listen to your requests in these areas and discuss them seriously in this meeting," Okada said. He further added: "The international community is willing to cooperate with the Islamic Emirate in the fields of climate change, water management, historical monuments, terrorism and health."

Muttaqi in turn thanked the Japanese ambassador

for the information and added that "in the future, we have set goals for the development of diplomatic relations with the countries of the region and the world and for the beneficial use of economic opportunities."

He also said the Islamic Emirate has made significant achievements in the areas of security, development of political and economic relations, prevention of drug cultivation, and trafficking, in the treatment of drug addicts and health services.

"Many issues have been resolved between the Islamic Emirate and the international community in the fight against drugs, the threat for other countries from the territory of Afghanistan, strengthening security and other areas, and now a good atmosphere of trust has been created for interaction," Muttaqi said.

In the end, both sides emphasized the need for development of relations and the strengthening of cooperation.

Interior Minister meets OIC delegation



KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Minister of Interior, Khalifa Sirajuddin Haqqani, met with a delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation delegation (OIC) and discussed the women's right to education and developments made in Afghanistan.

According to a statement released by the Interior Ministry, acting interior minister, Khalifa Sirajuddin Haqqani, while welcoming the delegation, thanked for the positive contribution of the organization, and emphasized that Afghanistan is on a path of progress.

In the meeting, the Acting Minister of Interior Affairs said, education is a common need of Muslims

and asked for patience about the education of women in Afghanistan.

"Girls' education is a need in our society, and this issue will be solved once required conditions are prepared," he said. The delegation stated that the Islamic Emirate has been able to achieve great results in various fields in addition to ensuring nationwide security in the course of two years.

Islamic Emirate was also able to adopt effective monetary policy, and carry out a successful fight for preventing criminal and ISIS activities as well as prohibiting the cultivation and trafficking of drugs, the delegation said. It has also emphasized that the Islamic

Emirate has fulfilled its obligations to OIC.

OIC delegation praised decrees of the IEA on women's rights, saying the current Afghan administration was able to prevent injustice about the rights of women in terms of baad marriages (exchange marriages) and their right to inheritance. The purpose of this delegation's visit to the country was to boost cooperation and brotherhood between Islamic countries.

The members of the delegation called education the right of both men and women and added that in addition to religious education, modern science paves the way for the progress of countries.

From rags to riches: Nimroz woman creates doll factory

ZARANJ (Pajhwok): A woman in northwestern Nimroz province has established a doll making factory by initially investing just 2,000 afghanis. She says she will hire more women if supported.

In last two years, the number of female investors has increased in production and commercial sectors, but this is the first time that a woman with such a small amount of capital has been able to establish a workshop.

Malalai Zuri, a resident of Zaranj city and founder of the dolls making workshop, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "One year ago, we started the doll-making business at home with a capital of 2,000 afghanis in cooperation with a group of six people, and until now we have been selling our

products online." She added now after one year she managed to establish "Jawaher Sistan Doll Manufacturing Workshop" with a capital of 100,000 afghanis.

She learned designing clothes in Iran, where she worked for five years in a factory and would design clothes and after returning to the country, she bought and sold clothes from home for 12 years in Nimroz.

She added: "The purpose of creating this workshop is to show everyone that women are creative and have the ability to do anything. My aim is to provide work to unemployed and poor women. My last goal is to prevent importation of dolls and replace them with locally produced dolls".

According to Zuri, six



people work in the newly established workshop, including a marketer and the rest are designers and tailors, all females.

She says: "On average, 40 to 50 dolls are produced

in this workshop every day and depending on orders from stores, sometimes we make up to 100 dolls in two days." She cited insufficient capital to buy standard machines, lack of

space and high cost of electricity as major challenges to their work.

"Our electricity bills amount to 10,000 afghanis and we have to increase in the product's price."

While calling her income unstable, she added: "More customers means more income. Thanks God, our business has prospered. We have good sales through marketing."

Zuri said besides making dolls, they also sew children's clothes, headboards, etc., according to customers' orders. She hoped she would be able to promote her business and hire more women and raise the level of production if supported.

She added: "My big goal is to prevent the entry of dolls from abroad, to make available local products to children and all the capital that goes to China and Iran is used to buy dolls in our country."

Mula Qanbari, in charge of marketing and purchasing raw materials for this workshop, says: Zuri has been able to provide work to several women, including myself, by creating this workshop, and doll-making is also a new initiative."

Maulvi Talha, owner of

"Golshan chain store", who is one of the clients of this workshop, told Pajhwok that the quality of the workshop's products was improving and could compete with foreign products and in the future, it could supply better products to the market.

Najibullah Khashrodi, Nimroz Chamber of Commerce and Investment president, said in the past two years, women had created small and large businesses with their own initiative and creativity, including doll manufacturing.

He added: "Making dolls is an irreplaceable entrepreneurship in Afghanistan and fortunately, the women of Nimrozi are trying in many ways to be useful in the growth of the country's economy."

UNDP team calls on KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) headed by its Resident representative, Samuel Rizk called on the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here on Tuesday. Matters related to various public welfare programs under the UNDP portfolio were discussed in detail. Possibilities of further extending the collaboration between the provincial government and UNDP in different social sectors also came under discussion on the occasion.

Talking to the delegation, the Chief Minister stressed the need of enhanced cooperation from UNDP and other partner organizations in the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and said that people of the NMDs have suffered a lot due to decades long militancy, and the areas is lagging far behind the other parts of the country in development; and hence it needs the special attention of both the government as well as the donor agencies specially in basic infrastructure development to bring it at par with rest of the province. The Chief Minister appreciated the continued financial and technical support of UNDP being extended to the provincial government in various social sector, and expressed the hope that collaboration and cooperation between UNDP and the provincial government would continue in future as well. He termed the merger of Ex-FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a good step, and urged that upon UNDP to further extend the scope of collaboration in these areas so that fast track development of those areas could be ensured. He also highlighted the need of strengthening police infrastructure in these areas with the aim to improve law & order situation to the desired level.

Muhammad Azam Khan suggested UNDP authorities to carry out programs in Rural Development sector of the province including the NMDs with the participation of the local community, to ensure sustainability of such programs. He termed the rising trend of drug use by young generation of the province as of serious concern, and stressed the need of UNDP collaboration focusing on both the prevention and treatment sides.

The Chief Minister assured that the caretaker provincial government would extend all out support to UNDP for the execution of its public welfare initiatives in the province.

Talking on this occasion Resident Representative of UNDP, Samuel Rizk appreciated the provincial government for its support in the execution of UNDP Programs, and said that UNDP, in collaboration with the provincial government, is working on various program in social sector which include Merged Areas Governance Program, Rule & Law project, Economic Revival Program, Eco-Tourism, Flood Recovery Program and HIV Control program etc. He remarked that there existed a very closed mechanism of coordination between the UNDP and relevant departments of provincial government with regard to the implementation of these program, adding that UNDP will further extend its scope of collaboration in the days to come.

Karachi gets new police chief

KARACHI (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) okayed on Tuesday a major reshuffle in the Sindh police department at the request of the provincial caretaker government, says in media reports.

According to the notification, Grade-21 officer Khadim Hussain Rind has been appointed as the new police chief of Karachi while Syed Asad Raza was posted as DIG South Zone Karachi. Similarly, Asim Khan was appointed as DIG West Zone, Ghulam Asghar DIG East Zone, Tariq Razaque will serve as DIG Hyderabad Range and Tanveer Alam Odho was posted as DIG Mirpurkhas Range. The move comes a day after the Sindh Services, General Administration & Coordination Department replied to the letter of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding transfers and postings of officers, and has also sent a list of names to be approved for posting.

Pakistan keen to promote cooperation with Iran: Solangi

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that Pakistan was keen to promote cooperation with Iran in the fields of media, film and drama.

During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him here, the minister said, "Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media is the need of the hour." The minister and the ambassador discussed issues of mutual interest, fraternal relations between the two countries and promotion of cooperation in the field of media.

"Cooperation between the two countries in the field of media is indispensable," Murtaza Solangi said. A memorandum of understanding had already been signed between the Associated Press of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), while many other agreements were under process to enhance cooperation between television, films, cinema, literary and linguistic institutions, he maintained.

These agreements, he said, would help project real culture and traditions of the two brotherly countries. The two sides agreed to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in various fields, including economic, commercial, cultural and tourism sectors, besides people-to-people contacts.

Caretaker govt fully abides by Constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday reaffirmed the caretaker government's commitment to uphold the Constitution and abide by the country's laws.

Talking to a private new channel, Solangi emphasized that the caretaker government had been working within the defined constitutional role and would not resort to anything which was against the Constitution. "We need to demonstrate through our actions that we have no favourites," he said, highlighting the importance of ensuring a level playing field for all political parties. The minister said it was the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) responsibility to provide equal opportunities to all the political parties.

"If any political party feels that it is being treated unjustly, it can approach the Election Commission and the courts," he asserted. As regards the arrest of Pervez Elahi, he said he was taken into custody under a First Information Report (FIR) registered against him. The police had the authority to arrest him. A person should not be called a political prisoner if he or she was arrested in a case. To a query, Solangi said everybody had the right of the freedom of expression and holding a peaceful protest. To another question, the minister reiterated the government's commitment to assist the ECP in fulfilling its constitutional duties related to holding polls. He said that the government would fully assist the ECP in conducting the election in accordance with its schedule.

The Iranian ambassador congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as caretaker minister for information and broadcasting. Pakistan highly valued brotherly relations with Iran, Murtaza Solangi said, adding both the countries were bound by deep religious, cultural and linguistic ties.

The governments of two countries were promoting close cooperation for the betterment of their people and socio-economic development, he said. The minister and the Iranian envoy agreed on exchange of media and cultural delegations between the two countries.

Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam said that Allama Iqbal had the status of a national poet in Iran. "Iranians hold Allama Iqbal, the great poet of the subcontinent, in great esteem." The minister said that a film on the life and poetry of Allama Iqbal would be made in collaboration with Iran.

LHC dismisses Yasmin Rashid, others' bail plea

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Lahore High Court on Tuesday denied bail to PTI-Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid and others in the Shadman Police Station attack case.

A bench consisting of Justice Miss Alia Neelum and Justice Asjad Javed Gharal conducted the hearing on PTI leader Dr. Yasmin Rashid's bail application. Dr. Yasmin Rashid has been accused of inciting the attack on Shadman police station, Lahore during the May 9 riots.

Advocate Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan and Advocate Muhammad Zia appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioners. Assistant Prosecutor General Tahir Siddique and Rai Ahsan Ali

appeared before the court on behalf of the Punjab government. The public prosecutor contended to the court that new provisions have been added to the petitioners' cases - and they have to appear in the inquiry.

The counsels for the petitioners gave arguments for a grant of bail. Justice Miss Alia Neelum held that the petitioners should join the investigation first - face the trial court and then apply for a bail petition. Dr. Yasmeen Rashid approached the High Court for bail on 12 July 2023. She has sought bail in FIR No. 768/23 under Section Seven ATA, in the case of setting fire to Shadman police station during the

May 09 riots. In the application for bail, the government and Shadman Police Station were made parties.

Meanwhile, the Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Tuesday sent PTI leader Mian Mehmood-ul-Rashid to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. The police have demanded further physical remand of the accused. The court ordered that Mian Mehmood-ul-Rashid should be produced again on September 19.

Judge Abher Gul Khan of the Anti-Terrorism Court conducted the hearing and PTI leader Mian Mehmood-ul-Rashid was produced on completion of his physical remand. He is involved in a case pertaining to the May 9 riots.



YINCHUAN: PAF J-10 and JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft taking part in air exercise, Shaheen X, being conducted in northwest China.

Nation stands united

(Continued from Page 1)

He was chairing a meeting to discuss measures for discouraging smuggling and promoting trade through legal channels. He was given a detailed briefing by the Ministry of Commerce. PM Kakar was informed about proposed plans to enhance exports volume, besides possible steps to curb smuggling. Different modalities of trade under the Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement were also reviewed. It was recommended to improve the system for scanning and monitoring of the traded goods.

Kakar directs for early conclusion of PIA restructuring plan: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed to present the detailed plan with regard to the restructuring of PIA to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) as soon as possible.

Chairing a high-level meeting regarding Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) here, the prime minister also directed to take measures to further improve the

air connection of remote areas with other cities of the country. He said the flight timings of PIA should be fixed according to the convenience of the passengers.

PIA is an important national institution that has provided splendid air services in the past and earned a positive image across the globe, he said adding that PIA was considered one of the best airlines in the world. He asked the aviation division and the PIA management to work day and night to regain the past glory of the airline. The meeting was told that the recent amendment in the PIA Act 2016 had paved the way for the restructuring of PIA. Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema and other officials attended the meeting.

Premier directs measures for utilisation of immense natural resources: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed the authorities concerned to take

effective measures for full utilization of the country's immense natural resources.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to the Petroleum Division, said the development of road infrastructure was equally essential to ensure access to the natural reserves. Calling for strict measures to curb illegal mining, he instructed fulfilling all legal formalities for early appointment of the head of Oil and Gas Development Authority.

In the briefing, the prime minister was told that the Petroleum Division was working to enhance oil and gas production, besides striving to explore more natural resources. The pipeline network was being laid to supply oil and gas from different reserves and the foreign investment in the mining sector was also on a positive trajectory. Caretaker Petroleum Minister Muhammad Ali and Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

20 victorious candidates notified

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday notified the 20 victorious candidates for seats reserved for women in the local government elections held on August 23, 2023, encompassing the district council seats in six Balochistan's districts.

The notification includes Pishin, Nushki, Dera Bugti, Kacchi, Kalat and Panjgur districts. As per details, returned candidate for the District Council in Pishin includes Bibi Hajira, daughter of Ihsan Ullah, representing JUI-P. Bibi Guldasta, daughter of Syed Abdul Kabeer from PKMAP, and Bibi Sajida, daughter of Rozi Khan from JUI-P, have also been notified. Additionally, Bibi Salma, daughter of Noor Uddin, Bibi Rubina Tareen, and Bibi Pari Gul, daughter of Jahangir Shah, all from JUI-P, have been officially announced as returned candidates. Women received official notifications as the returned candidates for reserved seats from district council Nushki.

This includes Bibi Samina, representing JUI-F and daughter of Muhammad Yousof, along with Hanan Mengal, daughter of Muhammad Rahim, representing BNP, for the Nushki District Council. For Dera Bugti District Council, the female candidates who have been officially notified are Shehzadi, an Independent candidate and daughter of Sher Dil, as well as Bakht Bibi and Salehat, both from BAP and daughters of Dhalak Khan and Raja respectively.

Decrease of 100% witnessed in wheat import

ISLAMABAD (INP): The wheat import into the country witnessed a drop of 100 percent in first month of current fiscal year as compared to the imports of the corresponding month of last year.

According to PBS data, during the month of July 2023, wheat import into the country remained zero as compared to the imports of 211,597 metric tons valuing \$107.142 million in the same month of last financial year.

Meanwhile, the imports of edible oil including palm and soybean into the country during the first months of the current financial year decreased by 5.40 percent and 6.82 percent respectively as compared to the imports of the same month of the last year.

During the month of July 2023 about 12,575 metric tons of soybean costing \$14.955 million were imported as against the import of 11,000 metric tons valuing 15.809 million of the period last year. On the other hand over 277,801 metric tons of palm oil worth \$278.939, million was also imported in the first month of the current financial year to fulfill the local requirements of cooking oil and vegetable ghee as compared to the imports of 194,081 metric tons valuing \$299.395 million of the same month last year.

FIRs against PTI's leadership PHC adjourned hearing in Murad case

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) ordered federal and provincial governments to submit record on First Information Reports (FIRs) and inquiries against Senator Azam Swati while adjourned further hearing on former Federal Minister for Communication Murad Saeed petition, on Tuesday.

PHC's divisional bench comprised Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah heard writ petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf parliamentarians seeking provision of record of FIRs and inquiries initiated against them.

Deputy Attorney General Ubaid Ullah Anwar, Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed and counsel for petitioner Qazi Muhammad Anwar advocate appeared before the High Court.

The counsel Qazi Muhammad Anwar advocate argued that police is raiding residences of PTI's central leaderships including Senator Azam Khan

and former Federal Minister Murad Saeed while the petitioners aren't informed regarding number and nature of cases registered against them. The lawyer further argued that petitioners are law abiding citizens and committed to appear before court of law but provincial government didn't provided records of cases against petitioners.

Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed argued Qazi Anwar advocate demanding record of other citizens while his isn't liable to obtain it because constitution limits jurisdiction of writ in such cases and added that the counsel may approach competent forum. He added that Supreme Court has declared illegal issuance of affidavit for petitioner by lawyers while applicants didn't provided Wakalat Nama to Qazi Muhammad Anwar, so, he can't represent them.

However, Qazi Muhammad Anwar advocate informed that Senator Azam Swati has provided signed 'Wakalat Nama'

26th June while Advocate General argued that in this case record should be provided and added that the counsel can't pleads in Murad Saeed case because former Federal Minister neither provided affidavit nor signed 'Wakalat Nama'.

In the meantime, Justice Sahibzada Asadullah inquired regarding relationships among applicant and whom record is demanded (Murad Saeed), however, Advocate General argued in negation. Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim observed that we living in civilized where petitioner obtains their records and information via their counsels while added that sometimes it is found following submission of record reveal further facts.

PHC ordered to submit record of cases registered against Senator Azam Swati till 14th September while adjourned hearing in cases of former provincial Minister Abdul Shakoor and Former Member Provincial Assembly Khalid Khan till 7th September.

Pak keen to further boost ties with Turkiye: President

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Ali on Tuesday said that Pakistan is desirous to take its bilateral relations with Turkiye to new heights. He was speaking during his meeting with the visiting Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, who along with his delegation called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad.

On the occasion, the two sides reiterated their resolved to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in diverse areas for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, and government officials of both sides.

Welcoming the Commander of Turkish

Naval Forces, President Alvi said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations which were based on common religion, historical bonds, besides having similar stance on various issues. He emphasised the need to further improve bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the maritime and defence cooperation.

The president recalled his visit to Turkiye in August 2021 to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the four MIL-GEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy. He lauded the regular participation of the navies of the two brotherly countries in bilateral and multilateral exercises, adding that the close naval cooperation was a manifestation of strong relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

During the meeting, Dr Arif Alvi highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against the Muslims in the Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), besides expressing concern over persecution of minorities in India. He stressed that the international community should take notice of the human rights abuses in IIOJK as well as the persecution of minorities in India. He appreciated the Turkish support to Pakistan's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Speaking on the occasion, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces said that cooperation between the two countries would grow further, adding that his visit would prove beneficial in further cementing bilateral defence relations between Pakistan and Turkey.

Earlier, President Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces in recognition of his services for promoting maritime and naval cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey.

Pakistan to repatriate illegally residing foreigners

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the repatriation of foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan.

He was chairing a meeting on law and order situation in the country here, which was attended by senior officials from the police, security agencies, and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). During the meeting, the caretaker interior minister vowed to tackle the illegal

immigration issue and provide foolproof security to the foreigners.

The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated. He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan. Bugti also ordered completion of the action plan to open three more border crossings on the Pakistan-Iran border.

The minister stressed the need to clearly define the

scope of police and security agencies in order to improve their performance. He also directed the authorities to provide state-of-the-art training and resources to the civil armed forces.

Regarding the security of foreigners, the minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct by finalizing it. He also ordered the provision of all possible facilities to visa applicants for business and investment. The minister called another meeting next week to review the implementation of the National Action Plan.