

Five killed in N Waziristan
F.P. Report

MIRANSHAH: Five family members including mother and four children were killed while two children were injured when a mortar shell hit a house in Razmak sub-division, district North Waziristan on Wednesday. Police said that a mortar shell fired from unknown location hit house of Noor Gull, located in village Arsal Kot, Garyoum police station jurisdiction.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath and offering dua at Pakistan Monument.

PM for widening tax net

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, reiterating his government's priority to widen the tax net, instructed all the relevant departments to work collectively for bringing in tax reforms.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to the Federal Board of Revenue and Privatisation Division, emphasised the need to improve coordination between federal and provincial governments to carry out tax documentation. He said that the FBR was an important component of the government machinery.

He instructed the authorities concerned to fulfill the legal obligations to accelerate the privatisation of loss-making state-owned enterprises and asked all the federal ministries to cooperate with the Privatisation Division. In the briefing, the prime minister was told that the FBR was determined to achieve the tax collection target of Rs 9,415 billion. The Board had collected Rs 538 billion in July this year against the target of Rs 534 billion, and Rs 669 billion in August against the target of Rs 648 billion. It was told that the domestic tax collection had witnessed an increase of 38.7 percent during 2023-24 comparing the previous year. The prime minister was told that digital tools were also being used to enhance the tax-to-GDP ratio and the FBR's database was also being linked with

Kakar lays floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday laid floral wreath here at Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay homage and tribute to the valiant soldiers of the armed forces.

Speaking at a ceremony held here at Pakistan monument in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day, the prime minister said "We come here to pay tribute to valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation". He said "our martyrs who embraced martyrdom for the sake of their people and the country can never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts". The prime minister said Quran e Kareem had also specifically mentioned martyrs with great reverence. The people, he said who in their respective times sacrificed their lives to safeguard their nation, country, people and laws had in fact offered their lives in the way of Allah Almighty. Referring to the moments of martyrdom of the valiant soldiers, the prime minister said "this is the moment that appears to be a death but actually it is the moment of meeting with the immortal". He said the way the martyrs receive peace and blessings after death, they would have been longing for sacrificing their lives again and again.

other departments. The FBR was also striving to achieve the target of including another one million taxpayers in the tax net as 182,000 new taxpayers had already been added this year. The prime minister was told that the scope of Point of Sales system was being expanded to more cities and retailers.

The efforts are being made to add another 20,000 new retailers in the PoS this year, besides formulating a strategy on Transit Trade Management System. It was told that work on the Customs digitalisation was underway and Pakistan Single Window system was being linked with more government institutions.

The Privatisation Division was working to improve working and service delivery of government corporations by utilising the capabilities of the private sector. Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Advisor Ahad Cheema, federal secretaries of finance, aviation and privatisation, FBR chairman and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Kakar assures all possible support to IT Ministry to expand exports: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, appreciating

(Continued on Back Page)

ECP to invite foreign observers for elections

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to invite foreign observers and media for the upcoming general elections.

"All preparations for invitation to foreign election observers and media, have been completed and a code of conduct has been finalized," election commission sources said. According to ECP sources, the foreign observers will be issued invitations as and when the election schedule will be announced.

"The election commission will issue cards to election observers and the media with special security features," sources said. "The cards with special security features for foreign observers, have already been prepared," sources said.

"Foreign observers and media will be given access to enter the polling stations," according to sources. "Foreign observers could also inspect transparency of the vote counting and compilation of the election results," ECP sources added.

Congo virus detected

QUETTA (INP): Another Congo virus patient has been admitted at a hospital here, sources in hospital administration said on Wednesday. "Naimatullah 25, was brought to the hospital and found positive in test for Congo virus," Fatima Jinnah Hospital officials said.

Court grants two-day remand of Parvez Elahi

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad gave Islamabad Police a two-day physical remand of PTI President Chaudhary Parvez Elahi in a case pertaining to an attack on the Judicial Complex of Islamabad. The PTI leader was taken into custody by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) after the ATC announced the reserved verdict.

Earlier, Elahi was produced before the ATC at the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC). He was produced in the court of duty judge Shahrukh Arjumand in a terror case that dated back to March 18. The former chief minister Punjab was presented before the ATC a day after he was re-arrested hours after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had suspended his detention under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) ordinance and directed his release.

The Islamabad police, in an X (formerly Twitter) post, had announced Elahi's release and his subsequent re-arrest in another case. The police said Elahi was detained in a case registered at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police station. Advocate Saddam Abdur Razzaq and defence counsel Ali Bukhari appeared as Elahi's counsel while Prosecutor Tahir Kazim was also present.

During the hearing, police sought a 14-day physical remand of the former Punjab chief minister while his lawyers opposed it. They urged the court to discharge Elahi from the case. The court then

Court puts off hearing of PTI leaders' bail pleas

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of bail applications of PTI stalwarts Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema and Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed in cases related to May 9 violence until September 12.

Dr. Yasmin had filed post-arrest bail petitions in four cases, including PML-N office and Shadman police station arson cases, and attack on the Askari Tower. Judge Abher Gul Khan directed PTI leader's lawyers to give arguments on the next hearing. Case no 1271/23 had been registered against Dr. Yasmin and other party leaders at Gulberg police station of Lahore.

Similarly, case no 1280/23 had also been registered against her and other PTI leaders at the same police station. Likewise, case no 768/23 had been registered against the PTI stalwart and others at Shadman police station of Lahore. Case no 367/23 had been registered against Dr. Yasmin at Model Police Station of Lahore.

On the other hand, an ATC also adjourned the hearing of bail petition filed by another senior PTI leader and former Punjab governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema in the Askari Tower attack case until September 12. The court direct his lawyers to give arguments on the next hearing. Speaking in the courtroom, his counsel said that his client had nothing to do with an attack on the Askari Tower; therefore, he should be released on bail.

Cheema, who is in jail on a judicial remand, is facing charges of attacking the Askari Tower in Gulberg and the Jinnah House in Lahore's Cantonment area. Case no 1271/23 had been registered against him at Gulberg police station.

reserved its verdict on the matter. As the hearing began, Elahi's lawyers submitted their Power of Attorney to court. Police urged the court to grant them a 14-day physical remand of the PTI leader.

Lawyer Razzaq started presenting his arguments to court and opposed the police plea with an argument that an extremely hilarious case has been made against Mr Elahi as he is being a target of political vendetta. He said Mr Elahi was rearrested despite being discharged in numerous cases. The lawyer also

recalled the IHC's verdict of suspending Elahi's detention under the MPO, as well as the LHC's order preventing further arrest of the PTI leader.

"The court ordered that Parvez Elahi be dropped off at his home with security," Razzaq stated, adding that the Islamabad police had "abducted" his client. Razzaq recalled that the LHC's order from September 4, saying it had ordered that Elahi be presented before the LHC. He went on to say that citizens' human rights were being violated.

IHC serves notices on respondents in Imran's pleas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday served notices to respondents in an appeal against cancellation of interim bails of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman due to non-pursuance in nine cases.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the plea filed by the former prime minister challenging cancellation of his bails in six cases. The petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar Advocate argued that the PTI chairman had been appearing before the courts concerned. However, his bails were later terminated on technical reasons as he could not appear in the courts for being in jail in the Toshakhana case, he added.

The chief justice noted that three identical cases of PTI chief were also fixed before the IHC's division bench. Meanwhile, a bench comprising the chief justice and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the appeals of PTI chief.

The petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar said his client had already been given bails in five cases of similar nature but the respective Anti-Terrorism Court judges were transferred before judgments in three cases. The lawyer said that they had been requesting the courts to issue directives for the production of PTI chairman as he was unable to arrive himself from jail. He claimed that as per his information his client had not been arrested so far in the said cases.

Justice Jahangiri questioned how it was possible that the accused was not arrested after his bails were cancelled. The court would hear the other respondents about it, he said, adding the petitioner had to file post arrest bails if the arrests had been made. The court served notices to the respondents and adjourned the case.

Change of guard ceremony at Quaid's mausoleum

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A special ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (RA) on Wednesday with smartly-turned guards of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) assuming their duties.

Air Officer Commanding PAF Academy Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif was the chief guest at the change of command ceremony. He also laid the floral wreath at the mausoleum, offered Fateha and wrote his comments in the guest book.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Latif said today is a day to pay tribute to the joint victory of armed forces of Pakistan. "We will always continue defending our boundaries as protective shield against our enemies."

He said that our forces guarded the country's borders vigorously and the sacrifices made for the defense of the country will not go in vain. Air Marshal Latif said today's historic day is in the name of our ghazis and martyrs and thanks to the sacrifices of the armed forces. We have inherited the value of love and freedom for the country. The prayers of the nation have been behind the victory of the armed forces, he said adding we have reached here due to your passions and efforts.

He said in today's era we are facing enormous problems and being a nation, we will come out of every difficult situation. Pakistan came into being forever and no power in the world can destroy it. He said we would continue the tradition of guards changing. As many as 57 cadets including seven women participated in the guards changing ceremony while during the ceremony, the cadets of the PAF took over the duties of the guards at the mausoleum.

Militants attack on Chitral military posts

Four soldiers martyred, 11 terrorist killed

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: A large group of terrorists equipped with latest weapons, attacked two Pakistani military posts located closer to Pakistan Afghanistan border in general area Kalash, District Chitral.

Terrorists' movement and concentration in Gawardesh, Pitigal, Barg-e-Matel and Batash areas of Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan had already been picked up and were timely shared with Interim Afghan Government.

Owing to heightened threat environment, own posts were already on high alert. The valiant soldiers fought bravely and repulsed the attacks inflicting heavy casualties to the terrorists. During the fire exchange, twelve terrorists were sent to hell, while a large number has been critically injured.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, four brave soldiers, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve. The brave people of Chitral also stand firmly with the security forces in not allowing the terrorists to ruin the peace of the area. Interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfill its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan.

The attack came days after, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir vowed that the nation cannot be "coerced"

Pak-Afghan border closed over building post at Torkham

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Tension developed at the Pak-Afghan sharing border, Torkham when Afghan forces started constructing a new post at the crossing here on Wednesday.

The forces officials said that at 11:55 am, the Afghan border security force initiated building works at the building of a new post, opposite to Pak Chota Frontier Post, Torkham. The Pak officials objected to structuring the new post and suspended the Torkham border in protest against all kinds of movement.

Cross-firing was also carried out between the troops from both countries, locals said. According to unofficial sources, six Afghani and two Pakistani citizens including a soldier sustained injuries. Eyewitnesses said that thick clouds of smoke were omitting the building of an Afghan Custom house on the other side of the border.

Reinforcement was dispatched to the border and the troops resumed important positions at the border. On the other hand, the Pak forces through an announcement asked the traders and shopkeepers in Torkham bazaar to shut their business centers and vacate the Torkham city to ensure their safety, forces officials added.

Locals informed that two mortar shells fired from Afghan forces landed in the residential area of Bacha Mena, Torkham that scared the dwellers and scores of families left their homes in hurry and took refuge with their relatives in Landi Kotal. Due to suspension of clearing process, long queues of the transit and export commodities could be witnessed at Pak-Afghan highway, Landi Kotal. Also, hundreds of pedestrians were stuck at both sides of the border and they asked officials of both countries to keep in view their miseries, immediately resolve the post dispute. It is to be mentioned here that in June, 2016, a Pakistan Major Ali Jawad was martyred in firing across the border when the Pakistani officials erected a formal gate at zero point.

by "cowardly tactics of the terrorists" who hold the "misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the state".

As per the military's media wing, the army chief passed the remarks while visiting Bannu in KP where, a day earlier, nine soldiers were martyred when a suicide bomber exploded himself near a military convoy in the Jani Khel area.

"The army, law enforcement agencies and the nation can never be coerced

by the cowardly tactics of the terrorists, who have a misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the state," Gen Munir said while interacting with officers and troops deployed in the area.

The COAS further said that the nation has "fought for long and will continue to fight the menace of terrorism till the end". "The nation pays rich tribute to those who have laid their lives and their sacrifices will forever be honoured," he added.

Special courts to try and punish electricity thieves

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The interim government on Wednesday announced that it is working on Electricity Theft Control Act aimed at curbing losses in the country and special courts will be erected to try and punish power thieves.

Addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad along with Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali unveiled that the country sustains annual losses to the tune of Rs589 billion due to electricity theft and non-bill payment.

While announcing a string of measures to crush power theft, the minister said the government is working on Electricity Theft Control Act to curb transmission and distribution (T&D) losses in the country, said "We are working on an Electricity Theft Control Act, under which we would establish an enforcement infrastructure across the country. Similarly, special courts will be formed as well," he added. He further maintained "We target to finalise the draft of this law in two to three weeks, and move it for approval and implement it as an ordinance. We target to reduce the T&D losses as much as possible."

The minister said there are 10 distribution companies (DISCOs) in the country, with K-Electric having its own distribution network. "Because of these losses, consumers who pay their electricity bills are charged higher rates. Unless electricity theft and non-payment of bills are controlled, the electricity tariff cannot be lowered," he elaborated. Ali said T&D losses sustained by distribution companies including IESCO, LESCO, GEPCO, FESCO and MEPCO stand at Rs100 billion out of a total billing of Rs3,044 billion, which shows a 3% loss. "On the other hand, T&D losses of PESCO, HESCO, QESCO, SEPCO, TESCO and AJK stood at Rs489 billion, out of total billing of Rs737 billion, which translates into 60% losses," he added. He said that due to a uniform electricity rate, customers of sound performing distribution companies are charged higher rates. "We have got all the data, and we will use it to take our next step. We will initiate crackdown in those areas, where electricity theft is higher," he added.

The minister said the electricity act will be moved in the next two to three weeks and passed through a presidential ordinance. "We are aiming to stop or reduce power theft of Rs589 billion at the earliest," he added. The minister said authorities are ini-

tiating a crackdown against electricity theft and action will be taken against power thieves on the basis of data available to them.

Also also shared that a list of those power distribution companies' officers involved in power theft has been compiled and action against them will be taken. The list of officers has been sent to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for their removal, he added. He announced that the prime minister has issued directives to "crack down on power theft and ensure recovery from those who don't pay bills".

For this purpose, the government is taking various steps, he said. "Where theft is less, up to 30pc, we will curb it through technological intervention. Where the loss is 30-60pc, we are considering whether we should involve the private sector in management," Ali said and added. "For areas where losses are above 60pc, we will take enforcement measures," he said. He also mentioned government plans to improve the management of DISCOs. "We are looking at their board of governors; we will make changes in those and the management," he added.

Ali said the government has communicated with chief secretaries and police chiefs in provinces and "we have their full support in implementing these measures." He further said the government will be constituting taskforces at the provincial level which would be led by home secretaries and include provincial energy secretaries, a federal government officer and police officers. Similar taskforces will be led by commissioners at the divisional level, deputy commissioners at the district level and assistant commissioners at the tehsil level.

He said the operations to curb electricity theft will be monitored by his ministry from Islamabad. "We have established a control room and developed a dashboard at PPMC (Power Planning and Monitoring Company) to manage the performance of DISCOs on a day-to-day and hour-to-hour basis. We will monitor the operations from here but the implementation and execution will be carried out on ground at the provincial, district and tehsil level," he explained. In response to a question, the minister said work was also in progress on reducing capacity payments. But, he added, this cannot be achieved overnight and would take time. Answering another question, Ali said the government was also considering the options of provincialisation and privatisation of DISCOs. "We will soon make a decision with the cabinet on which is the right way forward," he added.

Earthquake shakes KP areas

PESHAWAR (PPI): An earthquake of 4.7 magnitude on the Richter Scale jolted Swat and its adjoining areas of KP on Tuesday. The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Swat and the adjoining areas. No loss is reported as per initial reports. The depth of the quake was recorded at 192 kilometres and the epicentre of the earthquake was in the Hindu Kush Region, Afghanistan.

He underscored the profound lessons of loyalty and love for one's motherland that Defence Day imparts to the nation. Notably, Saeed proudly mentioned the historic contributions of the People's Party leadership, particularly in initiating Pakistan's nuclear and missile programs, demonstrating the party's commitment to national security.

The action was taken on directions of Commissioner Lahore and D.G. LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa while Additional D.G. Housing Captain (R) Shah Mir Iqbal supervised the operation. LDA teams demolished structures violating approved maps near Canal Road Grid Station in Fateh Garh Canal Road, illegal commercial structures were partially demolished.

Earlier, ETPB Chairman Syed Atta ur Rehman briefed the minister about the Board's objectives and activities. He mentioned that the department was responsible for the management and collection of revenue of over 109,000 acres of agricultural and non-agricultural lands throughout the country. He mentioned that under its administration, there were 11,495 residential and commercial units and 19 plazas adding that geo-tagging was complete for 99% of properties and 92% of lands. Atta ur Rehman said Pakistan-India agreements allowed 7,500 Sikh and 1,000 Hindu pilgrims to visit Pakistan. The Board was offering educational scholarships worth Rs13 million for non-Muslim students.

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PID	CBP Contact #
M. Sadiq (Revenue Superintend) 0344-6333090	Naz 0344-6333090

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<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jaleel Zahid Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ali Asghar Khan citizen number 1301133401 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Begum (Daughter)2. Shazia (Daughter)3. Shagufta (Daughter)4. Sajida (Daughter)5. Shabana (Daughter)6. Taseen Ullah (Son)7. Main Ullah (Son)8. Irfan Ullah (Son)9. Jahan Alamzeb Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA RING ROAD-PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Yasir with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Nusrat Begum citizen number 1610196381546 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Aala Noreen (Daughter)2. Shazia Noreen (Daughter)3. Muhammad Amir (Son)4. Ali Hassan Hameed (Son)5. Hameed Hameed (Son)6. Yasir (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Tayyab with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Chohan Zaid citizen number 1311028993491 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Bibi Gulzar (Spouse)2. Muhammad Hanif (Son)3. Muhammad Tayyab (Son)4. Muhammad Tayyab (Son)5. Idris Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Naem Khan citizen number 1720122823141 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Jawaria (Daughter)2. Anna Bibi (Daughter)3. Gul Shera (Daughter)4. Muhammad Ali (Son)5. Awaish Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jaleel Zahid Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Khair Hussain citizen number 1430123452973 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Khurashed Begum (Daughter)2. Khalid (Daughter)3. Asia Bibi (Daughter)4. Shaheena (Daughter)5. Lal Seena (Daughter)6. Gul Seeda Jan (Daughter)7. Awaish Khan (Daughter)8. Jahan Zaid Khan (Son)9. Jahan Zaid Khan (Son)10. Khan Zaid (Son)11. Shoab Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA IKOHAT-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Mian Atal Sohail with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mian Sohail inshah citizen number 1730113673673 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Paghunda Sohail (Daughter)2. Yasmin Shah (Spouse)3. Mian Atal Sohail (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jaleel Zahid Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mian Sohail inshah citizen number 1720152753681 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Safia Gul (Daughter)2. Hashmat Ara (Daughter)3. Shaukat Ara (Daughter)4. Farzana Sulaiman (Daughter)5. Gulistan (Daughter)6. Siraj (Spouse)7. Muhammad Akram Shah (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Gulab Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Gulab Khan citizen number 1430103264309 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Aqal Bibi (Spouse)2. Chamhal Khan (Son)3. Rameel Khan (Son)4. Gulab Nour (Son)5. Irfan Ullah (Son)6. Irfan Ullah (Son)7. Badruzzaman Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Touseef Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Touseef citizen number 1720121274749 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shida (Daughter)2. Saira (Daughter)3. Hussain Nour (Daughter)4. Shazana Nara (Spouse)5. Irfan Ullah (Son)6. Irfan Ullah (Son)7. Touseef Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Farzana Aslam with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Aslam citizen number 3740563572743 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shida (Daughter)2. Saira (Daughter)3. Hussain Nour (Daughter)4. Shazana Nara (Spouse)5. Irfan Ullah (Son)6. Irfan Ullah (Son)7. Touseef Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Rauf with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdul Hamid citizen number 1430123452973 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shida (Daughter)2. Saira (Daughter)3. Hussain Nour (Daughter)4. Shazana Nara (Spouse)5. Irfan Ullah (Son)6. Irfan Ullah (Son)7. Touseef Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Irshad Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ashraf Hussain citizen number 1710172820747 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Irshad Hussain (Daughter)2. Rubaba (Daughter)3. Fatima (Daughter)4. Rubaba (Daughter)5. Nowroz Ali (Son)6. Irshad Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA SFU PARACHINAR-CFC</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Basmal Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ashraf Hussain citizen number 1710172820747 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Irshad Hussain (Daughter)2. Rubaba (Daughter)3. Fatima (Daughter)4. Rubaba (Daughter)5. Nowroz Ali (Son)6. Irshad Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Rehana Nasreen with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mohammad Ishaq citizen number 1730111843371 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Maria Ishaq (Daughter)2. Rehana Nasreen (Spouse)3. Yasmeen (Daughter)4. Jaz Khan (Son)5. Irfan Ullah (Son)6. Irfan Ullah (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jaleel Zahid Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Gul Gul citizen number 143010109631 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Bibi Aale Zahra (Daughter)2. Aza (Daughter)3. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)4. Syed Wahid Hussain (Son)5. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)6. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)7. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)8. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)9. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)10. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)11. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)12. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)13. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)14. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)15. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)16. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)17. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)18. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)19. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)20. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)21. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)22. Syed Shah Akmal Hussain (Son)23. 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Projects during interim govt; PHC grants status quo

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted status quo while seeking suspension of impugned tender notice and ordered Chief Engineer (North Zone) Pakistan Public Works Department, Executive Engineer Central E/M Division, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar and Deputy Commissioner Khyber to submit para-wise comments within fortnight, on Wednesday.

The counsel for petitioner Zakir Hussain advocate appeared before court and argued that not adopting the due process the respondents who are at the helm of affairs have grave illegality and such act of respondents is not only unlawful but has exceeded jurisdiction vested upon them and against the law as well.

The petition further stat-

ed that after dissolution of the Provincial Assembly the care taker Government is being appointed by the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Care Taker Government would enjoy limited powers of Administrative continuity within available resources, while preventing any major decision from being taken.

The Election Commission after issuance of notification in respect of Code of Conduct of free and fair elections restrained the respondents with specific directions, not to announce/execute any kind of developmental schemes in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces except those which are ongoing and approved before the issuance of notification. The respondents while issued the impugned tenders notices after the promulgation of the

Notification by the Election Commission of Pakistan in order to facilitate their political candidates and to obtain the favour of the General Public in the upcoming Elections, which is the sheer violation of the Rules, Law & norms of the Justice, the same are liable to be declare null and void in the eyes of law, the petition stated.

The counsel argued to declare that the impugned tender notices of Developmental Works and other development works until after holding next General Election, announced & advertised after the publication of code of conduct is against the law, rules, violation of the fundamental rights provided under the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and against the Clause (e) of the notification dated 22.01.2023 issued by the

Election Commission, illegal, unlawful, without lawful authority and is liable to be declared so.

The writ argued to direct the respondents to ensure the free, fair and transparent elections in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuance of the guidelines as well as Section 230 of the Election Act 2017, no institution, Department and authority has the power to announce/execute anykind of Developmental Schemes in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the already Developmental Works invited Tender notices is against the law, rules and code of conducts issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan and also the violation of the Article 4, 5, 25, 27, 35, 37 & 38 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan chairing 10th meeting of Provincial Caretaker Cabinet.

Health Care Commission releases report

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission has released the performance report related to operations in the month of August.

According to the report, the Health Care Commission completed a comprehensive review of nine major hospitals in the field of health care in the month of August.

The assessment of these hospitals includes various aspects of diagnosis, infrastructure, treatment process, and patient examination.

According to the report, in the month of August, the Health Care Commission issued registration certificates to 617 health centres.

The Health Care Commission completed the training of eight major hospitals on the provision of services in the month of August.

The Health Care Commission has conducted successful operations against attais in several districts, including Abbottabad, Peshawar, Swat, Malakand, and Bannu.

A total of 409 health facilities were inspected. 48 health facilities were sealed for serious violations, and notices were issued to 123 facilities for minor violations.

Authority recovers 6000kg bran

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority recovered 6000kg

bran here on Wednesday during the ongoing crackdown on the adulteration mafia in the province.

Food Authority Spokesperson said that Peshawar Food Safety Team town-4 on a tip-off raided a spice factory in Sherdad Garhi area near Bakshu pul and seized 6 thousand kilograms bran and took it into government custody.

"The factory was sealed, said the food safety officials", adding that the owner of the factory was arrested and huge fine imposed, under the Food Safety Act and further would be dealt as per law.

On this occasion, Director General Food Authority Shahrulkh Ali Khan appreciated the food safety team for taking successful action and directed field officers to expedite crackdown on such elements.

Shahrulkh further extended that KP Food Authority have zero tolerance against adulteration and warned that mixing bran in spices was a crime and those involved in it would be dealt with an iron hand.

Hot, dry weather likely in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Wednesday predicted that hot and dry weather is expected over most districts of the province, while humid in plain areas.

Isolated thunderstorm-rain with gusty winds is likely to occur over Upper Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Battagram, Torgar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Kurram, Khyber and North Waziristan districts in evening/night.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of KP were Peshawar City 35/24, Chitral 34/17, Timergara 34/22, Dir 31/16, Mirkhani 37/17, Kalam 25/09, Drosh 34/20, Saidu Sharif 32/17, Pattan 36/23, Malam Jabba 22/13, Takht Bhai 34/22, Kakul 29/15, Balakot 33/19, Parachinar 27/12, Bannu 38/24, Cherat 32/17, D.I. Khan 39/28.

MD visits Khyber Eye Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): Managing Director Bank of Khyber (BoK) Muhammad Ali Gul Faraz visited the Khyber Eye Foundation on Wednesday and expressed his appreciation for the hospital's remarkable work.

He was welcomed by the distinguished Life Patron of the hospital, Professor Dr. Muhammad Daud Khan, Chairman Muhammad Adnan Jalil, and other esteemed members of the Board of Directors and administrators.

During his visit MD Muhammad Ali Gul Faraz expressed his appreciation for the hospital's remarkable work and stated that he

had heard many praises about the hospital from his close friends.

He added that visiting the hospital had solidified his belief in the Khyber Eye Foundation as a prestigious institution.

Muhammad Ali Gul Faraz commended the Khyber Eye Foundation for its philanthropic efforts, highlighting the fact that the hospital provides free medical care to the underprivileged and disadvantaged individuals in the region.

Expressing his gratitude, Muhammad Ali Gul Faraz thanked all the present board members and emphasized

his dedication to supporting the hospital's progress, assuring them of his continuous presence to address any issues that may arise.

The visit concluded with the presentation of a shield to MD Muhammad Ali Gul Faraz, as a token of appreciation for his visit.

Former Chairman Muhammad Ghayyur Sethi was also honored with a shield in recognition of his tireless efforts for the Khyber Eye Foundation.

Both dignitaries expressed their gratitude to all the Board members for their unwavering commitment to the hospital's growth and success.

UOP's to be close from 11th: JAC announces strike

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Joint Action Council (JAC), a representative body of teaching and non-teaching staff of the University of Peshawar (UoP), on Wednesday announced to go on a complete strike from 11th September (Monday).

The JAC has also announced to hold a presser on Thursday (today) to highlight the financial crisis

of the university and the indifferent and cold attitude of the university administration and higher education department towards resolution of their demands.

The decision was made during an extraordinary huddle of the JAC with PUTA president Dr. Uzair Ahmad in the chair. The meeting took strong exception to the uncooperative attitude of higher education

department and stated that the higher education department failed to fulfill all the pledges made with the JAC.

It is pertinent to mention here that the employees of Peshawar University has been observing token strike from August 23.

They are demanding 35 and 15 percents hike in salary as was announced by the provincial government for the financial years 2023 and 2022.

NDMA consultants JICA team visits PDMA KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Consultants from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Team) held a meeting with the Director General of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, in a significant development for Disaster Risk Management.

This meeting's objectives were to gather input and launch the creation of the National Disaster Management Plan-II (NDMP-II), which will cover the years 2024 to 2029.

The National Disaster Management Plan-I

(NDMP-I) was implemented from 2012 to 2024, and during the meeting, the Consultant Team received a thorough update on the key milestones reached in DRM at the province level.

This insightful summary emphasized the development in catastrophe preparedness and response throughout the previous years.

Additionally, The work being done so far by the Relief Department and PDMA to create a Provincial Disaster Management Policy and Plan is significant.

These programmes are set up to work closely together with the NDMP-II, ensuring a seamless and coordinated approach to

disaster management at both the national and provincial levels.

The DG PDMA Janat Gul Afridi expressed gratitude for the efforts made in response to the information and initiatives offered and reaffirmed the commitment to continue working together in the future.

The impending NDMP-II is anticipated to play a crucial role in protecting communities from natural and man-made catastrophes. As a result of the partnership between NDMA Consultants and PDMA, disaster resilience and management capacities in the region have been significantly improved.

Korean delegation discusses mutual interests

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A two-member representative delegation of Korean company LSG Hydro Power Limited, headed by Director Hyun Joon Choi, called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Energy and Power, Mines, and Minerals Development, Engineer Ahmed Jan, on Wednesday at his office in Peshawar.

On this occasion, the Korean delegation discussed matters of mutual

interest with the caretaker minister, with a special emphasis on mutual cooperation in hydropower development projects in the province.

The Korean delegation also congratulated the caretaker minister for his inclusion in the current caretaker cabinet.

During the meeting, the caretaker minister thanked the Korean delegation and said that the mutual cooperation of Korean companies in the energy sector of the province is very important

for the development of this sector.

He said that our province has a lot of potential for foreign investment in the development of the hydropower sector, and we will try to develop this sector.

He further said that Korean investment in this sector is a positive initiative for the bilateral ties between Korea and Pakistan, and it is hoped that the Korean Companies would extend their investment support in the future as well.

Precision training by USAID boosts agriculture in KP



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity successfully concluded training sessions for 77 field staff members, focusing on precision agriculture technologies. The training sessions were conducted in Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, and Abbottabad, equipping agriculture extension department staff and farmers with hands-on skills in drone

assembly, sprayer usage, and drone operation.

Precision agriculture has transformed farming practices, enhancing productivity and sustainability through technology like drones. By imparting such practical skills, USAID modernize and empowers the agriculture sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and its Newly Merged Districts (NMDs).

Jan Muhammad, Director General Agriculture Extension KP, lauded the

initiative: "This training equips our field staff with the tools for effective implementation of precision agriculture techniques, fostering increased agricultural productivity and sustainability."

Chief of Party Shad Muhammad expressed commitment to progress: "Through precision agriculture training, we sow the seeds of progress in KP's agriculture, reflecting our dedication to harnessing technology for sustainable

growth".

Shawana Jalil Khan, the Agriculture Officer, highlighted the impact of the training: "Gaining knowledge in drone assembly, operation, and applications has modernized our approach. We are now better equipped to assist local farmers in adopting these advanced methods".

Siraj Khan, a farmer from Bannu, emphasized the potential of technology: "Innovations like drones optimize resource usage, increase yields, and improve livelihoods. I'm eager to implement what I've learned."

USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity continue empowering local communities and enhancing economic opportunities across KP and its NMDs. This training program demonstrates commitment to fostering growth and innovation within the agriculture sector.

40 Afghan students graduated from ICP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A total of forty Afghan students graduated from Islamia College Peshawar (ICP) through an international scholarship named "Allama Iqbal Scholarship for Afghan Students", one from Zoology, two from English, two from Psychology, two from Economics, three from BCS, fifteen from the BBA, and fifteen from Political Sciences Department. The graduation ceremony took place in Taroan Hall. Chairmen of all Departments, the VCP and the provost of the ICP were attend the ceremony.

Students shared their experiences and challenges that they faced in their 4-year journey. One of the Afghan BS English students, Fouzia Khalilzai, says "I am lucky to have gotten this opportunity to study in Pakistan. Due to cultural similarities, it was not hard

for me to become accustomed to this environment. Also, ICP is a rich environment for the study. All teachers are cooperative."

Another student, Abdullah Sharifi from the BBA department, says, "Being Afghan, I studied in Pushto till my 12th grade. It was an amazing opportunity that made me aware of Urdu and the international language English, which will help me in the future."

Abdul Bari Jalili, from the Political Sciences department, added that the teachers were very cooperative, and they used to explain every lecture to them in the Pashto language. That helped them in their studies.

Most students' opinions show that studying in Pakistan has positively affected their lives. However, there were challenges, such as coming from a faraway place for studies and spending a pro-

longed period in the hostel. Also, not being familiar with the Urdu and English languages caused trouble. They went through many ups and downs. It was tough to understand the teachers' language. However, students thought they overcame all these challenges through hard work and unwavering dedication to their studies. They used to take help from teachers and Pakistani students to make themselves understand.

Furthermore, students added that they have a strong desire not only to serve their country but also to spread a positive image of Pakistan across the border. It is the country that prepared them for their future. Besides, they showed their interest in further studying in Pakistan.

They also talked about the importance and aim of the scholarship. They said that the purpose of the mentioned scholarship is to strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Further, it enhances people-to-people contacts. The scholarship covers living allowance, book allowance, university tuition fees, and hostel dues. Also, visas are provide by the HEC to help students not be disturbed by visa issues.

Overall, the scholarship has a positive impact on students. In addition to academics, students have taken various short courses that have equipped them with practical skills. Besides other advantages, it strengthens bilateral relations and spreads a positive image of Pakistan. The government of Pakistan should announce such scholarships in the future as well. It will build healthy relationships between the neighboring countries. Long live Pakistan; long live Afghanistan.



PESHAWAR: Delegation of Korean company LSG Hydro Power Limited lead by Director Hyun Joon Choi meeting Caretaker Minister Engr. Ahmed Jan.



In brief

Youth kills fiancé in Swabi F.P. Report

SWABI: A youth with the help of his brother in Jahangira tehsil of Swabi district killed his fiancé and dumped her body near River Indus, police informed on Wednesday. Police said the incident occurred in the vicinity of Tor Dher police station where a youth named Kamran along with his brothers, Imran and Arshad killed his fiancé and threw her body in Belajait of River Indus in Moza Jahangira. Police said the brother of the deceased girl told police that his would be brother-in-law Kamran along with brothers came to their house and took along his sister for a domestic feast. He said later he came to know that his sister has been killed. Tor Dher police after registering a FIR against the accused, have started investigation into the incident.

Crackdown against hoarders F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The district administration has launched a crackdown on sugar hoarders on the instructions of the provincial government to ensure availability of the commodity in bazaars and markets. District Food Controller (DFC) Lakki Marwat Aman Khan told this scribe on Wednesday that a team of the food department had started inspecting warehouses and warehouses of the businessmen to check hoarding of sugar. "Local deputy commissioner Abdul Hadi is supervising the special drive against hoarders and profiteers", he maintained. He said that provincial food secretary Abid Khan and director Yasir Hassan had also issued clear instructions to implement the directives of the provincial government regarding taking the sugar hoarders and stockists to task. "We are determined to eliminate illegal and ugly practices of shortage, hoarding and black-marketing of the commodity", he maintained. DFC said that food officials also fined several sugar dealers for violation of relevant laws and warned the traders dealing in the business to avoid hoarding the commodity otherwise they would face stern action.

Illegal sugar stock recovered

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): District administration recovered illegal stock of 300 sugar bags during a crackdown against hoarders across the district on Wednesday. In line with special directives of the provincial government, a team of district administration under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Chowk Sarwar Shaheed launched a crackdown against hoarders of sugar, wheat and other commodities and raided at a godown situated at Pir Jugi Mor. The team recovered illegal stock of 300 sugar bags from the godown of Zulfiqar and imposed a fine of Rs 150,000 on the owners. The district administration said that zero-tolerance policy was being followed against hoarders causing artificial inflation and selling commodities at high rates.

Youth crushed to death

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): A youth was killed while woman critically injured after ran over by a reckless driven tractor trolley in Jandiala Sher Khan area of Sheikhupura on Wednesday. According to details, a tractor trolley ran over pedestrian 'zaireen' after they were hit down by an over speeding Shehzore vehicle.

Islamia University, admn jointly observes Defense Day



Sagib Mushtaq

BAHAWALPUR: On the occasion of Defense and Martyrs Day, the divisional and district administration and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur jointly organized a function at Baghdad ul Jadede campus.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtesham Anwar, Vice Chancellor the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar attended as special guests. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa, Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Sameera Rabbani, Shaista Khurram, wife of Shaheed Wing Commander Khurram, Honorable Muhammad Akbar Bhatti, father of Shaheed Captain Sohail Akbar, Syed Tabish Alwari, Assistant Commissioner General Muhammad Tayyab, teachers, students, officers and civil society

representatives were present.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtesham Anwar paid tribute to the parents and heirs of the martyrs. He said that the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs and ghazis of Pakistan forces are a means of making the dear country strong and stable. During the ceremony, he praised the talent of the youth who participated in the stage play "Azadi Ek Nimat Hai" written by Prof. Rashid Bodla, Government Graduate College. He appreciated the efforts of performing arts students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar expressed his views and said that September 6 is the day of defence on earth, the day to protect the country and this day is the day to send a message to the enemy that the protection of the holy land is our faith

and it is our responsibility.

He said that our army stood like a leaden wall against the enemy and defeated them. Prof. Dr. Rozina Anjum paid tribute to the martyrs. She said that 6th September is the day of exaltation of military force. She said that the enemy attacked in the darkness of night but the brave soldiers of Pakistan Army became an iron wall and defeated them. She described the bravery and bravery of the martyrs and paid tribute to them.

Ayesha Munir, Aurangzeb, Toqeer Qadir, Shahab Baloch, Talha Rajput, Manahal Mehdi and other youths presented songs in the ceremony held on the occasion of Defence and Martyrs Day. In the ceremony, Commissioner Bahawalpur Division, Vice-Chancellor Islamia University Bahawalpur and Deputy Commissioner presented bouquets to the heirs of the martyrs.

Anti-polio drive to kicks off from October 2

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Five-Day Anti-polio campaign will be launched from October, 2 in the district and drops of anti-polio vaccine will be administer to more than two lakh thirty five thousand and five hundred children below five-year-old while Health Department Hafizabad have constituted 998 polio teams consisting of health workers to give polio vaccine drops to children in the district Hafizabad.

This was stated by the Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warraich while presiding over the meeting of District Anti Polio Committee, Hafizabad. DHO Dr. Zaheer Ahmad, Representative of WHO Dr. Touqeer Ahmad, Ulema, social workers and officers of different departments attended the meeting.

DC said that the Punjab government and district health authority were tak-

ing all possible measures to make the anti-polio campaign successful but it was also obligation of every individual of society to play active role in anti-polio campaign to eliminate crippling disease of polio from the country as well as to save future of new generation. He also appealed the ulema to highlight importance of polio vaccination in their Jumma address because the people of the country give special attention towards speeches of the religious leaders.

He also directed the officers of government departments to make concerted efforts to achieve target of polio free district and country. He urged the parents to cooperate with health workers for administering polio vaccination to their children to save them from everlasting disability.

AGEGA meeting held: All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) Hafizabad held

meeting while chairman Muhammad Nasir Amin presided and a large numbers of government employees belongs to different department attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting Muhammad Nasir Amin said that any amendment in service rules made by the caretaker government would not be acceptable and government employees were ready to rendered all kind of sacrifices to protect their rights.

Chairman, Muthada Mahaz Aasatza Hafizabad Riaz Ahmad Tarar, Provincial Media advisor IT Teachers Association Punjab Aqeel Azad, Ch. Asghar Ali Hanjra, Malik Ali Sher, Shabbir Ahmad Gujjar, Mian Muhammad Sulman, Talib Hussain Bajwa, Khalid Javed, Rana Waqar Ahmad Khan, Farooq Bazmi, Syed Shafiq Shah, Qamar-ul-Zaman Kambo, Imanullah and Ifzal Ahmad also addressed the meeting.

CCI Mardan praised sacrifices of national heroes

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Mardan President Zahir Shah has said that 06 September is a proud day for the entire Pakistani nation and especially for the Pakistan Army.

The sacrifices of martyrs and the achievements of Ghazis are worthy examples for us, the lamps of freedom are lit with the blood of martyrs, the sanctity and respect of martyrs is our important responsibility, the trust and unity between Pakistan Army and people is our valuable asset. MCCI President Zahir Shah, said that the zeal with which the armed forces fought terrorism has never been forgotten. A strong economy is indispensable for a strong defense, with mutual cooperation; Pakistan will be on the path of economic development.

He said that the martyrs of 06 September have sacrificed a lot for the sake of the country and the nation. They pay their respects to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army.

BISE arranges workshop SLO based exams: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan on driving seat again, 1st ever workshop on item bank development for

SLO based examination conducted, as per vision of the chairman BISE.

The 1st of it's type workshop was conducted at the Committee Room of BISE Mardan under the Leadership of Chairman Controller of Examination BISE Mardan Ishrat Ali, Assistant Controller of Examination BISE Mardan Iqthadar Ali were also present. Renowned educationists Ashraf Ali Principal GHSS Baghdad Mardan, Tilawat Shah Principal GHS KSK Swabi, Zulfiqar Ahmed and Hameed Khattak along with 50 Male and Female participants attended the workshop from Distt. Mardan, Swabi and Nowshera.

In this regard a chain of workshops will be held on SLO based examination and onscreen Marking is going to be held from 11-18 September at BISE Mardan. The Workshop ended with vote of thanks from the Chairman to the Male and Female participants.

Mathematics quiz competition scheduled on 11th: The relevant officials of district administration Mardan have asked students of 8th to 10th grade to register their names till September 10, who wish to take part in the Tehsil level competitions of Maths Quiz to be held on

September 11 of the current month.

The officials on Wednesday told that on the direction of Commissioner Mardan Division Yousuf Rahim, the Tehsil level competitions of Maths Quiz will be held on September 11 from the platform of Reading Club among the students of eighth, ninth and tenth standard. Both male and female students are eligible for registration.

As per details provided by the office concerned, these competitions will be held at the tehsil level in the first phase, for which registration can be done in the offices of the assistant commissioners of the respective tehsils till September 10.

In the first phase, centers for organizing these competitions have been designated in different tehsils of Mardan district. Government Post Graduate College Mardan for Tehsil Mardan, Government Higher Secondary School Takker for Tehsil Takht Bai, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Katlang for Tehsil Katlang, Government Primary School Hirawand Rustam for Tehsil Rustam and Government Commerce College Shehbaz Garhi for Tehsil Garhi Kapura have been designated.

WSSCK conducts training workshop

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: With the collaboration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (Asian Development Bank), a one-day training workshop was organized for local women from various businesses regarding Milam Women Business Development Center at Water and Sanitation Services Kohat (WSSCK).

Facilitators of the training workshop included Director General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project Peshawar, Zahid Khurshid, Consultant of Skills Enterprise, Gender Coordinator Shehlagal, Program Support Officer Neelam Mahal, Gender Associate Sadia, Consultant Gender Expert Gul Rukh.

The training workshop was attended by Kohat Chamber of Commerce Founder Rashid Ahmed Paracha, Chamber of Commerce Media Advisor Ahesar Ali Bangash, Kohat Press Club member Ijaz Khan and a large number of women.

The aim of this training workshop was to empower women to improve their business by keeping in mind the needs, skills and needs of modern business.

Aerial firing claims two lives in Dera

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Two persons lost their lives to aerial firing during a wedding here in Talai Budha Shah area in the limits of Chaudhwan police station.

Ramzan Langrah son of Ghulam Haider, a resident of Talai Budha Shah in Tehsil Daraban, stated in his complaint to the police that his brother Hafiz Juma Khan and Jehangir son of Ghulam Yasin were died with aerial firing during the 'Nikah' (wedding) ceremony of his daughter with Kashmir Langrah son of Muhammad Bashir.

He informed to the Chaudhwan police that Mehboob son of Nawaz Langrah was firing into the air with his pistol at the end of 'Nikah' ceremony when all of sudden he lost his control over his weapon. Meanwhile, he said, his brother Hafiz Juma Khan and Jehangir were hit by stray bullets, resulted into their deaths. The police registered a case and started investigation into the matter.

FIA arrests one, recovers Rs 2 million

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) raided a shop dealing in money from foreign countries in Dokri Tehsil of Larkana district and arrested the accused Muslim Sehru on the spot after recovering more than 20 lakhs.

While talking to the media on the occasion of the detention, the inspector in charge of FIA said that on receiving intelligence report, the team raided the grocery shop and arrested the accused who was involved in the business of currency and 'Hundi' of foreign countries. The investigation has been started by seizing the record of foreign currency transactions and all the details of Hundi and two million rupees in cash in the shop.

Food smuggling busted: As many as 14 trucks loaded with agricultural crops and sugar were taken into custody by the black-marketing mafia.

According to the details, 10 trucks loaded with agricultural fertilizer and 4 trucks loaded with sugar were taken into custody at Otha Chowk located in the boundaries of Bakapur police station in the suburbs of Larkana and transferred to Bakapur police station.

According to the sources, the police has decided to speed up operations against the hoarders and profiteers after the action of the sensitive institutions, which has opened up the black marketing mafia, according to the sources, the districts of Sindh including Larkana, Qamber Shahdadkot.

Rescue 1122 observes National Defense Day

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: On the occasion of Defense Day, Rescue 1122 District Emergency Officer, Abrar Ali said that September 6 is remembered as a day of determination, courage, bravery and bravery.

This day is a symbol of national greatness, integrity and independence in our history. On this day 58 years ago, the soldiers of our brave army proved that they are always alert and ready to protect the borders of the country at any cost. On this wonderful day, the entire Pakistani nation stood by the side of its brave army to protect the country. This day is a day for renewing the pledge of loyalty and national service to the country and also a day to pay homage to the brave sons of the country who sacrificed their lives for the security of the country.

On this day, the entire nation presented such an exemplary practical model of faith unity and organization that further highlighted the spirit of defense of the

homeland in the army, navy and air forces of Pakistan. The defense of the country is not only limited to September 6, but we have to be determined to protect the ideological basis and borders of our country for the rest of the world.

Those brave soldiers of this country who sacrificed their lives to crush the evil intentions of the enemy and did not allow the enemy to advance even an inch on their holy land, along with the entire Pakistani nation, pay tribute to the country for defending the country on this day.

Meanwhile, Government Higher Secondary School Rihanpur Dir lower, a dignified ceremony was held in honor of the position holders of the recent matriculation examination. In the participation ceremony, the students of the school presented national songs, anthems, speeches and skits.

Addressing the ceremony, former member of National Assembly Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Principal of

Government Higher School Rehanpur, Dr. Syed Ur Rehman, Chairman Mian Ahmed Sadiq, Chairman Nasib Rawan, and Khaista Rehman said that without education, no society can progress on the path of development and prosperity. Today, the same nations are in decline. The speakers praised the students and school staff for their excellent performance in the Government Higher Secondary School Rihanpur matriculation examination and urged the students to focus on their studies.

Pay attention to and create such a place in the educational field so that in the future you will become responsible people of the society and serve the country and the nation. Students should not waste their precious time on useless things and pay special attention to their studies. On this occasion, cash prizes and shields were distributed among the students who secured prominent positions in the matriculation examination.

Muqam pays tribute to Martyrs of September 6

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam Thursday visited the grave of Assistant Director of ISI Muhammad Sadiq Shaheed in Dangram area of Swat on the occasion of September 6 Defense Day.

On this occasion, Engineer Amir Muqam laid flowers of sheets on the grave of the martyr and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan.

Speaking to the media, Engr. Amir Muqam said

that today is a day to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country. President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam said that let us pledge that we would defeat all internal and external threats through our unity as we did in 1965.

Pakistan Army, other security agencies and the entire nation gave a befitting reply to the enemy, Amir Muqam said. He said, the officers and jawans of Pakistan Army and other security agencies have made great sacrifices to rid the country of the scourge of terrorism.

The 1965 war is a glori-

ous chapter in the country's defense history, the Pakistan Army set great examples of bravery on every front, said Amir Muqam. The nation once again needs national unity and passion, he added. The Pakistan Army made sacrifices in 1965 to defend the motherland, he said. Pakistan Muslim League (N) Chief Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif made the country's defense impregnable when he decided to conduct nuclear tests in 1998, he said. Living nations always remember their ghazis and martyrs and feel proud of them. Engr. Amir Muqam said.

Woman dies after diarrhea outbreak

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A woman died while nine others, including six from the same family were hospitalized when diarrhea reportedly broke out in the Zaim village of Asban in Adenzai here on Tuesday, residents and hospital sources said.

They said that a woman identified as wife of Aseel Khan died while two other women identified as wife of Shamsul Wahab and wife of Gul Kamin, a man Shafiullah, six children including Saad 3, Hasnain 5, Azan 7 (all sons of Shamsul Wahab), Sher Bano, Ayan and Siam were taken to a hospital in Swat when their condition deteriorated.

The incident spread panic and fear among the villagers when the news went viral on social media. The Lower Dir deputy commissioner Iftikhar Ahmad took notice of the matter and directed the district health officer Dr Irshad Rughani to send a medical team to the affected village and take precautionary measures to stop the spread

of the disease. On this a medical team reached the Zaim village and took samples of water and food which were sent to a medical laboratory. The DHO Dr Irshad told this reporter on contact that the woman died as she had been suffering from a renal disorder. The DHO said the situation was under control and there was no need for fear or panic. He said the affected families had been provided with adequate treatment and now the condition of the victims was not in danger.

Meanwhile a six-year old baby identified as Husna d/o Gul Muhammad, a resident of Munda fell into a drain of dirty water in Munda and killed on the spot in the jurisdiction of Munda police station here on Monday evening, residents said. They said the girl was playing outside her home when the incident occurred. Similarly a civil defense warden identified as Nimatullah was electrocuted while working in a mosque at Kall here on Tuesday. He was taken to the nearby hospital but the doctors proclaimed him

dead.

Police arrests 427 alleged culprits including 12 POs: Police claimed to have arrested 12 Proclaimed Offenders (PO) along with 427 other accused involved in various cases during the last month.

According to a monthly progress report issued by the district police officer Ziaud Din Ahmad, police recovered various stolen items worth of Rs 2.5 million and arrested 27 drugs' sellers in the district during the month of August.

Similarly, 15.9 kilogram of charas, 60 gram of heroin, 218 gram of ice, 2 litres of liquor, two Kalashnikovs, 5 rifles, 9 short guns, 55 pistols, one digger, 93 chargers and 2671 cartridges of different bores were also recovered during different search operations. DPO has strictly directed all the SDPOs and SHO's to take stern actions against the drugs' sellers and outlaws in their respective areas without compromising their official duties. He said the negligent officials would be dealt with strictly.

VC&NC chairmen hold protest in Mardan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Chairmen of Neighbourhood Council (NC) and Village Council (VC) held protest demonstration followed by a press conference in favor to fulfillment of their genuine demands. Prominent among the chairmen of NC and VC who took part in protest demonstration and press conference were included Rahim Shah, Suhra Afridi, Qari Junaid, Walidmir, Yousaf Khan, Waris Khan, Haji Noor Gul, Pir Salman, Mansoor Kha, Shah Khalid, Zahirullah, Muhammad Ali, Sherizad Bibi and others.

Speaking to media-persons, the protesting NC and VC chairmen declared that the funds released by the provincial financial commission for their office expenses as insufficient. They said that Mardan district should not be

deprived of its due share, adding that the district must be provided a share as per its population.

They deplored and blamed that Mardan was the second largest district of KP province, despite of the fact, it was being deprived of its due share. They pointed out that district Nowshera was comprised of 153 neighbourhood and village councils and Rs.108000 each was released by authorities concerned to NC and VC chairmen for their monthly expenses.

Similarly, the district Haripur which was comprised of 23 neighbourhood and village councils, Rs. 70000 was provided to each chairman for monthly expenses of his office. They lamented that district Mardan which was comprised of 231 neighbourhood and village councils was provided only

Rs.31000 each to all the chairmen for their offices monthly expenses.

They said that it was sheer injustice with district Mardan that was why they declared the said fund as insufficient and announced to reject it. They also deplored that the local government elections were held two years back but neither they had been provided one penny fund nor any power so far.

They said that people who had elected them, were expecting solution of their problems through their relevant representatives. They lamented that they could not do any owing to their empty hands, adding that most of the elected chairmen had vacated their offices and shifted office-furniture and other necessary items to their homes and guestrooms/hujras due to unavailability of funds for expenses.



Thailand’s new govt takes office as Cabinet members take oath

BANGKOK (AP): Thailand’s new government officially took office, almost four months after the country’s general election, as new Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin led the 34 members of his Cabinet to take their oaths of office in front of King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Srettha, representing the Pheu Thai party, was named prime minister by Parliament on Aug. 22 after weeks of delay because of disagreement over the formation of a coalition. The 61-year-old Srettha, a prominent real estate developer who officially entered politics last year, also holds the finance minister’s post. He presided over the traditional group photograph in front of Government House in Bangkok with his Cabinet members wearing their white civil servant uniforms. He later held a brief news conference, saying his government is determined to do its best to represent the Thai people and solve many pressing problems that the country is facing.

“I believe it is time that we should pull together and give this Cabinet a chance to start working on all issues, whether it is economics, social (or) political,” Srettha said. The delay in forming a new government was caused by Parliament’s failure to endorse a coalition formed by the party that won the most seats in the May polls, the Move Forward party. It could not win a majority in a combined vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate because its progressive platform alienated members of the conservative Senate, who singled out its support for minor reforms to the monar-



chy as the reason for rejecting it. The Pheu Thai party, which placed second in the election, then formed a broader coalition without Move Forward and was able to win Senate support. But it succeeded only by including pro-military parties from the last government, reneging on a campaign pledge not to do so.

Pheu Thai is backed by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a military coup in 2006. Thaksin, a billionaire populist, fled Thailand in 2008 to avoid prison on charges he said were politically motivated, but returned to Thailand on Aug. 22 to serve an eight-year prison term. It was announced that the king has commuted his sentence to one year. Srettha’s Cabinet is drawn from six parties belonging to Pheu Thai’s 11-party coalition. It includes a number of ministers who served in the previous government of

Prayuth Chan-ocha, including Anutin Charnvirakul, who takes over at the Interior Ministry after serving as public health minister and spearheading the decriminalization of cannabis. Another returnee is Thammanat Prompa, who had served as deputy agriculture minister despite being convicted and jailed in Australia in 1994 in connection with heroin smuggling. He is the new agriculture minister. Pheu Thai has said the coalition members back the party’s platform of boosting the economy, including by increasing the minimum wage, among other measures. They will also support keeping medical marijuana legal and work to amend the constitution to help the country become more democratic. However, there are no plans to amend the law against royal defamation, a reform strongly rejected by the country’s conservative ruling elite.

Suspect in explosives attack on Japanese PM indicted

TOKYO (AP): Prosecutors in Japan indicted a 24-year-old man Wednesday on attempted murder and other charges in the explosives attack on Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in April, Japanese media reported. Kishida was campaigning for elections in Wakayama in western Japan when a man threw a homemade pipe bomb at him. Kishida was unhurt, but two others had minor injuries.

After a three-month psychiatric evaluation of the suspect, prosecutors determined that Ryuji Kimura, 24, is mentally fit for trial and that the bomb used in the attack was lethal, Japan’s Kyodo news agency reported. Kyodo reported that court records show Kimura may have been angry because he couldn’t file for candidacy in 2022 elections. The attack came about a year after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot and killed while campaigning for elections.

Gun and bomb violence in Japan is exceedingly rare, and the attacks on Abe and Kishida shocked many in the country.

Malaysia seeks return of ex-Goldman banker

NEW YORK (Reuters): Malaysia wants a former Goldman Sachs banker convicted last year in New York of helping loot billions of dollars from its 1MDB sovereign wealth fund to return to the country before starting his 10-year US prison sentence, US District Judge Margo Brodie in Brooklyn delayed Roger Ng’s scheduled Sept. 6 surrender date by one month to Oct. 6, after federal prosecutors said they needed more time to talk with Kuala Lumpur about first letting him stand trial on charges there.

“The United States is also working to ensure that the procedures governing the defendant’s return to Malaysia will not unduly delay the service of his US sentence,” prosecutors said. Ng’s lawyers agreed to the one-month delay, prosecutors said. Marc Agnifilo, one of the lawyers, declined to comment. The case stemmed from about \$6.5 billion in bonds that Goldman helped 1MDB sell in 2012 and 2013. US prosecutors said \$4.5 billion of that sum was embezzled by officials, bankers and their associates. Ng, 51, was convicted in March 2022 on bribery and money laundering conspiracy charges. Brodie called his embezzlement “a crime of pure greed” when sentencing Ng a year later.

At a court hearing last month, US prosecutor Drew Rolle said Ng could be returned to Malaysia to stand trial there once he is in US custody. Agnifilo said at the hearing that Malaysia wanted Ng’s cooperation with an ongoing 1MDB probe. Ng was arrested in Malaysia in November 2018 and agreed to be extradited to the United States three months later. In a separate letter to Brodie, lawyers hired this month by Malaysia’s government said the United States had “backtracked” on its commitments regarding Ng’s surrender.

Eritrean troops ‘committed war crimes’ in Ethiopia

TIGRAY (BBC): Eritrean troops allied with Ethiopia’s government “committed war crimes and possible crimes against humanity” in Tigray, raping, enslaving and executing civilians for months after the signing of a peace agreement, Amnesty International said. Dubbed the “North Korea” of Africa, Eritrea was sanctioned by the United States in 2021 after sending troops into Tigray in support of Ethiopia’s federal forces, with its soldiers accused of murder, rape and looting during the two-year war.

The deal inked in November 2022 between Ethiopia’s government and Tigrayan rebels called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. But Eritrea was not a party to the agreement and its troops continue to be present in border areas, according to residents. Amnesty interviewed 49 people in May and June in the border districts of Mariam Shewito and Kokob Tsibah, corroborating their testimonies with satellite imagery as well as the accounts of social workers, medical experts and government officials. “Despite the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, atrocities against civilians in Tigray continued with Eritrean soldiers subjecting women to horrific abuse

including rape, gang rape and sexual enslavement, while civilian men were extrajudicially executed,” said Tigere Chagutah, Amnesty’s East and Southern Africa director. “The serious violations documented in this report amount to war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity,” the rights watchdog said. Some women were raped inside an Eritrean military camp while others were attacked and kept prisoner in their own homes. A single mother of three told Amnesty she was repeatedly raped for three months and held in a military camp with 14 other women. “They kept taking turns raping me,” she said, adding that the soldiers also deprived their victims of food and water.

Another woman, aged 37, said she was beaten and raped for nearly three months by soldiers inside her own home. “They told me, ‘Whether you shout or not, no one is going to come and rescue you.’ And then they raped me.” Amnesty also documented the execution of 24 civilians, including one woman, between November 2022 and January 2023, citing interviews with survivors, eyewitnesses, victims’ families and local officials. The Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities did not respond to Amnesty’s preliminary

findings, the rights group said, urging both governments to investigate the allegations. Amnesty called on the UN’s Human Rights Council to renew the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia next week. In its first report published last September the commission said it had found evidence of widespread violations by all sides and accused Ethiopia and Eritrea of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Amnesty also urged the African Union’s rights commission to “rescind its decision” to scrap an investigation into atrocities in Tigray without publishing a report on its findings or recommendations. Ethiopia has repeatedly rejected international efforts to investigate abuses connected with the war in Tigray and warned that any probes could undermine the progress of the AU-brokered peace agreement. During a rare press conference in Kenya earlier this year, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki dismissed accusations of rights abuses by Eritrean troops in Tigray as “fantasy”. Despite the peace deal, media access to Tigray remains restricted and it is impossible to independently verify the situation on the ground.

Turkey and Greece agree to revive talks

ANKARA (AP): The foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey agreed to revive high-level contacts between their countries and seek “new approaches” to problems as part of efforts to improve ties between the two NATO allies who are at loggerheads over a string of decades-old disputes. Discussions between Greece’s Giorgos Gerapetritis and Turkey’s Hakan Fidan were held in a relatively friendly climate triggered by Greece sending assistance to Turkey following a devastating earthquake earlier this year, and Turkey offering condolences after a deadly train accident in Greece.

“We have entered a new and positive period in our relations with Greece,” Fidan told journalists at the end of their talks. “We reiterated our belief that our problems will be resolved through a constructive dialogue between the two neighbors and allies.” The

meeting came as Ankara, in the throes of an economic downturn, is seeking a reset of its often-troubled relations with Western nations. It follows a rare meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Lithuania in July. According to a “roadmap” unveiled by the two ministers, Mitsotakis and Erdogan would meet again on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept. 18, followed by a meeting of high-level officials in October. The sides would also hold talks on a series of confidence-building measures and revive a stalled high-level cooperation council meeting.

“We don’t have our heads in the clouds. We know that the distances that developed with the passage of time and the passions passed on from generation

to generation cannot be erased with one stroke,” Gerapetritis said. “But we have the disposition and the will to invest in candor and mutual understanding so as to seek common ground, break with established opinions and, where there are disagreements, at least not have them lead to crises,” he continued. Greece and Turkey are at odds over territorial claims in the Aegean Sea, energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean and ethnically split Cyprus, among other issues.

Tensions flared in 2020 over exploratory drilling rights in areas of the Mediterranean Sea - where Greece and Cyprus claim exclusive economic zones - leading to a naval standoff. “We evaluated our problems concerning the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean in a comprehensive manner,” Fidan said. “We agreed on bringing new approaches to the

solution of the problems.” Cordial atmosphere was a contrast to a meeting two years ago when the previous Greek and Turkish foreign ministers traded accusations during a joint news conference in Ankara. In recent years, Turkey has accused Greece of deploying troops on Aegean islands close to the Turkish coast in violation of treaties. Greece says it needs to defend the islands against a potential attack from Turkey, noting Turkey has a sizeable military force on the western Turkish coast. Turkish officials said continued militarization of the islands could lead to Turkey questioning their ownership while Erdogan went as far as to threaten to send missiles to Athens. Last year, Erdogan had pledged never to talk to Mitsotakis, furious at the Greek leader, who during a visit to the United States, called on Washington not to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

Hawaii, Maui sued by victim’s family for gross negligence in deadly wildfires

HAWAII (Reuters): The father of a woman who died during last month’s wildfires in Hawaii has sued the state and the county of Maui in a “first-of-its-kind” lawsuit accusing the governments of gross negligence leading to the blazes that razed the historic town of Lahaina. Filed in Hawaii state court, the lawsuit is the first stemming from the wildfires to be lodged against the state. It also names the state’s electric utility Hawaiian Electric, which is already facing several lawsuits, and a major landowner on the island, Bishop Estate, over the fires.

The lawsuit, filed by Harold Wells on behalf of himself and his 57-year-old daughter’s heirs, alleges that the risk of wildfires was well-known to the

defendants and that the fires were preventable. Measures that would have reduced the risk, including proper vegetation and electrical grid management were not taken by the defendants, Wells argued. Wells’ daughter, Rebecca Rans, is among at least 115 people who died during the deadliest US wildfires in more than a century. The county released a list of 388 people believed to still be missing late last month. Large landowners, including the state, county and Bishop Estate, had a duty to reduce wildfire risk by regularly clearing dry vegetation in the area but failed to do so, the lawsuit claims. Hawaiian Electric, meanwhile, failed to de-energize its electrical equipment during hurricane-force winds, sparking the fires,

the lawsuit said. A spokesperson for Hawaiian Electric said the company does not comment on pending litigation. A spokesperson for the Hawaii attorney general’s office said they were reviewing the lawsuit. The Bishop Estate did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Hawaiian Electric is already facing about a dozen civil lawsuits, including proposed class actions filed by Maui residents, property owners and business owners and a lawsuit by the county, over injuries, deaths and property damage caused by the fires. Those lawsuits claim the utility is responsible as a result of negligent mismanagement of its electrical equipment.

In response to the coun-

ty’s lawsuit, the company said last month that its power lines were de-energized after an initial fire likely caused by its lines was contained. It said its power lines were shut off for at least six hours before a second fire started in the afternoon, which the company said Maui’s fire department was unable to contain. Hawaiian Electric has also been sued by its investors, who allege they suffered significant losses and damages due to the company’s failure to disclose important information about its wildfire prevention and safety protocols. Last week, the US Department of Energy announced that it will provide \$95 million to Hawaiian Electric to help strengthen Maui’s power grid.

Some small towns in America are disbanding police forces, citing hiring woes

GOODHUE, Minn. (AP): As Goodhue Police Chief Josh Smith struggled this summer to fill vacancies in his small department, he warned the town’s City Council that unless pay and benefits improved, finding new officers would never happen. When nothing changed, Smith quit. So did his few remaining officers, leading the Minnesota town of 1,300 residents to shutter its police force in late August.

America is in the midst of a police officer shortage that many in law enforcement blame on the twofold morale hit of 2020 - the coronavirus pandemic and criticism of police that boiled over with the murder of George Floyd by a police officer. From Minnesota to Maine, Ohio to Texas, small towns unable to fill jobs are eliminating their police departments and turning over police work to their county sheriff, a neighboring town or state police. The trend isn’t altogether new. At least 521 US towns and cities with populations of 1,000 to 200,000 disbanded policing

between 1972 and 2017, according to a peer-reviewed 2022 paper by Rice University Professor of Economics Richard T. Boylan. In the past two years, at least 12 small towns have dissolved their departments.

Goodhue County is now under contract for law enforcement duties in the town of Goodhue, even as Sheriff Marty Kelly tries to fill four vacancies in his own department. He said he has around 10 applicants for those jobs. By comparison, one open position in 2019 drew 35 applicants, he said. Kelly knows that to get to full staffing, he’ll have to hire new deputies away from other towns or counties - creating vacancies in other places that will struggle to fill them. “It’s scary,” Kelly said. “We are robbing Peter to pay Paul. And we’re not alone.” At the heart of the problem is the exodus from law enforcement. Officer resignations were up 47% last year compared to 2019 - the year before the pandemic and Floyd’s killing - and retirements are up 19%. That’s all according to a survey of

nearly 200 police agencies by the Police Executive Research Forum, a Washington, DC.-based think tank. Though the survey represents only agencies affiliated with PERF, a fraction of the more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide and is not representative of all departments, it’s one of the few efforts to examine police hiring and retention and compare it with the time before Floyd’s killing. Compounding the exodus of veteran officers, young people are increasingly unwilling to go through the months of training necessary to become a police officer, said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. “Fewer people are applying to be police officers, and more officers are retiring or resigning at a tremendous rate,” Wexler said. “There’s a shortage of police officers across the country.”

Agencies of all sizes are struggling to fill open positions. But the problem is especially dire in smaller communities that can’t match the pay and

incentives offered by bigger places. Another Minnesota town, Morris, dissolved its police department last year after continued departures of officers. The town of 5,100 residents was down to two officers at the time. In Maine, the town of Limestone disbanded its police department in March. Neighboring Van Buren did the same two years earlier. Generally, crime rates were unchanged in towns that dropped their departments, the Rice University study found. Leaders of several towns said they’ve been happy with the change. Town leaders in Washburn, Illinois, dissolved their department in 2021 and let the county take over law enforcement duties for its 1,100 residents.

“You really can’t tell much of any difference,” Mayor Steve Forney said. “The sheriff’s department is very responsive. I like it. I was always one who was very hesitant to go this direction, but I feel it’s working for us.” Lott, Texas, a town of about 700 residents, disbanded its department last year. Mayor Sue Tacker said the

town was going broke and couldn’t afford to pay two officers and two other employees. With county deputies now patrolling Lott, the crime rate remains low and response times have been good, Tacker said. She believes residents are OK with the change.

“I haven’t had any griping or fussing,” Tacker said. Goodhue occupies about one square mile of land 65 miles (105 kilometers) south of Minneapolis. It’s made up of tidy homes with a few small businesses - a bakery, a florist, a café, a supermarket, a taxidermist - most of them in brick storefronts in the small downtown area. The town struggled for years to recruit and retain officers. The City Council had boosted pay by 5% earlier this year and gave Smith a \$13,000 raise. It wasn’t enough. Smith told the City Council at a meeting on July 26 that it was virtually impossible to attract applicants for a job starting at \$22 an hour. That’s about \$10 per hour less than Goodhue County deputies earn.

“There’s zero incentive to come out here to a small town,” Smith said at the meeting. Two weeks later, Smith gave notice of his resignation. Within days, the remaining full-time officer and five part-time employees also called it quits. The town agreed to pay the county about \$44,000 for law enforcement services through the end of this year. Goodhue leaders will decide later whether to extend the contract through 2024. Goodhue resident Ron Goebel, a retired accountant, said he believes the sheriff’s department will do a good job, and he expects townspeople to help out, too. “People can kind of watch out for each other a little bit,” Goebel said, noting that he himself watches for strange vehicles in his neighborhood. “We pretty much know our neighbors.” Goebel fears the loss of the police department is another challenge for Goodhue and towns like it across the nation. “As you lose your schools, you lose your businesses and you lose your police force, how much longer can the town actually be viable as a town?” Goebel asked.

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Defence Day, a tale of spirit and glories

THE Pakistani nation observed its 58th Defence Day on Wednesday, commemorating the valour of its brave soldiers with high spirit, traditional zeal and zest. The day started with a gun salute in the national capital and all four provincial headquarters, traditional military parades, commemoration sessions, political rallies and walks were held in all cities across the country. The political and military leadership expressed its resolve to defend each inch of the country's landmass with all vigour, and resources till the last breath. The nation paid rich tribute to its Shuhadas and Ghazis who fought the enemy with utmost courage and bravery and laid their lives in defence of their motherland.

Almost six decades ago, the Pakistani nation faced surprise aggression from a staunch enemy four times its size with limitless resources and an abundance of lethal arsenal and ammunition, however, the Pakistani military defended the nation in an offensive style and sabotaged the enemy's nefarious designs at multiple fronts that were stretched over 2400 KM long Pak-India border. Historically, Pakistani troops not only defeated the biggest enemy at several locations but also captured a large chunk of enemy territory in Wagha, Chowinda and Sulmaniki sectors during the September War in 1965.

The war of September 6, 1965, symbolises resilience and determination for the Pakistani nation. Pakistan's Defence Forces effectively defended the country's borders on the ground, in the air and the seas in a proudful manner, proving the mettle of the Pakistani nation to the world. Pakistan Army defeated the Indian military in the land battle, Pakistan Air Force established its air superiority throughout the Indo-sub-continent during the 17-day-long Pak-India war while the Pakistan Navy governed across the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal after the successful accomplishment of Operation Dwarka during the early phase of the war. Although, the September 1965 war was a very tough but glorious phase of Pakistan's history that not only projected Pakistan's military might and national strength globally but also highlighted the need for an early resolution of the Kashmir issue which was the real contention behind weeks-long war between South Asian neighbours.

The events of the 1965 war not only remind us about the unity, strength and glory of our forefathers but it also sensitises us about the current issues confronting our nation. After seven and half decades of independence and at the 58th anniversary of the 1965 war, Pakistan faces even more gruesome multifaceted challenges to its territorial integrity and national sovereignty at this time. The menaces of extremism and terrorism pose a high level of risk to our national security, while rapidly evolving geo-strategic dynamics and an external threat of aggression from across borders present a serious challenge to Pakistan which is already embattled with chronic economic ailment and worsening energy crises. Meanwhile, persistent political unrest and ethnic polarization provide fertile ground for anti-state elements and foreign intelligence to achieve their nefarious plans against our country.

The current situation merits the revitalization of 1965's spirit, re-energising of the same unity and strengthening of national bonds that assemble the whole nation on a single-point agenda. Pakistan is a 230 million-strong nuclear and missile-armed state that made its defence invincible. However, economic degradation, political polarization, religious intolerance and institutional corruption are those impediments which seriously resist Pakistan's journey toward a sustainable and prosperous future. There is a dire need that our political and religious leadership must work on that manifesto to initiate a nationwide drive to realize the longstanding dream of an economically viable and prosperous Pakistan.

Kim-Putin nexus and risk of a global war

NORTH Korea's Bellicose leader Kim Jong Un is preparing for a historic state visit to the Russian Federation to enjoy Moscow hospitality and to interact with his Russian counterpart President Vladimir Putin, regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine, regional and global geopolitical dynamics and prospects for greater economic and military cooperation between the two nations. According to the reports, the possibility of provision of North Korean modern ammunition and state-of-the-art weapons, particularly artillery shells and missiles to the Russian military would be at the top of the agenda. The White House Spokesperson confirmed the reports that the Kim regime and Moscow are currently in negotiations to strike a weapons deal, and that Kim's visit would be crucial in this regard. Meanwhile, US National Security Council Spokesman John F. Kirby warned North Korea to cease its arms negotiations with Russia and abide by the public commitments that Pyongyang has made not to sell arms to Russia, otherwise, Washington would slap devastating sanctions against that country.

One year and a half has gone by, and the Kremlin's Special Operation in Ukraine has not achieved its strategic objectives so far. The sole heir of the former Soviet Red Army had been exhausted, faces shortages of arms, and ammunition and suffers the worst effects of waning morale and poor performance of its fighting troops that failed to achieve any landmark success without Wagner's support. On the other hand, Europe and North America wholeheartedly supported Ukraine's war efforts and provided unbelievable economic and military support to Kyiv that not only failed Moscow's so-called Special Operation but rapidly weakened Putin's grip over political and domestic affairs. Currently, North Korea has stockpiles of weapons that Moscow needs an urgent basis to consolidate its defence on Ukrainian fronts, while Russia-Korea bilateral cooperation would not only reduce the diplomatic isolation of Pyongyang but ease up Kim's economic constraints amid worsening tension in the Korean Peninsula.

The global geostrategic environment is changing rapidly and a bloc of Russia, China and North Korea emerging gradually in response to collective and coordinated policies and strategic manoeuvres of Western nations and their allies in Asia, Africa and other continents in the world. The war in Ukraine is entering its second phase with the introduction of modern Western arsenals such as main battle tanks, heavy artillery systems and F-16 fighter jets while North Korean weapons will turn this battle into a global tragedy. Therefore, world leaders must think about waning global peace before adding fuel to this ongoing armed conflict in the heart of the world.

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The methods of occupation are trickling back into Israel

Yossi Mekeberg

IT is indisputable that the levels of intra-community homicide and other forms of violence and criminality generally in the towns and villages of the Palestinian citizens of Israel are beyond horrific. The entire Arab community in Israel has been rocked by the scale of the killings. At the time of writing, 165 Palestinian citizens of Israel have been murdered in this year alone, compared to 111 in all of last year, which itself was an extremely disturbing number. It can also hardly be contested that much of this situation can be attributed to decades of neglect and discrimination, much of it deliberate, by Israeli administrations since the very early days of the country's independence.

Yet, the current Israeli government's approach to resolving this steep increase in deadly crime is taken from the playbook of authoritarian regimes, not democracies. Much of it is due to the disproportionate influence of the far right in the ruling coalition, and especially the handing over of key ministries that deal with policing and resource allocation to their representatives.

A number of these ministers are settlers whose racist mindset prompts them to demand that methods of enforcing law and order similar to the deplorable procedures used in the occupied West Bank be applied to Palestinians who are citizens of Israel and should therefore, at least in principle, enjoy the same rights as their Jewish fellow countrymen and women. In other words, they are calling for the violation of the basic human rights of a group that makes up 20 percent of Israel's population. Two of the most worrying suggestions from National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir are to get the Shin Bet security service involved in investigations of homicides in this community and to introduce so-called administrative detentions.

The role of the Shin Bet is to deal with threats to national security, not with criminal activities. Even the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, has expressed strong reservations about the organization becoming involved in investigations that are not national security-

related. It was reported that, in a discussion with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bar said: "If the state involves the Shin Bet in every complex problem it's faced with, it will become a different country." By "a different country," he meant one not only where the lines between national security issues and criminality are blurred, but one whose internal security

In other words, they are calling for the violation of the basic human rights of a group that makes up 20 percent of Israel's population. Two of the most worrying suggestions from National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir are to get the Shin Bet security service involved in investigations of homicides in this community and to introduce so-called administrative detentions. The role of the Shin Bet is to deal with threats to national security, not with criminal activities. Even the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, has expressed strong reservations about the organization becoming involved in investigations that are not national security-related.

force has descended a slippery slope to become a tool in the hands of the government for political purposes.

Admittedly, in recent weeks, more politicians and civil servants in the Palestinian municipalities have been targeted by gangs who are trying to spread fear and force them to serve the economic interests of organized crime. But if the Shin Bet is to be used, it must be in very specific cases, pending the permission of the courts, to ensure there is no subtext being employed by the National Security Ministry, and especially the anti-Arab Ben-Gvir, of exploiting such situations in order to violate the human, political and civil rights of Palestinians who are citizens of Israel.

For Ben-Gvir, Bezalel Smotrich and the other representatives of the Religious Zionist party, there is no perceptual difference between Palestinians who are citizens of Israel and those who are not (and this does

not even remotely justify the decades-long deprivation of the human rights of Palestinians living under occupation). Both are seen by them as enemies. Ben-Gvir, in another of his bigoted outbursts, has argued that "the weapons used in Arab crime are seeping over into terrorist activity. What can we do when it's one against the other, or against IDF soldiers?" With

reached and thus no sentence applied - those who are administratively detained could potentially remain in custody indefinitely without being convicted. This is an official miscarriage of justice and, in this case, is targeting a specific ethnic group.

But it does not stop there. Unless forced to change his decision, Ben-Gvir's racist twin, Finance Minister Smotrich, intends to withhold more than \$50 million in funding from Palestinian municipalities. He has defended his plan by arguing that, without proper oversight, the funds would end up in the hands of organized criminal groups. Needless to say, he did not present a shred of evidence to back up this spurious claim.

It is one of the right wing's many bizarre claims that to improve economic conditions among the Palestinian citizens of Israel would lead to a rise in crime because there would be money to be stolen or extracted through protection rackets. By this logic, all societies should be forced into poverty to prevent crime. Israel's Jewish society is way more affluent, yet the level of crime, including homicide, is not a fraction of that of Arab society.

The reality is that there is not enough investment in policing, job creation, education and general development for Israel's Palestinian community. Instead, there is only chronic neglect. And this is simply because the racist far right in Israel is not bothered about Arabs killing Arabs.

Only recently, the Knesset passed a law that enforces dual punishments for sexual offences with "nationalist motivation," as if that can be either proved as such or if it makes it worse than any other rape. Once again, this is a deflection from the incompetence of this government, which, as with Ben-Gvir's recent suggestions, prefers to sow hatred and division within Israeli society rather than look for any constructive solution.

Hatred and incitement are this government's forte and, until it is brought down, it will continue to do what fascist-like governments always do, which is to blame minorities for their own hardships and suffering and to punish them for that.

At a stroke, Slovakia could soon become Russia's ally

John Kampfnier

SLOVAKIA matters far more than Europe realises. On 30 September, the small European country holds a parliamentary election that will have ramifications far beyond its borders. If the opinion polls are correct, it would mark the return of Robert Fico: a man who lavishes praises on Moscow and models himself on Viktor Orbán, the "alt-right" leader in neighbouring Hungary. The European Union and Nato could soon have a new troublemaker within.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Slovakia went all in to defend Ukrainian sovereignty. Per capita, it has been one of Kyiv's staunchest backers, becoming the first Nato country to send fighter jets. If Fico is elected, it is in danger of doing a 180-degree turn and giving its support to Vladimir Putin. Slovakia, a country of only 5 million people, is a testing ground for the power of propaganda. Last year, a former defence attache was caught red-handed offering money to a Slovak journalist to peddle Kremlin propaganda on the war in Ukraine and much more. When the video was released a year and a half ago by news outlet Denník N, it went viral and the diplomat was expelled.

The thinktank Globsec, which measures the political allegiances of former communist states and is part-funded by the US and the EU, publishes an annual Vulnerability Index. Its most recent survey makes for salutary reading, with Slovakia often the outlier. Dominika Hajdu, head of its Centre for Democracy and Resilience, says that 50% of Slovaks believe the US to be a security risk, a figure sharply up on just a few years ago, while only 40% of Slovaks believing Russia to be primarily responsible for the Ukraine war, the lowest percentage in central and eastern Europe. A few years after the 1993 dissolution of Czechoslovakia, the newly independent Slovak state to the south was already a cause of concern to the west. While other post-communist states embraced liberal democracy with enthusiasm, the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, called it "the black hole" of the region.

Nato membership was delayed. Eventually it did join, in 2004, the same year it also became part of the EU. The assumption then in both of these institutions was that Slovakia, finally, had a settled identity and a settled set of alliances.

Then came Fico, a prototype populist. As prime minister between 2006 and 2010 and then 2012 to 2018, he fulminated against the west for his domestic audience, but was careful not to go against the international status quo. What happened next shook Slovakia to its core. Ján Kuciak, a young investigative journalist, was looking into corruption involving Fico's government, EU subsidies and the Italian mafia. On 21 February 2018, Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, an archaeologist, were gunned down by contract killers at

their flat outside the capital. In the biggest demonstrations since the Velvet Revolution that brought down communism in 1989, tens of thousands of Slovaks took to the streets to express their fury. Eventually, Fico and his entire cabinet were forced to resign - not before he accused the US billionaire George Soros of fomenting the protests. Hope arose from the horror. In June 2019, an environmental activist and lawyer, Zuzana Ľaputová, sensationally won the presidential election. Months later a new government was voted in, presaging change. Within weeks of taking office, however, the pandemic energy crisis and the war. The last administration collapsed in December amid much infighting, and the country has been trading water since. Cue a remarkable return for Fico. In a copy of Orbán, he spent the time in opposition moving further to the right, denouncing "Ukrainian fascists" and railing against the decision by the Slovak government to ship whatever weapons it had to Ukraine. He then called Ľaputová an "American agent" and, in an echo of Donald Trump, has described recent arrests of senior intelligence chiefs as a "police-led coup". It has been reported there are up to 2,000 Facebook pages sharing anti-western propaganda, with Ľaputová warning of an "information storm" of political denunciations from the right, supported by Russia. Ominously, she has had enough and will not stand for a second term.

Fico's party, Smer-SD, is ahead of the other parties in the polls. I spent an hour with its vice-chair, sitting on a terrace outside parliament. Ľuboš Blaha frames Russia's conflict with the west less in military terms and more as a culture war. "We see it as a proxy war of the United States against Russia on Ukrainian land," he says. "The issue isn't about Russia and democracy. It is about Russia protecting their cultural, national identity against this liberal mania in the west." As he speaks, I look across the Danube to the forest that marks Austria ahead. I remember it from the 1980s: the heavily fortified border just a few kilometres away, the iron curtain, which imprisoned generations of Czechoslovaks. The danger is ever-present, but there is still much to play for. Election campaigns in Slovakia have often produced dramatic last-minute swings and a complicated voting system will make coalition building complex. What is beyond doubt, however, is that Fico is a major player once again and the politics he espouses is back in fashion. It is a measure of how messy politics has become, and how much faith in liberal democracy has been eroded here in the heart of Europe.

The Guardian

Gabon coup calls for West to rethink its Africa strategy

Ashok Swain

IN a dramatic turn of events in August 30, 2023, high-ranking military officers in Gabon took control of the country. This move comes after the country's election authority declared President Ali Bongo Ondima as the winner of another term, a decision contested by the opposition. The military officers appeared on national television and asserted that the Aug. 26 elections lacked transparency and credibility. They announced the dissolution of state institutions and the assumption of power.

General Brice Olighi Nguema, the coup leader and head of Presidential Guard, who happens to be a cousin to ousted President Bongo, has been sworn in as transitional president. Bongo, an accomplished musician and a powerful climate

advocate, who held power for 14 years, is under house arrest. His wife, son, and President of the Election Commission have also been arrested. People in Gabon's capital Libreville have come out showing support for the change of regime.

The international community has expressed concerns with strong condemnation from France and the EU. However, the US and China have taken a more cautious approach. The African Union has meanwhile decided to suspend Gabon's membership. The surprise development in Gabon and the coup epidemic in that region dominated discussions in the EU Defense Ministers meeting held in Toledo. The coup in Gabon is the eighth such action in the West and Central Africa since 2020. Gabon, situated on the western coast of Africa,

has long been regarded as a country with vast natural resources and immense potential. However, beneath the surface lies a complex web of political and economic challenges. Since gaining independence from France in 1960, the Bongo family has ruled for most parts.

Omar Bongo ruled for 42 years until his death in 2009, succeeded by his son Ali Bongo. Elections in Gabon have often been tainted by allegations of irregularities. In Gabon, the military has played a significant role in politics and political transitions. In 1967, the country experienced a bloodless coup led by then-Lieutenant Colonel Omar Bongo, who later became President. Bongo's rule saw a blending of military and political leadership.

When Omar Bongo passed away in 2009, his son Ali Bongo succeeded him in a contested election. The transition was also facilitated by the military's influence in maintaining the family's hold on power. The relationship between the military and political leadership in Gabon has been characterised by loyalty-based ties. Bongo's regime relied on key military figures for support.

The military-political relationship has not been without tensions and controversies. In 2019, a group of military officers attempted a coup while President Ali Bongo was receiving medical treatment in Morocco. The coup attempt was swiftly suppressed, thanks to the support of a major section of the army and France. This time, although

France supports Bongo; the army does not.

The relationship between Gabon and its former coloniser, France, involves a complex interplay of history, politics, and economics. French development assistance in Gabon, though aimed at supporting economic growth and social welfare, has also been met with some scepticism. Gabon is rich with extensive natural resources, including oil, minerals, and timber.

The oil sector dominates the economy, accounting for a significant portion of GDP and government revenue. Despite the country being oil rich, Gabon's almost 40 per cent of youth population is unemployed and nearly 45 per cent of population live below the poverty line.

A critical factor exacerbating Gabon's economic

hardships is the pervasive issue of corruption. Much of the nation's vast oil wealth, it appears, has been squandered away. The coup in Gabon, only a month after the coup in Niger and along with previous coups in Burkina Faso and Mali highlights a significant shift in the political landscape of the Sahel region and France's diminishing influence in its former colonies. The geopolitical landscape in Africa has also dramatically changed. Recent developments raise concerns among Western powers and necessitate a comprehensive re-evaluation of their approach in the region. Given recent geopolitical changes, there is an urgent need to focus on soft power, mutual respect, dialogue, diplomacy, and better communication strategies in the region.

Gulf News

30 years on, hoax of Oslo Accords lingers

THIS month marks the 30th anniversary of the historic signing of the Oslo I Accord in Washington between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, after the two sides recognized each other and following secret talks in Oslo, Norway. While, so far, there has been little mention of the significance and relevance of the occasion by Palestinian and Arab analysts, Israeli media and Jewish think tanks in Israel and abroad have released tens of articles and research papers looking into what the accords have meant for Israel, in particular, with little mention of the Palestinians.

Almost all Israeli and Jewish Zionist analysts have described the accords as a "mistake" or even a "calamity" that allowed "a terrorist organization" to control parts of the West Bank, undermining Israel's security and that of its people. They lambasted Yasser Arafat, the PLO and the Palestinian Authority, noting that more than 1,500 Israelis have been murdered by "Palestinian terrorists" since 1993 - conveniently, they forget to mention the number of Palestinian civilians who have been killed, injured or maimed by Israel since then. Nor do they talk about the number of illegal Jewish settlements built on stolen Palestinian lands since the Oslo Accords were signed. When you have the upper hand, with boots on the ground, it is easy to blame the Palestinians for the failed Oslo Accords. But this is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Yes, the Palestinian leadership carries a good

measure of responsibility for missing opportunities and for making bad decisions at crucial junctures. But that is not why the accords stumbled.

One can feel free to distribute blame all around: the US administration, the EU, the international community, some Arab countries and, yes, the Palestinian leadership itself. But let us agree that the Oslo Accords, both one and two, were flawed in so many ways. The technical details and the annexes that few bothered to read and the poor political will on both sides contributed to the creation of the biggest political hoax of modern times.

Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres may have had good intentions of finally bringing peace to the troubled Holy Land; of imagining and working for a grand Middle East with prosperity and progress for all those involved. But good intentions do not make peace and, like all negotiated treaties, they bring out more critics than cheerleaders. Rabin, the warrior turned peacemaker, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist two years after the White House ceremony. From there on, it was downhill for the nascent peace process. Peres lost the crucial 1996 election to a rising right-wing star in Israeli politics, Benjamin Netanyahu. It was then that Oslo ended. But most were in denial.

The cruel and hard-hitting fact is that the Zionist project, whether under a secular or a right-wing Israeli government, has always been and will always be this: A land grab of

West Bank territory and the choking of any genuine and rightful claim to a Palestinian state. Whether on geopolitical, national security or biblical grounds, the Israelis will always find an excuse to deny Palestinians a state of their own in historical Palestine. One could take a quick look at how the Oslo Accords spiraled downhill. Both sides waste no opportunity to blame the other. It was always a case of mistrust and suspicion. There was the Second Intifada, the siege of Arafat, the re-occupation of the West Bank, the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the Hezbollah factor, the Hamas takeover of Gaza, the PA's loss of direction, the missed chance at Camp David, the settlements and the changing geopolitical winds.

As Netanyahu solidified his power base, he openly said there was no Palestinian peace partner. But his politics were clear. He had denounced the Oslo Accords, rejected the two-state solution and paralyzed the peace process. Bibi was now in control. The Americans, who had absolute control over the ailing peace process, failed to resuscitate it several times. They stood by as Israeli governments opened the floodgates of settlement building. This had become a zero-sum game. Netanyahu, who now heads the most far-right Israeli government in the state's history, is only a figurehead of a new and evolving Israel. The once-secular state is being hijacked by ultranationalist and ultra-religious extremists who do not see a place for the Palestinians in historical

Palestine.

How Israel, at 75, will handle this cataclysmic challenge remains to be seen. But that has little to do with the future of the Palestinians. Oslo is dead. This is something that the Palestinian leadership has refused to admit, but it must. The new reality is complex: An internal fight within Israel for the soul of the state. The international community is divided on how to perceive the new Israel, which is now depicted as an apartheid state. Furthermore, the Palestinians are not doing much better. They face a thorny succession saga that could determine the fate of the PA, which has become an agent for the normalization of Israeli encroachment on Palestinian lands. And the vultures are waiting for the prey to fall: Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and others with conflicting agendas. And now we have the normalization process between Israel and Arab states.

The Abraham Accords breached the once-sterling dam of Arab boycott. Geopolitical trends undermine the Palestinians and their cause. The Oslo Accords are in the past. It is a horse-trading affair where the Palestinian leadership hopes to get something in return, even on paper. Was the Oslo process a fatal mistake? The Israelis will say yes. But for the Palestinian leadership, it was a path to oblivion. It was their choice then - a historic opportunity not to be missed. It turned out to be a stigma and a curse. Thirty years on, the Oslo Accords were more about bringing two opposites together; two evolving entities unlikely to ever meet.

Putin is developing a sinister new plan for victory

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-un's planned meeting with Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok, as revealed by US intelligence, gives us a new insight into Russia's strategy in Ukraine as well as a warning of wider dangers for the world.

As Kyiv's offensive wears on into its fourth month, with only limited success and a few Russian counter attacks, it is becoming clear that Moscow's plan may be to allow Ukraine to exhaust its men, tanks, shells and missiles against the Surovikin Line's hardest edge. The thinking could be that, once Ukraine's Western equipped and trained manoeuvre forces have been ground down, Russia will then be able to launch its own major offensive, perhaps as early as January.

After almost two years of fighting that has been compared more to the First World War than the Second, this plan is reminiscent of the Germans' Kaiserschlacht, the spring offensive which began in March 1918 and drove the allies back, seizing more territory than had been taken by either side in the preceding four years of war. This was achieved by the Germans bleeding the enemy dry while building massive reserves of men and munitions behind the lines, ready to unleash a devastating assault not unlike what the British aimed for, but failed to achieve, during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

The problem for Putin is that, as he seeks to grind down Ukrainian forces, he is expending vast quantities of ammunition, especially artillery shells and ballistic missiles, and very large numbers of tanks. While Russia has a greater volume of military industrial production than much of the West, and continues to mobilise tens of thousands of men each quarter on a rolling basis, its core supplies remain inadequate

Richard Kemp

for the level of expenditure required for a major new offensive.

That is where Pyongyang could come in. North Korea has been sending large quantities of shells, rockets and missiles to Russia for at least a year, with many of the ship-ments organised by the late Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner group. In July, Putin's defence minister Sergei Shoigu was in Pyongyang, presumably negotiating further supplies. There he will have found an Aladdin's Cave of hardware - North Korea maintains immense stocks of heavy weaponry and artillery munitions. Many are old and unreliable, but that won't matter if Russia resorts to its old tactic for victory: utilising its sheer force of numbers, steam-rolling the enemy as the Germans sought to do in 1918.

The new Moscow-Pyongyang axis is a reversal of roles from the Cold War era, when the Soviet Union and China were the top arms supplier to North Korea from its inception. Supply continued even after the Soviet collapse, only ending with the advent of UN sanctions. Supporting Russia today benefits Kim as a means of hitting back against the US, with the undoubted approval of Beijing. But North Korea's backing will not come without a hefty price tag. Crippled by Western sanctions, Pyongyang is in dire need of the oil, food, fertiliser and raw materials that Russia has in abundance.

A more concerning aspect of Russia's burgeoning relationship is the potential to supply both hard currency and technology for North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, especially the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles. As with its ability to provide other commodities, Russia has enormous capabilities in this field, including its own nuclear weapons

know-how. This could be a game-changer in Pyongyang's pursuit of an effective nuclear delivery programme. Some analysts have suggested that the US exposure of Kim's planned visit might be enough for him to cancel it. That will make no difference. The deeply embedded links between the two countries are sufficient for this deadly cooperation to continue and develop without a meeting between the two leaders.

The question that must therefore be asked is: why was there a need to plan for such a meeting in the first place? For Kim, virtually confined to the borders of his own country, it would be an opportunity to posture as a world statesman before his fellow anti-Western regimes. Putin, too, has a need to show his people that he is not isolated. But there may be something else behind it. Putin might well have in mind a bargaining chip to encourage an already wobbling US administration to pressure Kyiv into a ceasefire. Whatever the diplomatic double-dealing, the West should now be helping Ukraine prepare in case their current offensive fails, allowing Putin to unleash his Kaiserschlacht. The German offensive in 1918 petered out from exhaustion and lack of supplies. We cannot count on a similar fate overcoming Putin's next move: it is questionable whether Ukraine will have the resources to hold the Russians back, let alone launch their own version of the Hundred Days Offensive which allowed the Allies, with newly arrived American forces, to drive the Germans back into their homeland. If this apocalyptic 1918 scenario becomes reality, a monumental effort will be required from the West as well as from Ukraine - greater than has already been delivered. It will be extremely costly for everyone, with the potential consequences too terrifying to contemplate.

The Telegraph

Turn up in person, get used to rejection and eat more than cornflakes

IT'S that time of year again: freshers' week is fast approaching and soon a new generation of students will pack up their duvets and newly purchased kettles to begin a fresh chapter of life. For those who remember their own journey, the nostalgia is difficult to suppress: the fear, the adrenaline, the strange single bed waiting at the end of a motorway. University was the next step on the road to independence after the preceding years of important firsts - late-night parties, kisses, exam results - and a chance to prove yourself away from home comforts. For this year's cohort of students, it's a different story.

Because, let's face it, they haven't had it easy so far. These are the teens whose lives were radically changed by the Covid-19 pandemic; denied those all-important inaugural parties and first trips abroad and, last month, told by Rishi Sunak that they had been "sold a false dream" as he put a cap on the number of students allowed to take a "low-value degree" in England. Senior government ministers also spoke about how university wasn't all that important now - a complete reversal on the push by most governments across the world to increase rates of secondary school completion and the number of people going into higher education.

Over the past 20 years studying, teaching and working in academic settings, I've seen enough first-hand to know that the odds really are stacked against this next generation of prospective graduates - and, potentially, what might help them. So what advice would I give?

First of all, showing up is half the battle. It's tempting to watch livestreams or recordings at home, but you'll miss out on random conversations before and after class, or being able to

Devi Sridhar

ask questions. The relationships you build at university can last a lifetime, whether through close friendships or inspiring mentorships. You never know, they could even lead to jobs, experiences abroad or a completely new passion.

If these opportunities come around, try to put yourself out there, work hard and know that very few people get their dream job straight away. You may have to take a role that can lead to future opportunities. "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard", as sports coaches often say. Everyone faces rejection, especially at university, but it's those who keep going who head towards their goals. You could apply to 50 jobs, get rejected by 49 and only get one. It's happened to me. And all everyone else usually sees is the iceberg of success when you land that job. Failure is normal; you just have to pick yourself up and try again.

Despite Sunak's gloomy indictment, it's not foolish to dream big, either. In contrast to American culture where ambition is supported with enthusiasm (and perhaps linked too often with false confidence), in Britain it can sometimes feel like a negative attribute; arrogant and unrealistic.

Why shouldn't you have a goal and go for it fully? What's the worst that could happen? You'll still go further than someone who didn't have a dream at all. Learn to take on constructive criticism and feedback, and see it as a chance to improve rather than becoming defensive. Being able to listen to others and discern what's useful in what they're saying, and what's not, is a crucial life skill.

Really, as well as an academic education, that's what you're at university for: to learn about yourself as an adult and how to

move around the world in a useful way. Things such as being nice to support staff - rather than using someone as a punching bag if something unfair has happened, or you're angry or frustrated. Also, planning your days and time so that you don't waste hours on social media is a good habit to build, not least because, generally, the more time people spend on social media, the lower they feel. Time is precious and should be put towards activities that give you fulfilment and meaning, such as seeing friends or family, studying, having a job that pays the bills, or hobbies, sport or music that you enjoy. Use the time you have to do things that make you feel good.

That includes what you eat, too. Learn how to cook. Or find friends or roommates who do and offer to clean the table and do the dishes (most of the people I asked for an opinion on this said the former. Given I'm still learning to cook, I've added the latter). It's tempting to survive on a diet of cornflakes and beer, but with some basic knowledge and time, you can feed yourself delicious meals and become popular with friends - who might then offer to do the dishes and clean up.

Finally, take advantage of the chance to learn. University is a time to broaden your horizons and be surrounded by others interested in learning more about our world, our history, our literature and art, our bodies and our challenges. Seek out those with different interests and worldviews, read books or listen to podcasts, and try to understand where they're coming from. At the end of your degree, you might better understand who you are, what gives you happiness and meaning in life, and where you want your career to go, or would like the world to be. At its core, this is what university is all about. That, and buying a new kettle.

Promoting a human community

IN March this year, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, proposed the Global Civilization Initiative at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting. The GCI was the third global initiative he proposed to promote global organic unity after the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative in order to build a human community with a shared future.

The unity, following the trend of human progress and in response to the unprecedented changes in the world, points to the direction in which the world, which now is at a crossroad, should go. It is a new development of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and speaks volumes about the sense of history, mission and responsibility, and the global vision of Chinese communists with Xi Jinping as their chief representative. To break new ground in advancing major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, we must get a sound grasp of the scientific nature and the considerable significance of this unity and the inherent relationship between the vision and the three global initiatives.

From the historical perspective, the three global initiatives, reflecting three major themes of human progress, constitute three pillars that support the overarching vision of a human community with a shared future. In the long river of history, different civilizations, flowing and converging from time to time, have surged forward like waves. Along with the continuous progress of human society and the deepening of globalization, countries have become increasingly connected and inter-dependent, forming a community with a shared future.

People of all countries have come to realize that material abundance, peace and stability and cultural prosperity are what all societies aspire for. To achieve them, we need growth, security and civilization, which complement and reinforce each other. As an ancient Chinese saying goes, "Only when the granary is full will people learn etiquette; only when people are well fed and clothed will they know honor and shame." Growth is the basis for security and civilization. Only when all countries prosper can peace last and civilizations thrive.

"Stability brings a country prosperity, while instability leads a country to poverty," is another ancient Chinese saying. Security is a prerequisite of growth and civilization. Chinese people in ancient times believed that the civilized tend to enjoy safety while the uncivilized are more prone to face troubles and encounter danger. Civilization develops on the basis of economic growth and security. It is the accumulation of a people's cultural pursuit and carries the imprint of a nation's history. It has a gradual and imperceptible influence on people's way of thinking and doing things, providing spiritual strength to the cause of development and security. The three global initiatives, inherently connected and reinforcing each other, point the way forward for the progress of human society from three different perspectives: growth, security and civilization. They are the main buttresses supporting the vision to build a human community with a shared future.

The GDI, from the perspective of growth, answers the question of what development philosophy people need and how to achieve global development. It is aimed at creating the material foundation for a human community with a shared future. The GSI, from the viewpoint of security, focuses on the issue of what sort of security humanity needs and how to achieve universal security. It is aimed at providing security guarantee for the community. The GCI, from the perspective of the upper

structure, answers the question of how to view different civilizations and promote exchanges and mutual-learning among them. It aims to build the cultural foundation for the human community. From the perspective of practice, the three global initiatives, focusing on prominent issues amid the profound changes unseen in a century, provide viable paths for the world to build a human community with a shared future.

Today, our world, our times and the historical course are changing in ways like never before. The global economic recovery is weak and faltering, various security challenges keep emerging, misunderstandings, estrangement and conflicts among civilizations still exist, and deficits in global peace, development, security and governance are getting from bad to worse. With the world entering a new round of turbulence and transformation, humanity has once again reached a crossroad in history. Its future depends on the choice of all peoples around the world. At this historical juncture, CPC Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping, with his great foresight, has set the direction for the world by proposing the vision of building a human community with a shared future as the overarching goal, and the three global initiatives as the action plans to address the outstanding issues facing humanity, calling on all countries to join the just cause.

The three global initiatives, centering on the overarching goal of building a human community with a shared future, are three well-conceived prescriptions that aim to cure the fundamental ills of the world. This is an excellent example of a problem-oriented approach. Targeting issues like humanity's survival, development and modernization, the GDI effectively responds to the strong aspiration and urgent need of the international community, developing countries in particular, to achieve faster economic growth. It also focuses on tackling the unbalanced and inadequate development within and among nations, thus setting the direction for the cause of global development and global cooperation on development. Going forward, China will work hard to implement the GDI, so as to help the international community to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at a faster pace and inject strong impetus into global economic growth. On issues related to conflicts, wars, stability and peace, the GSI sheds light on a practical pathway to global security governance. It serves not only as a sound guidance for humanity to deal with global security challenges, but is also a viable solution to regional hot-spot issues and geopolitical conflicts.

China's success in brokering a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and its commitment to promoting the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis through peace talks are all cases in point of how we address security dilemmas by following the GSI. Targeting issues such as misunderstandings, estrangement, lack of mutual trust and inclusiveness among civilizations, the GCI aims to achieve dialectical unity based on the commonality and despite the diversity of civilizations, by seeking the common ground among them while fully respecting their diversity. On the one hand, the GCI highlights the importance of inheritance as each civilization has its own rich past. It also emphasizes the need to fully harness the relevance of its past to the present as history is a mirror to understand the present and the future. It then advocates building a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship

Liu Jianchao

among people of all countries and reach a consensus on inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning.

From the perspective of philosophy, the vision of building a human community with a shared future and the three global initiatives demonstrate salient theoretical characteristics and the unity of the worldview and methodology. The vision of building a human community with a shared future provides scientific answers to the epochal questions of what kind of world we should build and how to build it. The vision, together with the new outlook on growth, security and civilization encompassed in the three global initiatives, represent the worldview of China and the Chinese communists in the new era. They also provide the methodology for putting that worldview into practice, as they contain not only profound political wisdom but also many practical pathways and measures. Thus, they represent the unity of both the worldview and the methodology.

The vision of building a human community with a shared future and the three global initiatives are scientific. They encapsulate the stances, viewpoints, and methods of Marxism, reflecting the hallmarks of Marxism, and demonstrating salient theoretical characters. Underpinned by dialectical and historical materialism, the vision and the three global initiatives reveal the laws governing the development of human society and its future direction. They also provide scientific methods and pathways to advance human society, demonstrating the great power of truth. The vision of building a human community with a shared future and the three global initiatives are people-centered. Focusing on the aspiration for a better life of the peoples across the world, the vision and the three global initiatives highlight the overall interests of humanity and strive to improve the common wellbeing of all peoples.

Moreover, their vision of caring for every individual is self-evident. Responding to the yearning of peoples of different countries for peace, development and cooperation, the vision and the three global initiatives are committed to creating the right conditions to realize and guarantee each individual's well-rounded development. The vision of building a human community with a shared future and the three global initiatives are practical. They embody the CPC's strong sense of responsibility to promote global harmony through concrete actions. And facts will prove their correctness and imperativeness. Their meaning and theoretical system will be further enriched with the changes in the situation. From the perspective of civilization, the vision of a human community with a shared future and the three global initiatives, rooted in the Chinese civilization, steer theoretical innovation on international relations in the new era.

As CPC Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "To meet our common challenges and create a better future for all, we look to culture and civilization to play their role, which is as important as the role played by economy, science, and technology." The Chinese civilization advocates kinship between all people and all creatures, and peace among all nations as it believes that humanity rises and falls together, which underlies the way we Chinese view and understand societies and peoples of different regions and languages. For us, an ideal society pursues the common good as a just cause and advances common interests. Sound economic ethics put people's enrichment and wellbeing first and uphold justice while pursuing common interests. The right security concept favors peace over war, and believes that the essence of using force is to stop

The China Daily



SCCI demands reduction in electricity tariff

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi urged the government to reduce electricity prices by reviewing agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Ijaz Afridi while talking to different traders' delegation here on Wednesday said that the country's economy still stands at a crossroads.

He held IPPs responsible for the prevailing energy crisis and increase in electricity tariff and asked the government to conduct a thorough audit of IPPs and reduce electricity prices.

The SCCI's acting chief warned a new wave of inflation will come if prices of electricity and petroleum products increase further.

He went on to say that the cost of doing business and industrial production have increased exponentially after consistent increase in electricity, gas tariff and fuel prices.

He said rising prices of electricity, gas and petroleum commodities are unfavorable for the national economy.

Therefore, he urged the government to frame business-friendly policies in consultation with chambers, traders and relevant stakeholders.

KP is producing low-cost electricity but the same electricity is sold at high rates, which is completely unjust with people of the province, Afridi said.

He maintained giving electricity to KP with high-tariff was sheer violation of the 18th constitutional amendment. Electricity was unavailable to consumers in KP despite paying power bills with heavy tariffs, he added.

The SCCI's acting president said the country's economy cannot afford any further increase in prices.

He emphasized that the government should adopt business-friendly policies to bring economic stability,

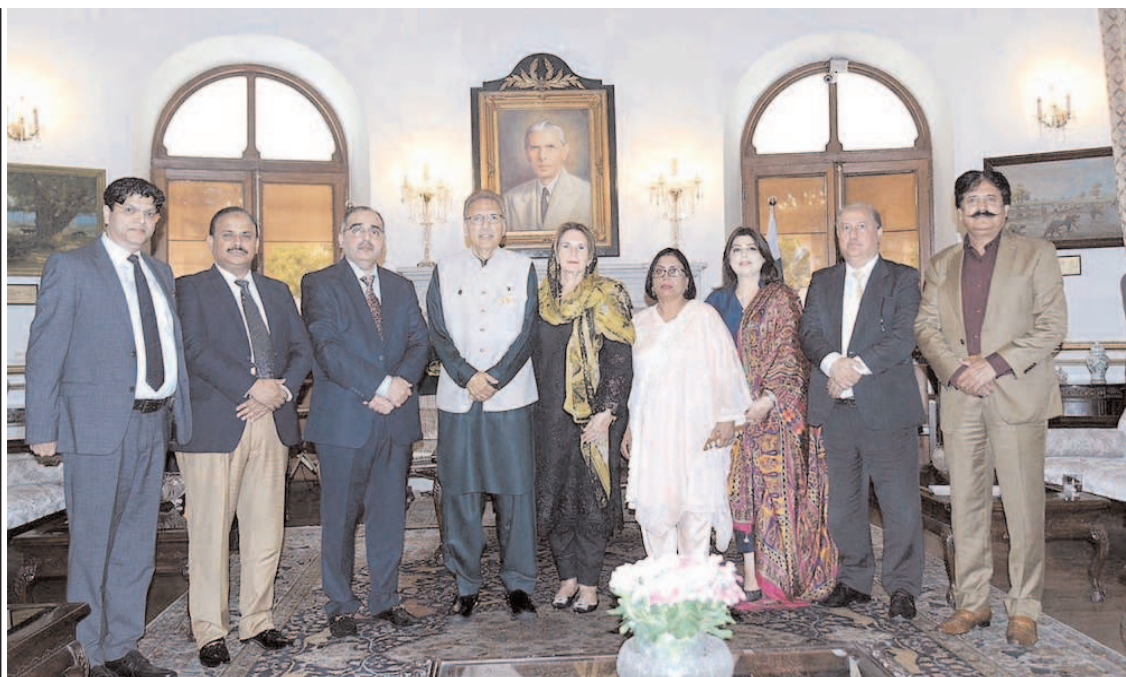
prosperity and development in the country.

On the occasion, Mr Afridi sought a special fiscal relief package for the traders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also demanded reforms in the taxation system and bringing new people under the tax-net.

The SCCI's acting president assured the traders to raise issues with relevant high-ups/officials and departments at central and provincial level.

Earlier, members of delegation apprised the chamber's acting President Ijaz Khan Afridi about issues that were faced by local traders.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi with a delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor's House.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where six ships namely, Clemens Schulte, Maersk Hartford, MSC Lisbon, TRF Kirkenes, TTC Vidyut, and Fuwairit, carrying Container, Palm oil, Gas oil, and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Oil Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Chem Bulldog and Star Crimson are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on during the last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Clemens Schulte, Erietta, Maersk Hartford, and MSC Lisbon are expected to sail today day Wednesday.

A cargo volume of 166,506 tonnes, comprising 127,592 tones imports Cargo and 38,914 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,530 Containers (3,030 TEUs Imports and 1,500 TEUs export) was handled during the last 24 hours.

There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Clemens Schulte and Star Crimson are expected to take berths at Container Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday, while two more container ships, EM Astoria and Navios Lapis are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Thursday.

Traders urged to act as its ambassadors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), in an important meeting with the business community and economic experts of Lahore, urged the businessmen to act as its ambassadors to attract investment for the country.

After Karachi, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had held a special meeting with the business community and economic experts of Lahore on Wednesday, an official source said.

The SIFC team gave a comprehensive briefing on a positive outlook on investment.

The meeting identified the best opportunities for investors in Pakistan's key sectors of agriculture, livestock, IT, minerals and energy.

Apart from this, efforts at the policy level through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Forum to improve the overall investment climate were also highlighted. The business community was taken into confidence and were assured of all support and facilitation to fulfill such efforts from private investors.

The event concluded with an interactive session, which provided an opportunity for the business community to exchange ideas on investment.

The business community expressed keen interest in the various investment opportunities offered through the SIFC platform and key questions related to the investment environment in general.

These meetings of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) will continue in the future.

Exchange Companies' sector: SBP to introduce structural reforms

F.P. Report

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan has decided to introduce structural reforms in the Exchange Companies' sector. As part of these reforms, leading banks actively engaged in foreign exchange business will establish wholly owned Exchange Companies to cater to the legitimate foreign exchange needs of general public.

Furthermore, various types of existing Exchange Companies and their franchisees will be consolidated and transformed into a single category of Exchange Companies with a well-

defined mandate.

In addition, the minimum capital requirement for Exchange Companies has been increased from PKR 200 million to PKR 500 million. The Exchange Companies of category 'B' (ECs-B) and franchisees of Exchange Companies have been offered the following options to transform into mainstream Exchange Companies:

ECs-B may graduate to Exchange Companies after meeting all regulatory requirements, within three months; otherwise, their license would be cancelled.

Franchisees of Exchange Companies may either

merge or sell operations to the concerned franchiser company, within three months after meeting all regulatory requirements.

For the above purpose, the ECs-B and Franchisees of Exchange Companies will submit their conversion plan and seek NOC from SBP within one month.

The above reforms have been introduced to provide better services to the general public and bring transparency and competitiveness in the Exchange Companies' sector. This is expected to strengthen governance, internal controls, and compliance culture in the sector.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 316.09 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Wednesday as it gained 316.09 points and closed at 45,807.57 points against 45,491.48 of the previous trading day, showing an increase 0.69 per cent.

A total of 74,236,686 shares were traded during the day as compared to the last day's 55,028,384, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs3.943 billion against Rs3.047 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 304 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, out of which 181 gained and 99 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged.

Rupee gains 09 paise against US Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday gained 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs306.97 against the previous day's closing of Rs307.06.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs313 and Rs316 respectively.

The price of the Euro

decreased by 65 paise to close at Rs329.48 against the last day's closing of Rs330.13, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and stood at Rs2.08, whereas an increase of 23 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs385.45 as compared to the last closing of Rs385.22.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 04 paise to close at Rs83.57 and Rs81.83 respectively.

The price of the Euro

NPO drive to beneficial for industrial productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of National Productivity Organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry on Wednesday said the NPO, Productivity Enhancement drive will prove beneficial for industrial productivity in the country.

It is very significant to implement the productivity drive for the industrial revolution in Pakistan, which will increase economic competitiveness in the country, Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said in an interview with APP here.

He said the Ministry of Industries and Production has launched a development project to improve the productivity of the industrial, manufacturing, services and education sectors

through the assistance of the National Productivity Organization (NPO).

Alamgir said the NPO would train the stakeholders to increase productivity and make them productivity specialists in their sectors concerned as it had been accredited the status of certification body by the Asian Productivity Organization Japan for a period of four years. After getting training from NPO, quality, competitiveness and sustainable social economic development, he added.

He said the productivity movement was the first-ever developmental initiative funded by a public sector development programme (PSDP) to improve competitiveness through sustainable national productivity.

The Chief Executive Officer of NPO said the government was working hard to make Pakistan economically productive and globally competitive by promoting an export-driven economy through imparting training and producing productivity specialists in the country.

He said that more than ten thousand individuals including students of schools and technical institutes had so far been educated to give awareness about the concept of productivity through various sessions all over Pakistan.

More than six hundred targeted industrial workers had been trained through renowned productivity experts about productivity tools and techniques, he maintained.

2023 CIFTIS:

Pak companies attract large number of visitors

BEIJING (APP): As 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque noted that the Government of Pakistan is stepping up to facilitate the exchanges and cooperation between both countries.

This year, at the ongoing 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (2023 CIFTIS) - one of the world's largest and most comprehensive fairs for

trade in services - companies from Pakistan's secondary and tertiary industries such as finance, logistics, aviation and artificial intelligence attracted many visitors.

The 2023 CIFTIS witnessed the flourishing business of these Pakistani merchants.

Many of them attended exhibitions in China for the first time, showcasing Pakistan's service industry to visitors from all over the world.

Prestige International, which launched Pakistan's

first National Pavilion on JD.com (Jingdong), China's famous e-commerce platform, set up a booth to showcase Pakistani products including tea, biscuits and rice.

A manager in charge of international trade told China Economic Net that the products they selected were of good quality and at fair prices.

Coupled with the help of boosting e-commerce in China, they are confident about the future of these Made-in-Pakistan products in China.

PCJCCI suggests promoting tissue-culture laboratories — to increase potatoes export

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Wednesday suggested that Pakistan should enhance export of potatoes by establishing and promoting Tissue-Culture Laboratories, as the country is one of the major exporters of potato and also self-sufficient in its domestic use.

The joint chamber's President Moazzam Ghurki, while giving his input in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, mentioned that floods had devastated many kinds of crops in Pakistan, while potato production soared to 7.937 million tonnes in fiscal year 2022-23 from 5.873 million tonnes in the FY 2021-22, up by 35 percent as floods did not hit Punjab which is

a hub of potato production.

By contrast, he continued, Pakistan imports 20,000 tons of potato seeds every year and most of the potato seeds in Pakistan highly depend on imports and the initial cost of potato production is high because 35 to 40 percent of the cost goes to seeds, and there is a dire need to make it cost-effective for the low-income farmers. "Therefore, we should promote Tissue-Culture Laboratory for the affordable seed production of potatoes at massive scale in Pakistan rather than depending upon expensive foreign seeds," he suggested.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have been working tirelessly to find opportunities for coopera-

tion in this sector.

In addition to seed production, related potato by-products are also welcome Chinese investors. Besides this, mechanised harvesting, pest control are also full of opportunities for investment. He added that in order to build Pakistan's largest potato tissue culture lab, various Chinese agricultural enterprises are involved for its practical implementation.

The most common potato diseases in Pakistan include early blight, stem rot and so on. In contrast, Chinese varieties are more resistant to pests and diseases with higher yields, which is exactly what Pakistan needs to learn to improve our own potato germ plasma.

Joint Chamber's Vice President Hamza Khalid

was of the view, "We must ensure the localized production of high-quality seeds, and at the same time improve planting technology and mechanisation level. Then we might be able to export potatoes to other countries. We have a huge potential for countries that have smaller land areas or don't produce much of their own potatoes."

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, stressed the need for working on increasing the supply of local seeds which can help in saving the precious foreign exchange reserves and increase the income of farmers. If Pakistan succeeds in large-scale production of local high-quality potatoes, it can also export these potatoes to other countries including Arab states, he concluded.

Introduction of WhatsApp banking services announced by Askari Bank

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Askari Bank is proud to announce the introduction of its WhatsApp banking services. Askari Bank is a pioneer in providing cutting-edge and customer-focused banking solutions. This strategic initiative, which aligns with Askari Bank's objective to modernise the bank's digital platforms, intends to transform the client experience by utilising WhatsApp, the most popular messaging service in the world.

With WhatsApp Banking, customers can now enjoy a seamless and secure banking experience directly from their smartphones. They can access a wide range of banking services, including checking their account balance, requesting mini statements, tax certificates, and account statements.

They can also manage their debit cards, register for Roshan Digital Accounts, and even chat with Askari Bank's designated agent for personalized assistance.

Additionally, customers can conveniently lodge



their complaints and submit service requests through this digital channel.

Mr. Khurshid Zafar, Chief Operating Officer at Askari Bank, expressed his excitement about this groundbreaking initiative, stating, "At Askari Bank, we are committed to leveraging technology to enhance the overall banking experience for our customers. The introduction of WhatsApp banking not only simplifies banking processes but also demon-

strates our dedication to staying at the forefront of technological advancements in the industry. We believe that this innovative service will provide our valued customers with unparalleled convenience and accessibility."

Ali Naqvi, Chief Digital Officer, also shared his enthusiasm, stating, "Digitization has emerged as a key driver of change, transforming the way financial institutions operate and interact with cus-

tomers. This launch is a testament to our approach of getting closer to customers and commitment to embracing cutting-edge technology. As the reliance on digital platforms continues to grow, Askari Bank recognizes the importance of offering easily accessible and user-friendly banking services. With WhatsApp Banking, we are empowering our esteemed customers to bank anytime, anywhere, with utmost ease."

Foreign Direct Investment increases by 17.3% in August

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country during first month of current financial year (2023-24) witnessed about 17.3 percent growth as compared to the investment of the corresponding month of last year.

By the month of July 2023, the FDI reached \$87.7 million against the investment of \$ 74.8 million in same period of the last year, which was up by 17.3 percent, according to the 'Monthly Economic Update & Outlook August 2023', said in the report released by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Wednesday.

The FDI received from China during the period under review was recorded at \$18.0 million, Hong Kong \$16.9 million and FDI received from Netherlands at \$12.1 million and Switzerland \$10.1

million, it added.

According to the report, power sector attracted highest FDI of \$45.1 million (51.4 percent of total FDI). Oil & Gas Explorations \$ 15.2 million (17.3 percent), and communication \$ 8.0 million (9.1 percent).

Meanwhile, the foreign private portfolio investment has registered a net inflow of \$ 16.3 million during the month of July. The Foreign Public Portfolio Investment recorded a net inflow of \$ 6.0 million.

The total foreign portfolio investment recorded an inflow of \$ 22.3 million during July FY2024 as against an outflow of 13.9 million last. Total foreign investment during July FY2024 recorded an inflow of \$ 110.0 million as against \$ 60.9 million last year.

Exports in Services dur-

ing July FY2024 increased by 2.3 percent to \$ 538 million as against \$ 526 million. The imports in services increased by 45.3 percent to \$ 811 million as compared to \$ 558 million same period last year. The trade deficit in services stood at \$ 273 million as against \$ 32 million last year.

During the month of July, the Current Account posted a deficit of \$809 million for (July FY2024) as against a deficit of \$1.3 billion last year, largely reflecting an improvement in trade balance.

Exports on fob declined by 4.6 percent during July FY2024 and reached \$ 2.1 billion (\$ 2.2 billion last year). Imports on fob declined by 23.5 percent during July FY2024 and reached \$ 4.2 billion (\$ 5.5 billion last year). Resultantly, the trade deficit (July FY2024)

reached \$ 2.1 billion as compared to \$ 3.3 billion of the last year.

According to the latest available data, in Jul FY2024, FBR tax collection not only grew by 17.5 percent but also surpassed the collection target by Rs.4 billion. Within total tax collection, revenues from domestic taxes grew by 19 percent while from customs duty 9 percent growth has been registered.

During July FY2024, the agriculture credit disbursement recorded at Rs151 billion as compared to Rs 112 billion last year showing increase of 35.1 percent.

During July 2023, Urea off-take was recorded at 629 thousand tonnes showing an increase of 36.0 percent while DAP off-take stood at 113 thousand tonnes; increased by 67.7 percent over July 202.



In brief

Pakistan Green wins match

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Green outplayed Pakistan White in an exhibition match organized by the Pakistan Federation Baseball in connection with Pakistan Defense Day. The chief guest Col Sadaf Akram inaugurated the match to encourage the athletes. General Secretary Pakistan Cycling Federation Moazzam Khan Klair along with Mian Rizwan, President Pakistan Dodgeball Federation, and Nasir Mahmand Secretary KP Olympic Cycling Association were also present on the occasion. President of Pakistan Federation Baseball Syed Fakhar Ali Shah said, "We remember the sacrifices of our forces and other organizations whose men have sacrificed their lives for the security of this country at every moment of our lives should be kept and should not avoid making any kind of sacrifice for the safety and development of this country for the coming generations. "Baseball in Pakistan is on the way to progress and the national male and female camp at Pakistan sports Complex Islamabad shows that Pakistan will be in a prominent position in Asia and the world in the future, he said.

A rising football star from Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Subhan Karim emerged as a rising star from Balochistan after he showed remarkable performance in the ongoing Under-16 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). Pakistan downed Bhutan by 2-1 in the opening match of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U16 Championship 2023 on September 2 (Saturday) thanks to a beautiful goal by Subhan Karim. Similarly, in the second match on Monday (September 5), Subhan Karim also scored a remarkable goal pushing Pakistan a 3-0 win over Maldives. Due to his remarkable performance, Subhan Karim has become a roll model for the youth specially of the province. The emergence of players like Subhan Karim at the international level will promote unity and patriotism among the youth of Balochistan as, such dedicated sportsmen are role models for other youth of Balochistan. Subhan Karim's success proved that with dedication, hard work and guidance, youth from any area could promote positive image of the country. Encouraging youth to participate in sports will play an effective role for social development and harmony in Balochistan.

Former Sri Lanka spinner arrested

C O L O M B O (Agencies): Former spin bowler Sachithra Senanayake was on Wednesday arrested on allegations of match-fixing under a Sri Lankan law aimed at stamping out corruption in cricket in the country. The 38-year-old was taken into custody by a police unit investigating sports-related crimes, a police spokesman told AFP. Formal charges were yet to be filed, but the spokesman said the arrest was in connection with an incident from the Lanka Premier League (LPL). A court in m p o u n d e d Senanayake's passport last month during a police investigation into the allegations. Senanayake, 38, last played for Sri Lanka in 2016 and made 74 international appearances. He is accused of influencing two LPL players to fix matches in 2020. Police said Senanayake is the first player to fall foul of a 2019 law that makes match-fixing a criminal offence.

Asia Cup 2023 Pakistan clinch dominant victory over Bangladesh

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan beat Bangladesh by seven wickets in the Asia Cup Super 4's match at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday as the men in green shirts chased the target of 194 in 39.3 overs after a loss of only three wickets.

Imam ul Haq and Rizwan made 73 and 63 respectively and played vital role in an easy win against the tigers.

Chasing a target of 194, Pakistan lost their first wicket in the 10th over, when Shoriful Islam trapped Fakhar Zaman by bowling a brilliant inswinger, who started off his innings cautiously and lasted for 31-ball 20, smashing three boundaries. In the 16th over, Taskin Ahmed perplexed Babar Azam and the Pakistan skipper bowled out of the inside edge.

Taskin executed a ball on the fuller side of a length just outside off, as it angled

in Pakistan opener Imamul Haq, who was absolutely brilliant in terms of showcasing his resilience with the bat, smashed another 50 to ensure Pakistan moved an inch closer to 194-run target. He notched another in the 25th over which was bowled by Mehidy Hasan Miraz. But Imam was not able to score a ton as Mehidy deceived Imam with the fuller delivery to undone him on 78. Haris Rauf (4-19) and Naseem Shah (3-34) flummoxed the Bangladesh batting attack.

Earlier, floodlight failure interrupted Pakistan's chase against Bangladesh in the Super Four match.

Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah produced an exceptional show as Pakistan folded Bangladesh for 193 in 38.4 overs. Haris emerged as the standout bowler from the Pakistan camp, scalping four wickets in the six overs he bowled. Naseem was not far behind as he picked three wickets in the 5.4 overs he

bowled. Barring Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiquir Rahim no other Bangladesh batters could resist the fiery pace of Pakistan.

Winning the toss and opting to bat, Bangladesh were jolted early by Naseem, who removed Mehidy Hasan Miraj in his first ball. Two overs later Shaheen Shah Afridi joined the party and packed Litton Das for 16(13).

Haris too picked a wicket in his first over as he removed Mohammad Naim for 20(25) then cleaned up Towhid Hridoy for 2(9) in the next. Shakib and Mushfiquir then helped Bangladesh rebuild after they were reduced to 47/4 inside the first powerplay.

The pair added 100 runs for the fifth wicket and both slammed their respective half-centuries. Shakib was dismissed for 53(57) by Faheem Ashraf, while Mushfiquir was caught-behind against Haris for 64(87).



LAHORE: Mohammad Rizwan ensured Pakistan didn't wobble after losing Babar Azam.

Harry Brook added to England squad for New Zealand ODI series

LONDON (Agencies): Harry Brook has been added to England's squad for the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand and named in an experimental group to face Ireland later this month, as the defending champions consider rejigging their World Cup plans to accommodate the in-form batter.

Brook was controversially left out of the provisional 15-man squad for the tournament last month and, as a result, was not due to feature against New Zealand, with Jos Buttler and Matthew Mott looking to use a run of four matches to fine-tune ahead of the tournament in India.

However, the 24-year-old has since showcased his fine form in both the Hundred and the T20 series against New Zealand, leading to widespread calls for a rethink of his exclusion. Mott stressed following last night's Fourth T20 defeat to the Black Caps at Trent Bridge that the door to a late World Cup call-up remains ajar and while there are no guarantees yet that Brook will earn a seat on the flight to India, he is set for a further chance to state his case when joining up with the 50-over side ahead of Friday's series opener in Cardiff.

His belated call-up is being officially described as to provide "batting cover" after Jonny Bairstow complained of shoulder pain while batting in Nottingham last night, though the opener insisted afterwards the issue is nothing serious. England have also named a 13-man squad for the three-match ODI series against Ireland at the back end of the month, with Brook again included and Test opener Zak Crawley set to captain.

None of the 15 players named in the provisional World Cup squad are involved, but Surrey's Jamie Smith, Derbyshire's George Scrimshaw and Sam Hain of Warwickshire all receive their first senior call-ups.

Grant Bradburn wants Pakistan team to be a trophy winning side

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head coach Pakistan cricket team, Grant Bradburn has highlighted team's commitment to continuous improvement and its determination to bring home trophies.

Talking to a private news channel, the head coach spoke about Pakistan's hunger for trophy success, saying that they have not won the ODI World Cup since 1992. "You know we're not comfortable with where we've sat.

We haven't won a World Cup since 92. We're longing to win a trophy. And if now if not now, when. If not, our guys, who else? So, that's my challenge to them now. I think individually we've got a fantastic team as you've. But we're not the trophy winning team that we want to be yet, but that's what we're working hard towards," he said.

According to Bradburn, Pakistan team is focused on continuous improvement and is challenging its players to elevate their skills.

To a query about the significance of the ongoing Asia Cup ahead of the World Cup, he said they were playing for the bigger picture. He said they were focused on the present and continuous improvement. "We're playing for the

Men, Women Badminton trials under PM Youth Talent Hunt continue

PESHAWAR (APP): Men and Women Badminton Trials under Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program continued under the aegis of University of Swabi (UoS) and Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) in Mardan and Swat wherein large number of women and men players turned up. Talking to APP, former international athlete and gold medalist of the South Asian Games in Javelin throw and Director Sports University of Swat Iltaf Hussain Shah said that they held Men trials at international standard indoor hall of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan wherein 112 Men players turned for the badminton trials.

Iltaf Hussain Shah disclosed that University of Swat is holding Men Badminton trials while KUST is holding the Women Badminton trials in all the five regions including Mardan, Swat, Bannu, Peshawar, Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan in different dates given by the Directorate General Sports Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.

He said that the Vice Chancellor University of Swabi Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal also extended valuable support to him to facilitate the players participating in the trials. He said in the first phase they would conduct the open trials in all the five regions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and players from 15-year-old to 25-year-old are eligible to take part.

He said all arrangements have been made well in time and hopefully good talented

players would come up to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National League soon after the provincial league.

Iltaf Hussain said that they have started the trials from August 31 from Mardan, followed by Swat on September 4-5, trials at Hazara, Abbottabad Committee Hall on September 11, Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar on September 14, and at Bannu Sports Complex, Bannu on September 20, 2023. When contacted Director Sports KUST and former national athlete Wajid Ali Khan told APP that they had been given the task of holding Women Badminton Trials in all five Regions for which all arrangements have been made.

He said the trials process with different dates after Mardan including trials will be held on September 7-8, 2023 in the Indoor Hall of the Makan Bagh, Mingora, Swat, in Hazara Region, which has been divided in two phases – one on September 11 at Kalabat Township Hall, Haripur and in second phase trials will be held on September 12 at Hazara University, Mansehra. The trials will be held at Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar on September 14-15 likewise in trials in Bannu has been divided in two phases – one at Kohat Sports Complex, Gulshanabad Chowk, KDA, Kohat on September 21 and at Bannu Sports Complex on September 22.

Wajid Ali Khan said that Vice Chancellor KUST Professor Dr. Sardar Khan is fully supporting the process and directed him to ensure all facilities to the women players in five different regions.

KP Roshan Khan Junior Boys Squash C'ship begins

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Roshan Khan Junior Boys Squash Championship got underway here at Qamar Zaman Sports Complex on Thursday.

Secretary to CM Daud Khan was chief guest on occasion. Legendary Qamar Zaman, Mohib Ullah Khan, Secretary Finance and Director Blue Tone Squash Academy Wazir Mohammad, Executive Member Fazal Khalil, Sher Bahadur, Directorate Senior Coach and Chief Organizer Munawar Zaman, Squash Coach Muhammad Waseem, Amjad Khan, Level-II International referee and coach Riaz Khan, Chief Referee M. Adil Faqir, Coaches Adil Zargul, Mehmood Khan, players, and official were also present.

The purpose of organizing the Championship in the name of squash heroes is to make the players aware of the achievements of the legend like Roshan Khan, Qamar Zaman said while addressing the gathering. He said involving more players in the different age groups is aimed at promoting the game at the grassroots level.

Roshan Khan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Junior Boys U11, U13, U15, U17 & U19 categories would be part of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Roshan Khan Squash Championship 2023 in which more than 400 Junior players are participating from all over the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Departmental challenge cup to starts on 1st Oct

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: The first Departmental Challenge Cup football tournament Kohat starts on 1st October.

The First Departmental Challenge Cup Football Tournament Kohat, jointly organized by the Regional Sports Office Kohat and District Administration at Kohat Sports Complex.

The participants includes Football teams of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Police, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan WAPDA, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan SA Garden, Pakistan DG Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kohat Region Friends Club Aatesh, Kohat Cement Factory, FATA Directorate Merger Area, Pakistan Asia Ghee, Pakistan KRL, Pakistan Popo Academy Islamabad, Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and other famous football teams of the country.

Regional Sports Officer Kohat Sajid Afridi while giving details of the said tournament told that the organization will give accommodation to the football teams and at the end of the tournament, the winner-up team will get Rs.1 lakh in cash along with trophy and the runner-up team will get Rs.50 thousand cash along with the trophy.

Similarly, the third position team will be given a cash prize of Rs.30 thousands. RSO Kohat called upon the Football lovers to actively participate in the tournament and give encouragement to the best performers.



In brief

Police arrest 3 street criminals

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police here on Wednesday arrested three street criminals and robbers and recovered Rs 15,000 cash, four costly iPhones, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, New Town police arrested three members of a gang including Atta ur Rehman, Samiullah and Muhammad Jameel, wanted in various cases. Police recovered Rs 15,000 cash, four costly iPhones, weapons and other items from their possession. Superintendent of Police, Rawal Faisal Saleem appreciated the police team and directed them to accelerate operations against street criminals and other lawbreakers.

RDA removes encroachments

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Wednesday launched an operation against encroachments and demolished sheds in the Gulraiz Housing Scheme. According to RDA spokesman, the Enforcement Squad of RDA on the directives of the Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa conducted raids and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. He informed that the Squad while carrying out an operation against encroachments in the Gulraiz Housing Scheme, demolished sheds and illegal structures constructed in front of various shops. He said the Squad including Incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Assistant Director Land Development, Building Inspectors and others took part in the operation. The DG had directed the Enforcement Squad to take strict action against encroachments without any discrimination, he said adding, the operation would continue and no one would be allowed to violate the rules.

AIOU organizes seminar on climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): A one-day seminar was organized by the Faculty of Sciences at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to raise awareness on "Significance of Bilateral Relations: Forging Sustainable Partnerships for Climate Action between Africa and Pakistan". The speakers highlighted the urgent need to tackle climate change at the international level as Africa and Pakistan were among the region's most severely affected by it, a news release said on Wednesday. They also emphasized that Pakistan and Africa had had a long-standing relationship since the independence movement. They said Pakistan was contributing to peace-keeping missions in many African countries, and stressed the importance of strengthening the economic, social, and cultural ties between the two nations. Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad, emphasized the need for immediate action on climate change. Speakers at the seminar included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan, Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations, International Islamic University, and Dr. Shahid Mahmood from the Institute of Soil and Environment, Arid Agriculture University. Chairperson of the Department of Environmental Sciences AIOU, Dr. Sofia Khalid expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and the Dean of Faculty of Sciences for their support in organizing the event.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a briefing on Information Technology and Telecom Sector.

'Nation pays humble tributes, remember brave heroes of 1965 war on 'Defence Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): People from all walks of life including social media users on Wednesday shared posts remembering heroes of the 1965 war on 'Defence Day' and paid homages to reiterate their commitments that the brave Pakistani nation will never compromise on its sovereignty.

Like every year, this year too, on the special occasion of Pakistan Defence Day, the nation has paid humble tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army and saluted to all the relatives belonging to shahids, said a report aired by PTV news channel.

The nation commemorates this day as one of the proudest moments in Pakistan's history when our

Pakistani soldiers sacrificed their lives to safeguard our freedom and protect our homeland, said a social media user while sharing a post on Instagram.

Every year, Pakistan celebrates this day and pays tribute to the Shuhada with great zeal and zest, he added.

In multiple ways we honor the sacrifices of our brave heroes, said a citizen belonging to the teacher faculty in a local school.

This date, every year on September 6th, Pakistan celebrates Defence Day to honour Pakistan's successful defence against India, which marked the end of the 1965 war, said a student of O levels.

"We entire nation are proud of our brave heroes and honors the armed forces who fulfilled their responsibilities to defend the motherland", said a politician.

"My heart goes out to all those brave families who lost their sons, brothers, fathers, husbands on September 6," said a television actor while sharing a post on Facebook.

"Today we brave nation of Pakistan salute our heroes who laid their lives for our beloved country and nation," said a citizen working as a doctor.

"No any other nation could be as proud of their Army then the people of Pakistan", said a young girl while paying tribute to Army officials.

Railways to lay fibre optics cable along railway tracks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has been planning on Tuesday to lay fibre optics cables along the railway tracks across the country, in a joint venture with private sector investors to generate revenue for the department.

"Pakistan Railways has around 7,791 kilometres railway network across the country which will not only help the department to improve its financial condition but also attract investors to invest," the official sources in the Ministry told APP.

They said the matter also came under discussion during a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), in which the Ministry of Railways pointed out that

the department was offering an excellent opportunity for laying fibre optics cables along its track for digital connectivity across the country. During the meeting, they said Pakistan Railways informed that it has a network of 7,791 km, which passes through high-density population areas and connects major cities in the four provinces.

They said with the average assets and hefty pension bills, Pakistan Railways contended, but its financial health was deteriorating, and unless new revenue sources were identified, the reliance on government subsidy would keep on growing.

The sources said that Pakistan Railways was of the view that right-of-way

charges on fibre optics cables would offer the department a decent source of earnings.

They said that the Ministry of Railways had already sent a summary to the concerned quarter for adoption of the business model of laying fibre optics cables in a joint venture with private-sector investors on railway land due to poor financial health and limited earning sources. Then, the sources said that the concerned quarter, while agreeing to the proposal, directed the Ministry of Railways to prepare a new draft policy in consultation with all stakeholders, which would have a positive impact on developing the digital economy, and place the matter before the ECC for review.

AC Rural cracks down on LPG cylinder outlet violators

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on LPG cylinder outlet violators, Assistant Commissioner Rural sealed a shop and arrested the owner for selling cylinders at inflated prices.

The action was taken on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, an ICT spokesman said on Wednesday. The Assistant Commissioner Rural visited various areas of the Rural Sub-Division and inspected the LPG cylinder outlets. He found that many outlets were selling cylinders at prices higher than the government-set rates.

He also found that some outlets were involved in the illegal canning of LPG

cylinders. The Assistant Commissioner Rural ordered the sealing of the shop that was selling cylinders at inflated prices. The owner of the shop was arrested and transferred to the police station.

The Assistant Commissioner Rural also issued warnings to other violators to comply with the government rates or face legal action. The crackdown by the Assistant Commissioner Rural has sent a strong message to LPG cylinder outlet owners that they will not be tolerated if they violate the law.

The action is also likely to help prevent illegal canning of LPG cylinders, which is a safety hazard.

ANF seize \$179 mln drug, arrest 28 drug peddlers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized a staggering \$179.275 million worth of drugs, chemicals, and illicit substances during a nationwide crackdown.

According to a spokesperson of ANF, the extensive law enforcement initiative led to the apprehension of 28 individuals, including a foreign national and a woman, and the confiscation of a total of 1,975,374 kilograms of narcotics, alongside significant quantities of chemicals used in drug production.

The seized drugs included 42,100 kilograms of opium, 15,395 kilograms of heroin, 200,110 kilograms of hashish, 5 kilograms of crystal heroin, 383,100 kilograms of methamphetamine (Ice), 1,329

kilograms of ephedrine, as well as smaller quantities of weed and ecstasy tablets. Additionally, the ANF impounded 12 vehicles that were believed to be connected to the drug trade.

The extensive operation spanned 37 counter-narcotics missions conducted throughout the country, with each region making significant contributions to the overall success.

ANF Balochistan recovered 1,732.5 kilograms of drugs and chemicals, ANF Punjab seized 138,225 kilograms of narcotics, ANF KPK recovered 89,530 kilograms of illicit substances, ANF North uncovered 3,019 kilograms of drugs, and ANF Sindh seized 12,100 kilograms of narcotics in their respective operations.

Faryal meets PPP office-bearers of Sindh Chapter

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party's Women Wing, Faryal Talpur met with the office-bearers of the PPP Women's Wing of Sindh Chapter. Those who met her included the President of the Women's Wing of Sindh, Shaughta Jamani, General Secretary Dr Mehreen Bhutto, Information Secretary Sadia Javed and President of Karachi Division, Shahida Rahmani.

During the meeting, the political situation of the country including the province, organizational matters and women's issues were discussed, according to a press release issued here by the party secretariat. Faryal Talpur hoped that the Women's Wing would have to play an active role in the party's historic success in the upcoming general elections.

She also directed the provincial office-bearers that they should convey the party manifesto and the message of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in their next door-to-door campaign throughout the province. Faryal Talpur said that PPP's election manifesto will be the best solution to meet befittingly, all the challenges facing the country.

'Valiant armed forces ready to defend country'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The valiant armed forces are ready to defend the country from any external aggression, said Ambassador Amna Baloch, at a special event held on Wednesday to mark the Defence Day of Pakistan at Press Club Brussels. The event was jointly organized by the Pak-Belg Socio Cultural Association and Pakistani Community in Brussels. A large number of Pakistani diaspora representing various walks of life attended the event.

Dr. Ali Sherazi, Dr. Kamran Chaudhry Imran Saqib, Sardar Mahmood Iqbal and Sardar Siddique lauded the great sacrifices of the armed forces in the defence and security of Pakistan in their speeches. In her remarks, the chief guest, Ambassador of Pakistan to European Union, Belgium & Luxembourg, Amna Baloch highlighted the history and significance of the day. She underscored that 6th September is a reminder of the great sacrifices made to foil the nefarious designs against Pakistan.

Minister for remembering sacrifices rendered by heroes to defence motherland

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi on Wednesday emphasized the importance of remembering sacrifices rendered by all heroes to defend frontiers of the motherland on September 6.

Addressing an event at Islamabad Model College for Girls to pay tributes to heroes of Defence Day he said, "History reminds us of those individuals who laid down their lives for our homeland. They were heroes then, and they remain heroes today and tomorrow." The event was marked by the spirited participation of female students, who contributed to the atmosphere with patriotic songs. The minister praised the youth for their deep sense of patriotism and commitment to both the country and its values, saying, "Our young generation is conscious and deeply connected to our nation and faith."

Reflecting on the significance of September 6, he shared his memories of the unparalleled passion he witnessed, stating, "I vividly recall the unparalleled enthusiasm on this day. People were ready

to give their lives for the nation. Today, people are still prepared to make such sacrifices." The minister also highlighted the courage of the martyrs, noting that even the adversaries were troubled by the bravery of Pakistan's defenders.

Expressing his satisfaction with the state of education at the college, he said, "I am pleased to see the spirit of freedom alive in this college. We have come a long way from the past, and we must remember the individuals who contributed to Pakistan's freedom."

He emphasized the need to improve the quality of education in schools and colleges, adding, "I personally visit every school to inquire about issues. It may be possible that some traditions need to change, such as coming out of air-conditioned rooms to understand the issues." He stressed the importance of providing essential facilities and attention to education, stating, "Funds are available, and they must be allocated to address these needs." In connection with the events of September 6, certificates will be awarded to students who performed exceptionally well.

PAC organizes photo exhibition to mark Defence day

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on Wednesday organized a photo exhibition to mark Pakistan Defence and Martyrs Day.

Director of PAC Waqar Ahmad along with Naheed Manzoor was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony. While addressing the ceremony, Naheed Manzoor said that the September War had a memorable place in our history as a symbol of unwavering national determination, professionalism, a spirit of patriotism and sacrifice.

"Pakistan Defense Day warms hearts, instills enthusiasm and refreshes faith and we salute the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defence of the country", she added.

Naheed said that the nation's sons fought fearlessly against the enemy and created a bright chapter in history, adding in the war of 1965, the people fought

alongside the Pakistan Army. "We will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our beloved motherland, and maintain its independence and sovereignty," she added.

Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Defense and Martyrs Day reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery of the armed forces and the nation. He said that the armed forces and the nation crushed the evil intentions of the enemy on September 6, 1965. "The entire nation defeated the enemy's aggression by the side of Pakistan's forces and we salute the unparalleled bravery and sacrifices of martyrs and Ghazis," he added.

Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APPSMA) also organized competitions of tableaux, speeches

and national songs to pay tribute to the martyrs.

In tableau competitions, Paragon School was first, City Lyceum was second, District Public Schools for Girls was third and District Public School for Boys was fourth. Guidance School, District Public School, the Grammar School and Uzma Model School won first, second, third and fourth prizes in the national song competitions. Uzma Public School stood first, Bright Mind School stood second, Aim Educational System stood third and The Guidance School stood fourth in the speech competitions.

APPSMA North Punjab President Abrar Ahmed Khan and Director PAC Waqar Ahmad distributed shields and certificates of appreciation to the schools that won positions. A large number of students from the twin cities participated in the competitions.

Training program on MRV system kicked off

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 4-day training program on strengthening the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system kicked off, here the other day.

Global Climate-Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Ministry of Climate Change, and Environmental Coordination under the Third National Communication on Climate Change Project are organizing the training. More than 50 participants from all four provinces are attending the training. The purpose of the training was to aware the participants about the pressing issues related to greenhouse gases, their adverse impact on the environment, and the crucial role MRV plays in combatting climate change.

Muhammad Arif Goheer, Head Agriculture & Coordination GCISC, and National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Coordinator greeted the participants and informed them that to tackle climate change and control greenhouse gas emissions the inventory compilation under the globally accepted standardized principles and guidelines was of utmost essential.

"Pakistan has experienced a rise in average temperatures, higher than the global average, leading to more frequent heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns," he added.

"The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached 423 parts per million in 2023, the highest ever in at least 2 million years," the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported. While introducing the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), Goheer said, "It is a vital component in addressing the challenge of greenhouse gas emissions."

"MRV involves quantifying emissions, monitoring progress, and verifying the effectiveness of mitigation actions," he informed. "Accurate MRV systems are essential to tracking progress toward international climate commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, and for making informed policy decisions."

"Pakistan is committed to complying with the obligations towards UNFCCC and Paris Agreement," Goheer reiterated.

"We are very keen to find ways in which our level of ambition can be enhanced without compromising the objectives of avoiding human suffering by climate change and sustainable development." "I believe that the challenges of climate change can only be addressed if the institutions/countries work together," he said. "We can achieve more with better research, more innovation, more entrepreneurship, and more support," Goheer added. Director General (DG) of Climate Change in Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCC) Asif Sahibzada, Head of Climate Change in GIZ, Baptiste Chatre, Advisor COMSTEC Syed Javed Khurshid, and Head of Climate Mitigation CITEPA in France Julien Vincent also spoke on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi in a group photograph with students performing tableau during ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day.

Omrai met with Fazil Akin

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, Mawlawi Ataullah Omrai, met with the head of TIKA, Fazil Akin Erdogan. He requested the organization's cooperation in implementing infrastructure projects in the agriculture sector in Afghanistan. The head of the TIKA office in Kabul explained the projects and activities carried out by the organization and gave information about its future activities to Acting Agriculture Minister.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Saffar 20, 1445 — Thursday, September 07, 2023

Aid discussed with envoy

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Mawlawi Mati-ul-Haq Khalis, met with Japan's Envoy to Afghanistan, Takashi Okada. During the meeting, Khalis said that more than 12,000 registered children suffering from heart defects are waiting for treatment with the support of ARCS. According to the ARCS Office, Khalis assured that aid will be provided transparently to those in need.

Over 2000 Afghan migrants return home

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan has announced the return of 2,289 Afghan migrants from Iran and an additional 23 migrants from Pakistan to the country. The ministry said on Wednesday on its social media platform that 23 Afghan refugees after being released from Pakistani prisons, returned to Afghanistan via the Torkham border crossing two days ago. Whether these refugees were deported or entered the country voluntarily is still unclear. According to the ministry's statement, returning

migrants have been referred to the International Organization for Migration's office to receive food and non-food assistance. This comes as the expulsion and return of Afghan migrants from Iran and Pakistan have risen. Previously, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation had reported that approximately 50,000 Afghan migrants had returned from Iran in the past month. Amid a dire humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, driven by the resurgence of the Taliban, many refugees seek safety in neighbouring countries.

These Afghan nationals flee their homeland due to economic hardship, unemployment, security threats, and persecution. Despite their perilous journey, their arrival in neighbouring nations does not always bring relief. Instead, they often face daunting challenges, including deportation, detention, mistreatment, and abuse. This situation underscores the urgent need for international efforts to address the plight of Afghan refugees and ensure their safety and well-being as they seek refuge in foreign countries.

Neda: IEA committed to education of its citizens

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Minister of Higher Education, Sheikh Neda Mohammad Nadim, in a meeting with a delegation from the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, stated that the Islamic Emirate is devoted to religious and contemporary education for its citizens and has made many accomplishments so far. According to a statement released by the Higher Education Ministry, Sheikh Neda Mohammad Nadim, Acting Minister of Higher Education, met with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

In the meeting, Prof. Koutoub Mustapha Sano, Secretary of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy head of the delegation, said that there is nationwide security in Afghanistan, the economic situation is improving, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made many achievements in the past two years, all of which is due to the good leadership of Amir-ul -Momineen, Supreme Leader of IEA. Also, the secretary of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy spoke about the necessity of education, especially the education of women. On behalf of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, he announced his willingness for any kind of cooperation in the field of education in Afghanistan. The Acting Minister of Higher Education Mawlawi Neda Mohammad Nadim expressed that the Islamic Emirate is committed to the religious and contemporary education of its citizens and made many achievements so far in this regard.

Deputy PM commends Hajj Ministry's performance

KABUL (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, praised the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs Ministry. According to a statement released by the Hajj and Religious Affairs Ministry, Mawlawi Hanafi in a meeting with Sheikh Zar Mohammad Haqqani, Deputy Minister of the Hajj, stated that the officials of this ministry should take steps to provide even greater services to pilgrims in the future, as well as services to people of the nation. Sheikh Zar Mohammad Haqqani, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, while presenting a report on the activities and achievements of



this ministry said, the number of participants in the Hajj pilgrimage in the 1444 lunar year increased significantly

compared to previous years. Meanwhile, in the talks about the arrangement and regulation of mosques,

Haqqani said, they are trying to educate the country's children in line with Islamic teachings.

Online Business Increases in Kabul



KABUL (TOLONews): Big and small online commerce has progressed recently in Kabul for a variety of Afghan-made goods. Zainuddin, who has been running an online store for almost two years, said that although the online market is a new phenomenon in the country, his business is booming. "The online market is a

very new phenomenon, and most people are not familiar with it, but now it has become very good. It has been almost one and a half years since I have an Instagram site and the sales are good," said Zainuddin. Meanwhile, some sellers who sell items online said they have customers from outside the country as well.

"Our sales are also outside Afghanistan -- Australia, America, and Europe -- and their feedback is also good," said Barish. "We also receive online orders, we have more orders from Germany, America, and Canada," said Ismayil, a seller. Meanwhile, a number of citizens of the country consider it easy to have online shopping, but they said that some of their orders are not high quality. "Several times when I bought something online, for example, I bought a watch, the quality was very different from what I bought in person, and I was not satisfied," said Abdul Hadi, a Kabul resident. Meanwhile, some sellers in the capital complain about the lack of a market for their goods.

Female students worry about uncertain fate



KABUL (TOLONews): Female students raised concerns over their lack of participation in the kankor exam a day after the results of the 1402 (solar year) were released. They said that they want to go to school and university like boys and play a role in society. Female students once again asked the Islamic

Emirate to immediately open schools and universities for girls. "Yesterday, when the results were revealed, the girls' names weren't among the top 10. Every time the names of the females were on this list, but this time there were no girls, therefore we were quite sad," said Bushra, a student. "It is very painful that a

girl cannot continue her studies and get an education," said Muzhgan, a student. Twenty-year-old Susan said that she had spent two years studying for the entrance exam, but she and her classmates were not permitted to take part in both rounds. "Girls get an education in the whole world, but in Afghanistan girls are not allowed to get an education or go to work. We ask the Islamic Emirate to reopen schools and universities so that girls can study," said Susan, who graduated from the twelfth grade. The results of the university entrance exam for the solar year 1402 have been made public amid a great deal of criticism, despite the fact that women previously won first place in this exam in the solar years 1399 and 1400.

WFP forced to drop 2m people from assistance

KABUL (TOLONews): The World Food Programme (WFP) said in a press release that it is "being forced to drop another 2 million hungry people from food assistance in Afghanistan in September, bringing to 10 million the number of people cut off from its support this year in the country." According to the WFP's press release, due to a massive funding shortfall, going forward WFP will only be able to provide emergency assistance to 3 million people per month. "Amid already worrying levels of hunger and malnutrition, we are obliged to choose between the hungry and the starving, leaving millions of families scrambling for their next meal," said Hsiao-Wei Lee, WFP's Country Director and Representative in Afghanistan. "With the few resources we have left, we are not able to serve all those people teetering on the edge of utter destitution."

US\$1 billion to reach a planned 21 million people with lifesaving food and nutrition assistance as well as livelihood support. "This reduction in food aid means that 1.4 million mothers and their children will no longer be able to receive specialized food designed to prevent malnutrition. The number of people admitted to nursing homes is expected to rise rapidly in the coming months," said Wahidullah Amani, spokesman for WFP Afghanistan. Meanwhile, some needy people in Kabul asked humanitarian organizations to increase their aid to the people of Afghanistan. "I cannot earn 100Afs a day. I earn 20 to 40 or 50 Afs per day, what should I do with this amount of money?" said Shahzad, a resident of Kabul. "Aid is given to those who know the community leaders, and they have money and a car, but sadly it is not given to those who are destitute," said Shafiuallah, another resident of Kabul. The only provider of a

family of ten, Mohammad Sediq, 50, repairs shoes in Kabul. He said that so far he hasn't received any assistance from the humanitarian organizations. "Aid is not reaching us, it is reaching those who are rich, and it is not reaching those who deserve it. So far, I have not received aid. Although I have been many places, they did not give it to us," Sediq said. According to some economists, the reduction of the aid of the World Food Program to Afghanistan will increase the economic crisis in the country. "The reduction in international community aid has led to a decrease in fluidity and ultimately, on its own scale, it can add to the country's economic crisis," said Abdul Zuhur Mudabir, an economist. "If the aid of the international community decreases, it can exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and have a detrimental impact on the social status of the people," said Seiyar Qureshi, an economist.

KABUL (TOLONews): A conference was held with the participation of local businesspeople, foreign traders, members of the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce, and senior Islamic Emirate's officials, at Serena hotel in Kabul to discuss Afghanistan's economic and trade issues in 2023. Speaking at the gathering, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the deputy PM for economic affairs, said that the Islamic Emirate will provide a variety of facilities for domestic and foreign traders in a bid to improve economic and commercial development. According to Baradar, when the Islamic Emirate came to power in Afghanistan, the economic situation faced a serious threat, but now it is improving. With the past two years, he said, administrative corruption has been eliminated, the cultivation and production of narcotics has

been prevented, the Afghan currency has remained stable against foreign currencies, the price of food and non-food items has decreased, and there have been improvements in the banking sector. Also, the amount of exports and imports have increased as has national income and domestic food production. Speaking at the same conference, AACC President Jeff Greico said that they have been working since August 2021 in Washington, with the ABA (Afghanistan Banks Association) and all of the Afghan banks to help facilitate the return of the frozen assets of Afghanistan. He said the frozen foreign assets of Afghanistan were divided into two parts; the beneficiary account deposit, and the foreign exchange reserves of Afghanistan from the previous government—which are located in the central bank of the United States



and European countries. According to Greico, the funds of the foreign exchange reserves "are not going to be returned to Afghanistan for the time being for a number of different reasons." However, he urged the Afghanistan Banking

Association to work together on how to approach the return of the commercial bank assets "because there has been a change in the government's thinking in the last few months and they are now willing to consider the return of those assets but due to the sanc-

tion regimes of both the United States and the UN, we are not allowed to return those through the Central Bank of Afghanistan, so we need to find a private sector way for the banks -- and I would even say the US corresponding banks -- to return that money."

National Museum displays Afghanistan's historical treasures

KABUL (TOLONews): Officials of the National Museum of Afghanistan said that dozens of citizens of the country visit the place every day. Copies of manuscripts decorated with gold and lapis lazuli, historical documents, Shah Abdul Rahman Khan's wardrobe, desks, and chairs, attract the attention of every newcomer. "The documents that are kept here are decrees, the decrees of kings on different dates on different subjects, which are the original decrees; fortunately, they have been kept in the National Museum from that time until now," said Humayoon Nekzad, head of the document section in the National Museum. The National Museum building was constructed 130 years ago by Amir Abdul Rahman Khan as a guest house for his son Amir Habibullah Khan, and

the place was made into the National Museum in the period of Mohammad Daoud Khan in 1352. "We expect the same from information and culture, maybe we have suggested that they cooperate for our wealth, and also our compatriots -- whoever has an ancient work, they should bring something they have to the museum for the sake of the richness of the Museum," said Mohammad Haroon, an official of the National Museum. Meanwhile, some visitors said the government should do more to protect ancient works and monuments. "They should do more development, work more on the National Museum, and introduce everything to the people. We already went to the museum, I don't know why they didn't allow us to enter," said Farhad, a visitor.



"We want to see the historical places that we don't know about because all the things are here, but unfortunately there are good things here and the things we wanted to see in the

National Museum, and nobody allows us to visit," said Naqibullah, a visitor. Based on the statistics of the officials of the National Museum of Afghanistan, more than 100,000 histori-

cal documents and historical pictures from various governments of the country, 9,000 manuscripts, and nearly 20 tables, chairs, and cupboards of Afghan kings are stored at the museum.



KARACHI: Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi offering feteiha at Shuhada Monument to mark Defence and Martyrs Day at Pakistan Navy Dockyard.

KP cabinet okays raising minimum wages of laborers to Rs 32000

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 10th meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Provincial Cabinet, chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, convened at the Civil Secretariat in Peshawar on Wednesday. The caretaker ministers, advisors, special assistants, the chief secretary, and other senior officials attended to deliberate on a diverse agenda comprising 10 vital points.

Among the agenda items, the Department of Labour, Health, and Relief featured prominently, with two points each dedicated to these critical areas. Additionally, the agenda encompassed matters pertaining to Auqaf, Local Government, Agriculture, and the Population Welfare Department.

The Cabinet accorded approval for raising the minimum wage for laborers in the province from PKR 25,000 to PKR 32,000. This decision, initially endorsed on June 20, 2023, mandated an increase in the monthly wages for public sector daily wage

workers. The Labor Department presented this recommendation, as advised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minimum Wages Board under Section 4(1) of the Minimum Wages Act 2013, which received the Cabinet's endorsement.

The Cabinet also deliberated on additional grant-in-aid for schools under the Workers' Children Education Board. These schools employ 93 teaching and administrative staff, and the Cabinet recognized the need for supplementary financial support to cover expenses related to salaries, book purchases, uniforms, and stipends for the year 2022-23. Consequently, additional grant-in-aid was approved to alleviate financial constraints in this regard.

The Cabinet approved the transfer of 3 kanals of land owned by the Health Department in Dir Lower to the Emergency Rescue Services of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This transfer will enable the establishment of a Rescue 1122 station in Adanzai

Tehsil of Dir Lower District, enhancing disaster and emergency response capabilities in the region.

In a bid to expedite compensation disbursement for damages to land, property, and buildings in Miran Shah Bazar, the Cabinet approved a supplementary grant under the ongoing AIP project. This move aims to support affected property owners in North Waziristan district.

The Cabinet granted approval for providing health professional allowances to doctors working in the Population Welfare Department, aligning their compensation structure with that of doctors in the Department of Health. The Cabinet gave initial approval for selected amendments to the Local Government Act 2023, signifying the government's commitment to improve and streamline local governance. In principle, the Cabinet endorsed the establishment of a food security support project aimed at promoting agricultural development within the province.

CJCSC, chiefs pay tribute to martyrs

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), Services Chiefs and Armed Forces of the country paid rich tribute to martyrs, their families and war veterans on the 58th Defence and Martyrs' Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the country's military leadership in its message said that on 6th September 1965, it was yet again displayed that a smaller but righteous force overcame a numerically larger enemy with professionalism, determination and faith. "Indeed this day and associated heroics and sacrifices continue

to inspire our generations. The day exudes the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland," the ISPR said.

"We owe our freedom and peace to the unprecedented sacrifices of our martyrs and veterans. Pakistan remain committed to ensuring the defence of the motherland against all internal and external threats. Hostile efforts to spoil the hard-earned peace will be met with the full might of the armed forces, backed with the support and resolve of the people of Pakistan, Insha Allah," it added.

Riaz recovery: IG promises 'good news'

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday granted 13 days' time to the IG Punjab to recover anchorperson Imran Riaz. A high court bench comprises of Chief Justice Ameer Bhatti heard a petition of the missing journalist's father seeking recovery of his son whose whereabouts remain unknown since his arrest in Sialkot on May 11.

"A positive progress has been made towards recovery of Imran Riaz," IG Punjab Usman Anwar informed the court. Seeking more time from the court, police chief assured: "We will give the good news in next 10 to 15 days." "You are seeking more time, there must be progress in the matter," top judge said. "OK, give us 10 days' we will give good news," IG Punjab assured.

"We are allowed to hold a meeting for one hour with the IG Punjab," counsel of the petitioner pleaded to the court. "IG Punjab should meet with Imran Riaz's father and the legal team at 5:00 in the evening today," Chief Justice Bhatti instructed the police chief. An abduction FIR had been registered at the Civil Line police station on the complaint of the father of the missing anchorperson. The DPO Sialkot said that the abduction sections are included in the FIR against unknown persons.

Pak's total debt surges

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's total debt surged by Rs908 billion, or 1.50 percent, in July 2023 to reach Rs61,747 billion on Wednesday.

According to a report of the State Bank, the federal government's internal debt rose by Rs207 billion to Rs39,015 billion in July 2023. Similarly, the federal government's external debt snowballed to Rs22,731 billion in July 2023, registering an increase of Rs701 billion.

Defense Day celebrated with zeal in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 58th defense day was celebrated with national enthusiasm in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged areas on Wednesday. The day was dawned with special prayers in mosques for progress and prosperity of Pakistan and eternal peace of all martyrs of Pakistan including the recipients of Nishan-e-Haider, who laid down lives for defense of the country.

From Chitral to D I Khan and Upper Kohistan to South Waziristan districts, people from all 38 districts of KP including senior citizens, academics, farmers, civil society, human rights activists, military personnel, farmers, laborers and media men have presented glowing tributes to all martyrs and ghazis of Pakistan, who rendered matchless sacrifices while fighting against the enemy and aggressive forces during 1948, 1965 and 1971 wars, 1999 Kargil conflict, war against terror and had destroyed the nefarious designs of the enemy.

Civil and military officials, politicians, traders, businessmen, media men, relatives, colleagues and others visited to the residences of martyrs and recipients of Nishan-e-Haider as mark of respect and presented glowing tributes to the defenders of Pakistan. The main function of the day in KP was held at Swabi district where floral wreath was laid at the grave of great hero of

Kargil war, Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (NH)

and salute was presented to the celebrated officer of Pakistan Army, who embraced Shahadat near Tiger Hills at Kargil on July 5, 1999.

Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed was the first army officer from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who was awarded the prestigious Nishan-e-Haider. Rallies and walks were also held in the province for support of armed forces of Pakistan on Defence Day.

Debate and patriotic songs competitions have been held in educational institutions where students speakers paid rich tributes to defenders of Pakistan including 65 war hero, Major Aziz Bhattai Shaheed (NH). Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-i-Haider) had successfully defended the strategic BRB canal near Lahore for five days where he embraced shahadat after being hit by an enemy tank shell on September 10, 1965.

The newspapers have published special supplements while Radio Pakistan and TV Channels aired special programs paid rich tributes to all martyrs of the 65 war. Senior Defense Analyst and former Security Law and Order Erstwhile Fata (Now Merged Areas), Brigadier (Retd) Mehmood Shah said Pakistan's security forces had occupied over 1,600 kilometers Indian territory during 65 war and was in strong position to capture Dehli if the imposed war continued for few more

days.

Talking to media, he said moral of Indian troops were completely shattered during 65. He said Pakistani forces had reached up to Sutlaj river's bridge India and can easily occupied Dehli if the war imposed on us by India continued for few more days as PAF and Pakistan Artillery had broken back of the enemy. He said most of enemy officers of 65 war had served with Pakistani commanders during second world war –II and the latter knew about the former so called fighting abilities and skills that helped us to frustrate their evil designs

Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam popularly known as M.M. Alam shot-down two enemy hunter aircrafts and damaged three others on 6th September 1965 and destroyed five more enemy hunter aircrafts in less than a minute on September 7th that was unprecedented in Pakistan Air Force's history. Brigadier Mehmood said India had attacked Pakistan on September 6, 1965 in darkness without warning or declaration of war by violating all agreements, conventions and international laws. He said the whole Pakistani nation stood up with their valiant forces against the coward enemy and defeated Indian forces despite limited resources. Brigadier Mehmood said national songs of Melody Queen, Noor Jehan had infused new spirit of patriotism in the nation during the said war.

Romania claims parts of Russian drone fell on its territory

BUCHAREST (Agencies): Parts of what could be a Russian drone fell on Romanian territory, Romania's Defence Minister Angel Tilvar says, two days after Ukraine said Russian drones had detonated on the NATO member's land. Romanian officials had earlier denied reports of drones falling on Romanian territory and said Russian attacks in neighbouring Ukraine did not cause a direct threat.

Tilvar told local news channel Antena 3 CNN on Wednesday that parts of what was most likely a drone were discovered in the eastern Tulcea county, an area of the Danube that forms a natural border between Romania and war-torn Ukraine. "I confirm that in this area, pieces that may be of a drone were found," he said, adding that the pieces did not pose a threat.

He said the area had not been evacuated because there was nothing to suggest that the parts were dangerous and said the pieces would be analysed to confirm their origin. Kyiv had said on Monday that drones detonated in Romania during an overnight Russian air raid on a Ukrainian port across the Danube River, where attacks had increased since July when Moscow abandoned a deal that lifted a de facto Russian blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

Speaking in Bucharest

16 killed in Donetsk attack

KYIV (Agencies): Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, arrives in Kyiv to announce more aid as Ukrainian troops try to push forward in their counteroffensive. The European Union has denounced as "heinous and barbaric" the Russian attack on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka.

A statement by the EU's diplomatic service said Russia "continues terrorising Ukraine's civilian population" and said those behind the attack would be held to account. The United States will provide Ukraine with additional assistance, including munitions and air defence systems, the White House has said. The new military assistance package for Ukraine includes HIMARS missile launch systems, Javelin antitank weapons, Abrams tanks and other weapons systems, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock condemned Russia's war in Ukraine as inhumane after Kostyantynivka's strike. "This brutal attack on innocent people peacefully shopping at a market makes it clear: this Russian war of aggression is an attack on international law, on humanity," Baerbock wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. NATO allies expressed "strong solidarity" with Romania after the country briefed them about an incident in which parts of what could be a Russian drone fell on Romanian territory, the alliance has said.

on Wednesday at the start of a summit of the presidents of Three Seas Initiative countries, Iohannis said the attacks were war crimes happening a "small distance" from Romania's border. "If it is confirmed that the components [found] belong to a Russian drone, such a situation would be inadmissible and a serious violation of Romania's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

"We are on alert and in constant contact with our NATO allies," he added. Tilvar reiterated there was no direct threat and told

Agerpres it was possible the drone did not explode upon impact, but rather it simply crashed or pieces landed on Romanian territory. "[That] does not make us happy ... but I don't think that we can talk about an attack and, as I said before, I think we need to know how to distinguish between an act of aggression and an incident," Agerpres quoted him as saying.

A ministry spokesperson said search teams had been in the area for several days while the minister and other defence officials talked to residents.

The prime minister appreciated Huawei for its steps for the spread of information technology in Pakistan and expressed the hope that Huawei would help the government in training of youth and women, especially of those living in the far flung areas of the country, in the field of information.

He welcomed the desire of Huawei to make further investment in Pakistan in the field of information technology. He also invited Huawei to set up plants for the production of mobile handsets. Caretaker Minister for Information Technology Dr Umar Saif was also present in the meeting.

PM, Naval Chief visit family of martyred Naval officer for condolence: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited the family of Lt. Commander Hamza Abid of the Pakistan Navy who was martyred in a helicopter crash in Gwadar.

Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the prime minister expressed condolences to the parents and family members of the martyred naval officer. The father of the martyred officer had also served in the Pakistan Navy. "We as a nation are indebted to the martyrs," the prime minister wrote on X, formerly Twitter. He also prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in the paradise.

(Continued From Page 1)

the measures taken by the IT Ministry to reform the telecom and IT sector, assured that the caretaker government would provide all possible support to the ministry for expanding the IT exports. He was chairing a meeting to review the steps taken by the Ministry for Information Technology to enhance the IT exports by over \$5 billion by bringing reforms in the sector. The prime minister expressed the hope that the measures would help improve the national economy, besides creating more employment opportunities in the sector, and earning valuable foreign exchange reserves.

He was informed about the plan being executed by the ministry for increasing the IT exports and the measures taken for development of the sector. It was told that the ministry was working to bring all the government services at federal level under one umbrella by digitizing them, which would enable the government to improve the tax collection system and identify the evaders. Furthermore, the complete digitization of economy was also underway.

It was further apprised that it would be made mandatory for all the university students across the country to get the IT training of international standard. "This measure will help increase the skilled workforce of

international standard in the IT sector by over 200,000 that will in turn raise the IT exports to \$5 billion."

The prime minister was informed that the ministry was taking measures to provide training and facilities to the free lancers, including easy inflow of their remittances. The measures include interest-free loans to the private sector for the provision of co-working spaces, access of free-lancers to internationally popular payment service providers and provision of fast speed Internet facility. "These measures will help increase the exports of IT sector by \$3 billion," the meeting was told.

It was further informed that the government was also taking steps for easy access to loans and investment for i-startups, due to which external investment of \$1 billion was expected in the next six months. The ministry also presented a plan for bringing reforms in the telecom sector and provision of high speed 5-G service. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Information Technology Dr Umar Saif, Advisor the PM Ahad Khan Cheema and other relevant officials.

PM directs framing of industrial policy to spur economic growth: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq Kakar directed that a national industrial policy should be formulated as soon as possible to spur economic growth and increase industrial production. He issued the directive during a briefing on the performance and targets of Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Industries and Production. The prime minister asked the relevant officers to increase the contribution of industries in the gross domestic product of Pakistan from the present 12 percent to optimum capacity through formulation of an effective strategy.

He said Pakistan should be made a hub of trade, transportation and transshipment by taking advantage of its unique geographical location. He instructed that a training programme should be held for the business community and the logistics companies to make them aware about the international road transport system.

The PM said the process of privatization of the loss making state-owned enterprises should be expedited. He was told about the performance of the officers posted abroad for enhancing trade and investment of Pakistan. It was informed that economic partnership with the Central Asian states would be part of the strategy to increase exports.

PM for widening tax net

Consultations were continuing with the stakeholders for the establishment of Land Port Authority. The meeting was also told about the different aspects of the recently approved policy for local manufacturing of mobile handsets. It was informed that in the next two years, four million handsets would be locally manufactured which would reduce the import bill and increase exports.

The PM was also apprised of the steps to streamline the exports of gemstone products. PM Kakar said a training programme about the use of modern technology should be arranged for upgrading skills of local craftsmen in order to increase their capacity for gemstone exports. In the sector, two billion dollars of exports were expected in the next two years. He also stressed for electronic warehousing for promotion of e-commerce in the country. Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Finance Dr Shamsad Akhtar, Advisor to the PM Ahad Cheema, State Bank governor and high ranking officers attended the meeting.

Govt to resolve Karachi trader's problems on priority: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the federal government would address problems of

Karachi traders on priority. He was talking to Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori who called on him here.

During the meeting, the governor Sindh briefed the prime minister in detail about the administration matters and the overall law and order situation of the province. The governor also presented the recommendation about the power tariff prepared by Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the city's traders. PM Kakar thanked the governor Sindh and issued directives to the relevant authorities to work on the recommendation and present a report as soon as possible.

PM, CEO Huawei Pakistan discuss investment opportunities: A delegation of Huawei Pakistan led by its Chief Executive Officer Ethan Sun called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed prospects of investment of their company in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Ethan Sun informed the prime minister about the work being done by Huawei for the promotion and development of the ecosystem for information technology in Pakistan. Huawei had set up about 100 information technology centers in different universities of Pakistan, he said.