



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

Elite martyr laid to rest
F.P. Report

BUNER: The elite force personnel Aqil Zada was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Kankowai area of Mandanr tehsil on Monday. The deceased embraced martyrdom during encounter with armed militants in D I Khan, on Sunday. A large number of people from every walk of life were present during the funeral prayer. Policemen attended funeral procession and shouldered the coffin.

Vol. XXXIX No. 261 Regd. No. 241 RABI-UI-AWWAL 23 1445 -- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 2023 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30

Israel orders ‘complete Gaza siege’: Cuts off electricity, food, water or fuel

Palestine-Israel war death toll rises to 1,560

Palestinians hold funerals for martyred

Monitoring Desk

GAZA CITY: Fears of ground invasion are growing as Israel is escalating measures against the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on the supply of food and fuel to war-ravaged Palestinians in the resource-strapped Arab country. According to Israel's foreign ministry, at least 1,000 Israelis, including civilian and security forces, have been killed by Hamas, while Palestine's health ministry has put the tally of martyred Gazans at 560.

Meanwhile, Al-Jazeera reported that Hamas's Qassam Brigades had said they would start executing Israeli civilian hostages and broadcast the execution live if Israel dropped another bomb on civilian residential areas without any prior warning. "Any targeting of innocent civilians without warning will be met regretfully by executing one of the captives in our custody, and we will be forced to broadcast this execution," said Abu Obeida, a spokesman for Hamas's Qassam Brigades told Al-Jazeera. "We regret this decision but we hold the Zionist enemy [Israel] and their leadership the responsibility for this," he said while talking to Al-Jazeera Arabic.

Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant on Monday described the move as part of a battle against the Palestinian group as Israel's troops were still battling on Monday to clear out Hamas gunmen more than two days after they burst across the fence from Gaza on a deadly rampage. The Israeli army said it would soon go on the offensive after the biggest mobilisation in Israeli history.

Hamas executed a meticulous two-year campaign of deception that

caught Israel off guard during a devastating attack, marking the worst breach in Israel's defences since 1973. The group concealed its military intentions while presenting an image of economic focus. They trained openly, mocked military preparations, and showed restraint in prior operations, lulling Israel into complacency.

Israel shifted its focus away from Hamas, failing to detect their plan. Hamas avoided leaks and executed a multifaceted attack, exploiting Israeli weaknesses. The consequences led Israel to vow the destruction of Hamas, emphasising the need to address the threat posed by the group.

Fighting raged at several locations inside Israel where the fighters were still holed up after killing hundreds of Israelis and seizing dozens of hostages in a raid that shattered Israel's reputation of invincibility. Israel's chief military spokesperson said troops had re-established control of communities that had been overrun, but that isolated clashes continued as some Palestinian gunmen remained active.

"We are now carrying out searches in all of the communities and clearing the area," chief military spokesperson Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari said. Earlier, another spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hecht, acknowledged that it was "taking more time than we expected to get things back into a defensive, security posture".

The shocking images of the bodies of hundreds of Israeli civilians sprawled across the streets of towns, gunned down at an outdoor disco and abducted from their homes were like nothing seen before in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel has already responded with

Israel buries soldier killed in attacks

its heaviest-ever bombardment of the Gaza Strip, martyring some 500 people so far, and could be contemplating an unprecedented ground assault on the territory it abandoned nearly two decades ago. Hagari said 300,000 reservists had already been activated in just two days. "We have never drafted so many reservists on such a scale," Hagari said. "We are going on the offensive."

Hamas says the attack is justified by the plight of Gaza under a 16-year blockade, an Israeli crackdown in the occupied West Bank that has been the deadliest in years, and a far-right Israeli government that talks of annexing Palestinian land. Israel and Western countries say nothing justifies the intentional mass killing of civilians. The violence jeopardises US-backed moves towards normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia - a security realignment that could have threatened Palestinian hopes of self-determination and hemmed in Hamas's backer Iran.

Hamas fighters were continuing to cross into Israel from Gaza, the military said, adding that between 70 and 100 gunmen have been killed in the Beeri area since Saturday. Fighter jets, helicopters and artillery struck over 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip overnight, with targets including Hamas and Islamic Jihad command centres and the residence of a senior Hamas official, Ruhi Mashtaa.

"The price the Gaza Strip will pay will be a very heavy one that will change reality for generations," said Defence Minister Yoav Gallant in Ofakim, one of the towns where calm was restored after a battle with Hamas fighters who stormed through it, killing civilians and leaving with hostages. Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's options for hitting Hamas, which controls the narrow Gaza Strip that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, could be curtailed by concern for the many Israelis seized in the raid. A full-scale invasion of Gaza, which Netanyahu has tried to avoid in his long years in power, could endanger the lives of the hostages.

In a statement, the Israeli Air Force said it dropped some 2,000 munitions and more than 1,000-ton bombs on Gaza aimed at over 8,000 targets in Gaza in the last 20 hours. Among the targets were three rocket launchers directed at Israel, a mosque where militants were operating and 21 high-rise buildings that served militant activity.

Since Saturday, at least 560 people have been martyred and more than 2,750 people were wounded, said the Health Ministry in Gaza. "The Zionist enemy's military targeting and bombing of homes inhabited by women and children, mosques and schools in Gaza amount to war crimes and terrorism," Hamas official Izzat Reshqi said in a statement.

Retired Israeli military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus said Israel had called up around 100,000 soldiers. "Our job is to make sure that at the end of this war, Hamas will no longer have any military capabilities to threaten Israeli civilians with, and in addition to that we also need to make sure Hamas will not govern the Gaza Strip," he said.

Hamas's main international ally Iran congratulated Hamas on the attack, but its mission to the United Nations denied Tehran was involved in the operation. Beyond blockaded Gaza, Israeli forces and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militia



GAZA STRIP: Rescuers remove a casualty on a stretcher from under the rubble of a house destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Rafah.



GAZA CITY: Palestinians inspect damages in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, following a Hamas surprise attack, at Beach refugee camp.

exchanged artillery and rocket fire on Sunday, while in Egypt, two Israeli tourists were shot dead along with a guide. Appeals for restraint came from around the world, though Western nations largely stood by Israel. He said the Israeli military will also make sure that Hamas will not be able to govern the Gaza Strip after the end of the war.

Conricus added that Israeli troops are hunting down the last Palestinian fighters who had infiltrated southern Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Israel on Sunday to prepare for a "long and difficult" conflict a day after Hamas launched a surprise assault from Gaza, firing a

(Continued on Back Page)



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacting with TV anchors and media persons.

Pakistan to rush medical aid to quake-hit Afghanistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to rush a team of senior doctors and male nurses to help assist in the rescue operations after a powerful earthquake claimed thousands of lives in Afghanistan. According to local media reports Monday, a 10-member medical team consisting of two neurosurgeons, two orthopedic surgeons and one general surgeon will be dispatched to the quake-affected areas of Balochistan.

According to the Ministry of health, the team will also include five male nurses. Urgent medical supplies will also be provided to the affectees, the ministry added. The medical team is being sent to Afghanistan on the orders of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq. The federal government authorities have further disclosed that if need arises more medical personnel and medicines will be sent to Afghanistan. They, however, have said no decision was yet taken to send medical aid Gaza Strip. "We are watching the situation closely and are in contact with the Palestinian officials," they added.

Meanwhile, rescue workers on Monday scrambled to pull out survivors, and the dead, from beneath the rubble two days after the northwestern city of

Herat and its surroundings were struck by the deadliest earthquakes to rattle Afghanistan in years.

The Taliban administration said at least 2,400 people were killed and many more injured in the quakes, which were among the world's deadliest this year after tremors in Turkey and Syria, in which an estimated 50,000 people were killed.

Pakistan and Iran have offered to send rescue workers and humanitarian aid, while China's Red Cross Society offered cash relief aid. "The operation is still going on, still some people are being pulling out of the rubble," the spokesman of Herat's governor, Nissar Ahmad Elyias, told Reuters, adding that more than a dozen villages around Herat were also affected.

Many buildings in Herat city were relatively unaffected, but the mediaeval minarets of its famous mosques sustained some damage, photographs on social media showed. "Many of our family members have been martyred, including one of my sons, and my other son is also injured," Herat resident Mir Ahmed told Reuters at a hospital that was treating many survivors.

"Most of the people are under the rubble," he said. Hemmed in by mountains, Afghanistan has a history of strong earthquakes, many in the rugged Hindu

Kush region bordering Pakistan. Death tolls often rise when information comes in from more remote parts of a country where decades of war have left infrastructure in a shambles, and relief and rescue operations difficult to organise.

In a statement, the UN Humanitarian Office put the death toll from the quakes at 1,023, with an additional 1,663 people injured, and more than 500 missing. It said all the homes in the Zindajan district in Herat were destroyed. Afghanistan's healthcare system, reliant almost entirely on foreign aid, has faced crippling cuts in the two years since the Taliban took over and much international assistance, which had formed the backbone of the economy, was halted.

Diplomats and aid officials say concerns over Taliban restrictions on women and competing global humanitarian crises are causing donors to pull back on financial support. The Islamist government has ordered most Afghan female aid staff not to work, although with exemptions in health and education. Pakistan said its disaster management authority had put a search and rescue team on standby to assist in the disaster-hit area. It is also preparing to send in relief items including food, medications, tents and blankets.

FO flays Indian minister's remarks

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Monday strongly condemned the "highly irresponsible" remarks of an Indian minister on taking back Sindh — the region around the Indus River in southern Pakistan — saying that such statements represent India's revisionist and expansionist mindset.

Responding to the media questions on the statement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch that Pakistan condemns the highly irresponsible remarks made by the UP CM, who is a key member of India's ruling dispensation and a follower of the bigoted Hindutva ideology.

"These remarks manifest a revisionist and expansionist mindset that seeks to subjugate the identity and culture of not only India's neighbouring countries but also its own religious minorities. They also reflect a perverse view of history," she said. The FO spox further stated that it is equally condemnable that the so-called reclamation of the "Ram Janmabhoomi" has been cited by the Indian minister as a template for reclaiming the region that constitutes part of Pakistan.

History bears witness that a Hindu supremacist mob had brazenly demolished the historic Babri Mosque on 6 December 1992 to take back the claimed birthplace of Lord Rama in Ayodhya, Baloch said. Baloch said that the chief minister's provocative remarks are clearly inspired by the gratuitous assertion of "Akhand Bharat" (undivided India).

"It is a matter of grave concern that such ideas are being increasingly peddled by individuals belonging to the BJP-RSS [Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] combine to further their divisive and parochial political agenda," she added. The FO spokesperson then called on the Indian leaders to resolve disputes with neighbouring countries and work with them to build a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, instead of nurturing "hegemonic and expansionist ambitions".

No fear or favour to any political party: PM

— Long term policies to steer country out of deep rooted economic challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that while pursuing the guiding principles of transparency, neutrality and fair play, his government would ensure that no political party had any fear or favour while undergoing the electoral process.

The prime minister, in an interview with a private television channel, rubbished the notions of his government favouring the PML-N and said usually the political parties attracted their voters through such impressions. Regarding the date for elections, he said through legislation, the previous parliament had given the mandate to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). However, as far as the government's role was concerned, they were ready to provide funding and security for the elections, he added.

Ruling out any threat to the PTI chief's life in jail, the prime minister said the caretaker government would ensure the provision of facilities to him as per his entitlement. To a question, the prime minister said there was no formal requirement for the caretaker government's consultation with the president for the electoral process. However, the government would surely respond whenever they got any queries from the president as they maintained a respectful relationship.

The prime minister said he had need-based interaction with the president - in a reasonable environment - on three to four occasions. He clarified that current federal minister Fawad Hassan Fawad's primary identity was a seasoned bureaucrat and that he had never been a member of the PML-N. Similarly, he found Ahad Cheema to be a useful cabinet member, and he was in the government based on his performance, not identity.

He explained that the civil servants served the state, not any political party and associating them with any party was unfair. Prime Minister Kakar said there was no legal restriction on the government to make policy decisions and that they had not taken any steps against the law or constitution. About his US visit, the prime minister said it was necessary to reiterate Pakistan's position on certain issues at the UN General Assembly as the continuity of state affairs could not be suspended.

Asked about the PTI's apprehension of being barred from electioneering, he said there was no law, executive order, or administrative order keeping PTI off from the process. Referring to the arrest of the people involved in riots and arsons of May 9, he said calling the legal action bar from the electoral process was unfair. To a query, he said the government had not received any complaint against any enforced disappearances in Punjab. However, he said it was the state's inherent right to apprehend the people accused of any law violation.

Commenting on JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's suggestion of delaying

polls citing snowfall season in some parts of the country, he said the government would not hold elections based on the input from the Met Office rather it was up to the ECP to decide the date. He said the country was faced with security and economic challenges and besides holding the polls, the government would prioritise the protection of people's lives and properties.

Coming to the economic policies, he said the government took administrative measures and enforced the already existing law concerning border management, digital space management, cross-border trade, smuggling, and hoarding which led to the depreciation of the dollar. About the expulsion of illegal foreign nationals, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan hosted around 1.8 million registered foreign nationals and they were not being expelled. However, action was being taken against those without any legal documents or those who had obtained fake identity documents.

He said the unregistered people were not enrolled in the government database and leaving it with no authentic information whether they were genuinely running businesses or involved in any unlawful activities. The prime minister also called for an enhanced focus on research and development in science and technology and told the interviewer that the upcoming cabinet meeting would also deliberate on the same agenda.

Meanwhile, during an interview with the anchorpersons and Vloggers telecast on PTV News, the Prime Minister stressed upon formulation of the long-term policies to address the deep-rooted economic challenges faced by the country.

The prime minister said that economic continuity, privatization, external debts, agriculture, services delivery, production of goods, tax net and private businesses, were some of the key issues upon which the upcoming elected government should focus. The prime minister said that the caretaker government during its short period, would set priorities and would do 'what is doable' while for the long-term policies, would be leaving behind drafts for the succeeding elected government.

He said contrary to the history of Pakistan, the US governments also took debts to the tune of billions of dollars but they had utilized them for boosting its economy and now they had an economic cycle in which their different sectors were thriving. The caretaker prime minister said that he himself would vote for that party in the general elections that would have an economic revival plan.

To a question about Palestine issue, he reiterated that Pakistan had a consistent policy under which they always expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people. The two-nation state plan was regarded as a solution to the issue but still Israel was denying it, he added. The caretaker prime minister stressed for the solution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

Major among 2 martyred, 5 terrorists killed

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Five terrorists were killed and Major among soldier martyred in Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in Sambaza area of district Zhob of Balochistan that led to intense exchange of fire between security forces and militants, (ISPR) said on Monday.

According to the military's media wing, the security forces on intelligence reports of presence of terrorists conducted operation in general area of Sambaza area of district Zhob. During the conduct of operation, it said the terrorists were surrounded and after an intense exchange of fire, five terrorists were sent to hell and an official and a soldier of Pakistan army were martyred.

The martyrs were identified as Major Syed Ali Raza Shah (Age 31 years, resident of Sargodha District), who was leading the operation from the front, and Havaladar Nisar Ahmed (Age 38 years, resident of Vehari District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced, Shahadat, in ensuring exchange of fire.

"Security forces of Pakistan are indebted & proud of our brave men and pay homage to their chivalry and sacrifices for the motherland, which further strengthens our resolve to uproot the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said. However, sanitization of the surrounding areas was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Nawaz leaves for S Arabia

RAWALPINDI (PPI): PML-N leader Ata Tarar has said that the party supremo Nawaz Sharif has left for Saudi Arabia before returning to Pakistan on October 21.

As per details, Ata Tarar said that the date of former prime minister's return has not changed and he will arrive in Pakistan after performing Umrah. He lambasted Imran Khan as saying that he is responsible for the current inflation in Pakistan, however, the PML-N has always rescued Pakistan out of crisis.

CM visits Govt Pilot School Wahdat Road, inspects condition

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to Government Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road on Monday. During his visit, he personally inspected the classrooms and engaged with the students. He also made a significant decision, prohibiting teachers from engaging in other duties, including elections, during school hours.

CM Naqvi emphasized that teachers should solely focus on their responsibilities within school hours, ensuring that students receive uninterrupted education.

To a request from the students, the CM announced plans to enhance the school's canteen facility. Additionally, he declared that students would be provided with discounted travel options through the Speedo Bus service.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directives for the enhancement of classroom conditions, as well as improvements to the school grounds and lawn. New appointments were made for teachers responsible for instructing students in the 11th and 12th grades, a move that was met with joy from the student body. Furthermore, he expressed his commitment to transforming the pilot school into a model educational institution. He also took the opportunity to review the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing conjunctivitis.

During his inspection, he interacted with students in various classrooms, including Class 6C, where he inquired about their studies, particularly in Islamiat. The students shared their enthusiasm for the subject and informed him about their upcoming

Islamiat examination scheduled for October 16, which they were diligently preparing for.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi personally examined the students' assignments, addressing any concerns they raised. The students took the opportunity to capture moments with Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, seeking autographs and photographs as keepsakes.

In addition to classroom visits, Naqvi took time to inspect the computer lab and library. He also assessed the condition of the school's ground, directing the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) to make necessary improvements. He promptly summoned the Secretary Communication and Works to the school, instructing immediate action to upgrade the classrooms and canteen facilities.

Talking to the media, he acknowledged the historical significance of institutions like Central Model School and Pilot School. He emphasized ongoing efforts to elevate the quality of education in such schools. With 48 thousand schools in Punjab, a simultaneous overhaul of all is not feasible. Therefore, a dedicated team has been established to enhance government schools, with progress already underway. Plans are also in place to establish Centers of Excellence.

Highlighting the need for substantial investment, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that an estimated 20 to 25 billion rupees would be required to transform schools in Lahore into centers of excellence. However, he stressed the importance of distributing resources fairly across all schools in Punjab, rather than

focusing exclusively on those in Lahore. To improve government schools, management is being entrusted to private institutions, a move that has already yielded considerable improvements.

Mohsin Naqvi reassured that schools are not being privatized. Drawing attention to the extensive grounds of Pilot School, he noted the need to boost sports activities on campus. Finally, he expressed intent to review the practice of employee location tracking through WhatsApp. Provincial Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, Secretary Schools, Chief Executive Officer of Education Lahore, and relevant officers were present.

CM pays tribute to Major Syed Ali Raza's heroic sacrifice: In a solemn tribute, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi commemorated the remarkable sacrifice of Major Syed Ali Raza, who valiantly fell victim to terrorists during a security forces operation in Zhob.

In his message, Mohsin Naqvi extolled the indomitable spirit of Major Syed Ali Raza, emphasizing how he laid down his life in the pursuit of peace for our cherished motherland. The fearless actions of Shaheed Major Syed Ali Raza thwarted the malevolent designs of the terrorists, a testament to his unwavering dedication. "We stand united in honoring the enduring sacrifice of this gallant hero," he said and added the legacy of Shaheed Syed Ali Raza shall endure, an everlasting beacon of valor. Naqvi extends his deepest sympathies and condolences to the grieving family members of the martyred.

Resolution of Palestine, Kashmir issues vital for world peace: Mushaal Mullick

LAHORE (APP): Advisor to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that the resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues is vital for durable peace in the world. Talking to the media men outside the Poet of the East Allama Iqbal's Mausoleum here on Monday, she said Palestinians and the Kashmiri people faced

genocide at the hands of Israeli and Indian forces, adding that recent Israeli Gaza attack is violation of the Geneva convention.

To a query, Mushaal Mullick said the recent war on Israel is a natural outcome of the atrocities and human rights violations committed by the Israeli army against hapless Palestinian people. "Israel deemed its security invincible, but the

unarmed Palestinians breached the security wall and made forced Israel to its knees," she added.

Responding to a query, Mushaal regretted the fact that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was inciting Israel against Palestinian people, and it may pave the way to World War III, adding that a peaceful solution of Kashmir and Palestine issues is vital for world

peace.

She said Modi is guilty of the worst human rights violations against the Muslims and other minorities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and other parts of India. She said India is involved in terrorist activities across the globe, adding that Indian occupation of Kashmir is the worst example.

CS orders depts to depute grievance redressal commissioners

LAHORE (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman has ordered all the departments to depute grievance redressal commissioners for timely disposal of complaints.

He issued these instructions while presiding over a meeting of the Administrative Secretaries' Committee at the Civil Secretariat here on Monday.

The Chief Secretary said that all departments should ensure early redress of grievances to avoid unnecessary litigation. He mentioned that the people would get relief from resolution of their complaints at the departmental level. He ordered that all departments should set up a portal to send pension cases online to the Accountant General's office, adding that there should be no delay in the issuance of

pension. He said that all service records and pension papers should be completed two years before the date of retirement. He said that the use of technology is indispensable to deal with the challenges of the 21st century. He suggested that the

government officials must bring innovation in the working methods to improve performance. He said that the start of paperless working in departments has not only minimized expenses but also accelerated the pace of work. He said that an e-procure-

ment system is being introduced in the departments to ensure transparency. The Chief Secretary also appreciated the reforms being carried out by the Accountant General Office for issuance of pensions and payment of bills.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hasnain Ibrahim with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan citizen number 122011902917 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Zeba Mahmood (Daughter) 2. Memoona Ibrahim (Daughter) 3. Safina Ibrahim (Daughter) 4. Haseena Ibrahim (Daughter) 5. Salma Ibrahim (Daughter) 6. Najma Shafiq (Daughter) 7. Shabana Ibrahim (Daughter) 8. Baqi Jana Begum (Spouse) 9. Hasnain Ibrahim (Son) 10. Ejaz Ibrahim (Son) 11. Javed Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Rahim Zada with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bibi Karim Shabba citizen number 1560202362836 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Bibi (Daughter) 2. Rahim Zada (Son) 3. Fazal Rahman (Son) 4. Nasib Zada (Son) 5. Rozzi Rehman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Saleem with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Aziz Hussain citizen number 1730112724923 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Marina Waleed (Daughter) 2. Robina Begum (Daughter) 3. Mubeen Akhtar (Daughter) 4. Muhammad Saleem (Son) 5. Waseem Hussain (Son) 6. Azeem Hussain (Son) 7. Haseem Hussain (Son) 8. Zulfikar Ali (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU

CM directs to inspect industrial units

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presiding over a meeting has directed the industries department to start inspection of industrial units to check safety hazards, functionalize health facilities in the industrial areas, digitalise the record of all the plots in SITE and small industrial estates and activate printing & stationary wing for the printing of textbooks.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the industries department here at CM House. The meeting was attended by Minister of Industries & Revenue Younis Dhaga, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam,

Chairman P&D Shakeel Mangnejo, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries Rasheed Solangi, Secretary Energy Fayaz Abbasi, Secretary Labour Shariq Ahmed, MD Sindh Solid Waste Management Intiaz Shah, MD Water Board Salahuddin and others. Minister Industries Younis Dhaga told the CM that there were 4000 industrial units registered with the industries department.

He pointed out that the

Nooriabad Industrial Estate has no firefighting arrangement even it has no health facilities to carry the patients in case of any incident. At this, the CM directed the chief secretary to either connect the Rescue 1122 facility at Industrial Areas or provide them with fire tenders and establish health facilities at the industrial estates.

The CM said that various industrial estates have hospitals, but they were not functional properly.

The interim CM said that the industries department must play its active and due role after witnessing the Baldia Factory tragedy. He directed the industries department to inspect all the industrial units to check for safety hazards.

He added that most of the factories have not developed systems used to prevent and control hazards, therefore they must be put in place for the safety of the workers.

He also pointed out that the industrial plots have been illegally converted into warehouses, therefore necessary action must be taken. Baqar said that most industries were not paying minimum wage to their workers and even

denying them overtime. These all issues could be settled or redressed by conducting inspections.

He directed the industries department to develop a proforma for inspections so that all the safety issues, the condition of the building, and the facilities for the workers could be covered. The CM on the recommendation of the minister of industries approved an online facilitation of all the permits, permissions, and NOCs for SITE and Sindh Small Industries. Online registration of firms, societies, and trusts would be carried out. The CM also decided to digitalize allotment records of plots of SITE and Small Industries. The meeting decided to conduct a district-wise survey of industries and the data would be uploaded on the website. Small and Medium Enterprises would also be registered through an online portal under the One-Window

solution.

Minister Industries told the CM that the provincial government has no industrial policy. He pointed out that renowned Economist Dr Qaiser Bengali has been engaged to frame the policy which would be notified after the approval of the CM. The CM directed the industries department to establish a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant at SITE Karachi. It was pointed out that a Scheme for Combined Treatment Plant for Hyderabad and Sukkur has also been made for Rs3.4 billion for which Rs25 million has been allocated in the current budget. Since the cost of both the treatment plants has escalated, a summary has been floated for approval of additional funds outside the budget. The CM was told that 26 development schemes in different SITE, small industrial estates have been launched for Rs1.5 billion. At this, the CM said that an Industrial



PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

FOR PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE STATIONERY

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) invites proposal for Office Stationery under PPRA rule 36(a) "Single Stage, One Envelope". Proposals are invited from Companies/firms, the firms should be registered with Income Tax, Sales Tax department, and on Active Tax Payers list of FBR.

Bidding document is available at PEC (www.pec.org.pk) and PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) website, free of cost. However, the interested bidder shall attach processing fee **Rs.2000/-** with proposal, in form of cash or pay order/demand draft in favor of "Pakistan Engineering Council".

Sealed bid/proposal should reach the following address on or before **30th October 2023, upto 2:30 pm** which will be opened on the same day at **3:00 pm** in the presence of bidders who wish to attend the same.

PID(I) 2187/23

Director Administration
Pakistan Engineering Council,
Ataturk Avenue (East), G-5/2, Islamabad.
Email: purchase@pec.org.pk, Tel: 051-9219036, Ext. 294.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Amjad Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sher Ali Khan citizen number 1560202616917 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Fouzia Bibi (Daughter)
2. Rashida (Daughter)
3. Salima Bibi (Daughter)
4. Zakira Kamela (Daughter)
5. Husan Kamela (Spouse)
6. Usman Ali (Son)
7. Amjad Ali (Son)
8. Zafar Ali (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU

SUIT NOTICE

In the Court of Jehangir Khan Judge Banking Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 90/1 Next Date: 6-11-2023 Suit for recovery of Rs. 8,93,605.07/- HBL Char Bagh Swat Branch Vs. Gohar Ali Khan Notice Versus: Gohar Ali Khan S/o Muhammad Zahir Shah R/o Mahallah eamal Pural Char Bagh District Sawat. Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.893605.07/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an ex parte decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE,
EXTRAORDINARY, 01 DECEMBER 2021 923

Form-"A"

PUBLIC NOTICE

[see rules 17(1) and 20(h)]

Name, Location and address of scheme
Riviera Hills Dotar Gali, Dhamtour-II Tehsil & District, Abbottabad.
The public is hereby informed That M/S
Name of Developer
Riviera Abbottabad Developers (Pvt) Limited, Through Company Secretary Mr. Pervez Akhtar,
Address of developer
SR-10A, The Residence-D-18, Ch. Khaleeq uz Zaman Road, Clifton Karachi.
Has applied for sanction of a scheme located in mauza **Dhamtour-II Tehsil & District Abbottabad.**
Having at total area of **65.89 Kanals**

Detail list of Khasra numbers along with mauza:
5149.5150, 6370.5154/2,5153/3 & Mauza Dhamtour-II
Any person having objection against sanction of the scheme or title of land may, within thirty days so publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection field after due date shall not be entertained. This notice shall not be taken a commitment of for sanction of the scheme.

Shakeel Hayat
Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA, Abbottabad,
Phone # 0992-9310371
[INF(P): 2487/2023]

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Zahida Alam with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Fakhir E Alam citizen number 1710135579445 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Roma Anum Alam (Daughter)
2. Mehak Alam (Daughter)
3. Zahida Alam (Spouse)
4. Muhammad Shahbaz Alam (Son)
5. Salmaan Alam (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4. Tahir Shah (Son)
5. Fateem Jan (Son)
6. Aamir Khan (Son)
7. Muhammad Zubair Shah (Son).
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sakeena Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zahir Shah citizen number 3710162896287 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Saira Noman (Daughter)
2. Sakeena Begum (Spouse)
3. Zahid Shah (Son)
4



CS for joint effort to eradicate polio

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on Monday has directed authorities to vaccinate every eligible child against the crippling polio virus. He stressed the need for meticulous monitoring of anti-polio drives to ensure complete eradication of the virus from the region.

The Chief Secretary, gave the instructions on his visit to several parts of the provincial capital including Hayatabad and Rigi to monitor the anti-polio campaign, along with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Afaq Wazir.

Chief Secretary Chaudhry personally met with polio workers and appreciated them for their excellent performance during the campaign.

He appealed to parents, urging them to cooperate with polio teams and vaccinate their children to protect them from permanent disability.

He reiterated the importance of collective action, saying that eradication of polio requires joint efforts of all stakeholders.

It should be noted that a seven-day anti-polio campaign is currently underway in Peshawar, under the supervision of district administration, which aims to administer polio vaccines to 901,985 children.

To achieve this, 2,496 teams have been formed, with robust security arrangements in place to support their efforts.



PESHAWAR: Director Pashto Academy Dr. Nasrullah Jan, VC UoP Prof. Dr. Saleem and Muhammad Humayun Khattak signing agreement.

Taj Al-Qissas handed over to Pashto Academy

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a ceremony held in the Administration Block of the University of Peshawar, Muhammad Humayun Khattak along with other elders of family hailing from Saadatabad Umanzai, Charsadda handed over two manuscripts of the book "Taj Al-Qissas", written in 1273 AH, to Dr. Nasrullah Jan Marwat, Director Pashto Academy Peshawar. The book "Taj Al-Qissas" is a Pashto translation of the book "Maarij Al-Qissas" which was written by Katib Abdul Halim in 1120 Hijri for Muhammad Afzal Khan who was the son of Muhammad Ashraf Khan i.e. the eldest son of the great poet and tribal leader Khushal Khan Khattak. The aforementioned manuscripts were written by the scribe Mian Haseeb Gul son of Zameer Gul from 25 Dhul-Qa'ad 1273 Hijri to 11 Rabi-ul-Sani 1283 Hijri for the last Sardar of erstwhile Akora Khattak estate, Muhammad Afzal Khan; who was the great grandfather of Muhammad Humayun Khattak.

Ancestors of Muhammad Humayun Khattak have also handed over many manuscripts to the Pashto Academy in the past, including Diwan-i Ashraf Khan Hijri, Diwan-i Kazim Khan Sheda; folk tales written by Sadr Khan, folktales of Adam Khan Durkhanai and Toor Dili Shehii; and Tibnama by Khushal Khan Khattak. Khushal Khan Khattak's Deewan was also handed over to W.H. Walter for printing by Humayun Khattak's grandfather Muhammad Afzal Khan.

Vice-Chancellor of Peshawar university Dr. Saleem Howaid and Director Pashto Academy Dr. Nasrullah Jan thanked Muhammad Humayun Khattak and his family elders for handing over the manuscripts and hoped that others would follow in their footsteps to preserve the priceless collections of Pashto literature. The said Rare manuscripts of Pashto literature have been handed over to the Pashto Academy for proper preservation.

On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Peshawar University Dr. Saleem Howaid, Director Pashto Academy Dr. Nasrullah Marwat and Muhammad Humayun Khattak signed the agreement for the handover of manuscripts.

Govt urged to provide facilities to investors

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a lucrative destination for local as well as foreign investment.

He, however, urged the government to provide facilities to investors under one window operation to open new avenues of investments and restore confidence of investors as well.

Ijaz Khan Afridi was talking to Chairman, Solar Energy Traders Union of Pakistan Aftab Ashraf who visited the chamber house with a traders' delegation, said in a press release here on Monday.

Sajjad Aziz, secretary general of the chamber, Nabeel and other members of the delegation were present during the meeting.

The SCCI vice president said ample opportunities exist for investment in tourism, natural resources and other important sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Aftab Ashraf on the occasion briefed the vice president Ijaz Afridi regarding upcoming "The Solar Show of Pakistan in Peshawar, which is likely to be held in the month of December next. He invited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa business community to participate in the show.

After successfully arranging shows in Sukkur, Lahore and other major cities of the country, Mr Ashraf said the union will hold its event in Peshawar in early December for which he sought collaboration of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Upon the request of the union chief, Ijaz Afridi assured the delegation that the SCCI will fully cooperate and assist in making the Solar Show of Pakistan in Peshawar successful.

He was of the view that SCCI is striving for promotion of investment in potential sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides, it is also taking steps to provide facilities to investors with support of relevant government departments and stakeholders.

He, however, emphasized it is essential that the government make all possible steps to facilitate the business community to put the country's economy on a path of sustainable growth.

Ijaz Afridi hailed the holding of the Solar Show of Pakistan in Peshawar and assured the full participation of the business community in the event.



PESHAWAR: BECS Mohmand Teachers hold placards during a protest. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Resolution of fees issue demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: All associations of Islamic College Peshawar claimed that due to the lack of interest from the higher authorities, the issue of fees for the children of employees of both universities, Islamic College Peshawar and Peshawar University, has not been resolved yet.

For the past year, principals of University Model School Peshawar for Girls and University Public School for Boys have adopted a hostile attitude towards the children of employees of Islamic College, and it has now reached the point where, every day, the children of employees of Islamic College are subjected to mental torture for one reason or another.

However, this case is currently in Peshawar High Court, and its decision has not been made in the courts yet. Treating the employees of Islamic College Peshawar in this manner is not only against humanity but also disrespect to the decision of the court. In this regard, we are also authorized to contact human rights organizations.

In contrast, no such treatment is being done for the children of employees of Peshawar University on the issue of fees, which is causing them mental distress. We know that such actions have many negative effects on children and parents.

The principals of both University Model School and University Public School have withheld the educational documents and results of the children of Islamic College University employees, which is entirely unjust, excessive, and unfair.

The higher authorities of both universities, in addition to their lack of attention, are not seeing any positive role being played by any union in the mentioned universities, which is endangering the future of the children of employees studying in these universities, and the children, their parents are suffering from mental distress.

Recently, in this context, the Peshawar High Court has directed Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other top officials to form a committee to urgently resolve all issues between Islamic College Peshawar and other universities."

However, this case is currently in Peshawar High Court, and its decision has not been made in the courts yet. Treating the employees of Islamic College Peshawar in this manner is not only against humanity but also disrespect to the decision of the court. In this regard, we are also authorized to contact human rights organizations.

In contrast, no such treatment is being done for the children of employees of Peshawar University on the issue of fees, which is causing them mental distress. We know that such actions have many negative effects on children and parents.

The principals of both University Model School and University Public School have withheld the educational documents and results of the children of Islamic College University employees, which is entirely unjust, excessive, and unfair.

The higher authorities of both universities, in addition to their lack of attention, are not seeing any positive role being played by any union in the mentioned universities, which is endangering the future of the children of employees studying in these universities, and the children, their parents are suffering from mental distress.

Recently, in this context, the Peshawar High Court has directed Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other top officials to form a committee to urgently resolve all issues between Islamic College Peshawar and other universities."

However, this case is currently in Peshawar High Court, and its decision has not been made in the courts yet. Treating the employees of Islamic College Peshawar in this manner is not only against humanity but also disrespect to the decision of the court. In this regard, we are also authorized to contact human rights organizations.

In contrast, no such treatment is being done for the children of employees of Peshawar University on the issue of fees, which is causing them mental distress. We know that such actions have many negative effects on children and parents.

The principals of both University Model School and University Public School have withheld the educational documents and results of the children of Islamic College University employees, which is entirely unjust, excessive, and unfair.

The higher authorities of both universities, in addition to their lack of attention, are not seeing any positive role being played by any union in the mentioned universities, which is endangering the future of the children of employees studying in these universities, and the children, their parents are suffering from mental distress.

Recently, in this context, the Peshawar High Court has directed Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other top officials to form a committee to urgently resolve all issues between Islamic College Peshawar and other universities."

Caretaker Cabinet to meet today

PESHAWAR (APP): 12th meeting of the caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be held under the chairmanship of the caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan today (Tuesday) October 10, 2023 at 11:00 A.M in the cabinet room of Civil Secretariat.

All members of the cabinet including the two advisors and a special assistant have been invited to the meeting. Agenda of the meeting has also been dispatched to the invitees.

Ropes of gallows to be replaced

PESHAWAR (APP): The Prisons Department KP has accorded approval for replacing the ropes of gallows in 5 prisons of the province.

According to the Prisons Department official on Monday the process of hanging condemned prisoners in KP jails was partially suspended for the last four-and-a-half years and no execution has taken place during this period.

He said the ropes of gallows in the prisons of Peshawar, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Haripur and Bannu have become old and needed replacement. The official said the ropes of gallows in these five prisons will be replaced in a phased manner.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister Syed Arshad Hussain presiding over a meeting of cabinet committee. Caretaker Minister Irshad Qaisar also present on occasion.

Provincial Ombudsman: Cabinet body meeting held to review Service Rules

PESHAWAR (APP): The cabinet committee meeting to review the Provincial Ombudsman Service Rules (Rules and Regulations) 2023 was held in the committee room of Law Department under the chairmanship of the caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Human Rights, Justice Retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah.

The caretaker provincial minister for social welfare and women's empowerment Justice retired Irshad Qaiser, Secretary Establishment Akhtar Saeed Turk, Secretary Law, representatives of finance and officials of the provincial ombudsman participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, the participants were briefed on the Provincial Ombudsman Service Rules (Terms and Conditions) 2023 and highlighted the need for service rules. In the briefing, it was stated that the purpose of the rules is not to create new posts, but to make term and conditions for the existing employees to make comprehensive rules regarding punishment and rewards.

Provincial Minister of Law and Human Rights, Justice retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah show displeasure over late making of the term and conditions and said that the service term and conditions should have been made with the establishment of the provincial ombudsman. Implementation of service rules will further improve the performance of employees.

He appreciated the efforts of Secretary Law for making of service rules.

He further said that the provincial ombudsmen are trying to provide free justice to the people.

The representative of the provincial ombudsman appreciated the performance of the committee and thanked them for taking interest in the service rules of the provincial Ombudsman.

Minister emphasizes equal education opportunities for children



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the caretaker Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in his address at a function organized by the Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) in Alamabad Swabi has emphasized on equal education opportunities for all children for a positive progress in the society.

Drawing inspiration from the Holy Quran and the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), he highlighted the importance of caring for orphans, as exemplified by numerous Quranic verses and the compassionate orders of Prophet (PBUH).

Minister Kakakhel said that after providing education and training to children, it is essential to reward their hard work and ensure they feel that they will be treated fairly in all forums, with their rights respected. Only through such measures can they take ownership and responsibility for the future of the country he said.

He lauded the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for its commitment to good governance, with a focus on meritocracy and transparency.

The event, attended by a multitude of Pakistani nationals living abroad, as well as high-ranking civil and military officials, featured students from the KORT in Azad Kashmir who showcased their talents through speeches, tableau, drama, qawwali, and national songs.

Minister Information, Culture and Tourism expressed gratitude to KORT institution for the construction of the education complex in Swabi, commending the exemplary contribution of local residents who provided the land free of charge. He also recognized the vital role played by overseas Pakistanis in supporting orphans and fostering the country's development.

Minister Information identified the violation of merit as a leading cause of brain drain from the province and the country. He underscored that youth would take ownership of the country's system when merit and transparency are upheld.

Addressing the gathering, Caretaker Minister revealed that the tourism department has been tasked with organizing special tours for children with disabilities. Visually impaired children were recently treated to a tour of Galiati he said. He said that special tour will be planned for orphans to enable them to experience the beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The ceremony featured speeches by Pir Sultan-ul-Arifin, Chief KORT Chaudhry Akhtar, Lt. Gen. (retd) Nigar Johar, Air Chief Marshal (r) Sohail Aman, Air Commodore (r) Mohammad Shabbir, Owner Atif Rana of Lahore Qalandar, and other distinguished speakers.

‘FAERO’ workshop charts way forward for media practices

PESHAWAR (APP): In a consultative workshop held here on Monday, media professionals from print, electronic, and social media convened to discuss and devise a framework aimed at bolstering responsible practices.

The workshop, under the "Faith in Action for Equal Rights and Opportunities" initiative, provided a platform for journalists from all media domains to deliberate on the importance of promoting ethical behavior and accountability.

A significant outcome of the workshop was the development of a "Charter of Demand" and social media guidelines. This comprehensive document sets out guidelines to be used as a reference for capacity building and sensitization of youth about responsible use of social media.

It sheds light on the importance of respecting social diversity and provides a staunch stance against hate speech targeting individuals based on their ethnic, social, religious, and political identities.

Additionally, it was proposed and stressed that media houses and professional journalist associations should voluntarily adopt a Code of Conduct, which was met with overwhelming support.

The Code will act as a guiding beacon for media professionals, emphasizing the importance of ethical standards, transparency, and integrity of information.

Further solidifying the commitments made during the workshop, a Core Group of Journalists was formed. This group is tasked with endorsing the Charter of Demand within the media community, ensuring widespread adoption of ethical standards, and facilitating the understanding and adaptation of the newly proposed Code of Conduct.

Zahir Shah Sherazi, a Senior Journalist, remarked, "In an era of rapid information exchange, it's vital to remember that with great power comes great responsibility. The media has the capability and duty to bridge divides, not deepen them. Hate speech has no place in our society, and it's upon us, the journalists, to lead the charge against it."

Fayaz Ahmad, another renowned journalist from KP, added, "The media can be a tool for unity or division. It's essential that we choose unity, and educate our audiences about the rich diversity that makes our nation great. We must stand united against hate speech and promote understanding and acceptance."

Khalid Khan, a young emerging journalist, emphasized, "In today's digital age, it is crucial to use social media responsibly. It is not only about having the freedom of expression, but it is also about expressing ourselves responsibly. The Charter we are developing will guide us in the ethical and responsible use of social media."

The "Faith in Action for Equal Rights and Opportunities" workshop stands as a testament to the media's commitment to playing a proactive role in fostering a more inclusive, understanding, and responsible society.

Remarkable journey of a Pashtun scientist from KMU-KP to MIT-USA

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) USA, said spokesman KMU on Monday.

The purpose of his visit was to encourage the incredible achievements of Dr. Ishaq Khan, a remarkable scientist belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who is working on modern cancer research in this international institution.

On this occasion, Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq said that Dr. Ishaq's association with MIT and his commitment is a source of immense pride not only for our nation but for scientists around the globe.

He stands as a shining example of achievement and determination that has inspired countless other young researchers to reach for the stars.

Prof. Zia, while meeting with him, expressed his best wishes for his future endeavors and expressed his determination that he will continue to guide the new generations with innovation and hope.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Ishaq Khan has always been a dedicated scientist in the field of cancer research. Starting as an assistant professor at Khyber Medical University, he not only pioneered the establishment of a national bio-bank for brain tumor cell lines with data from over 350 patients but also extended its reach to include oral and breast cancer patients.

As the Principal Investigator of the Precision Oncology medicine Lab at KMU, Dr. Ishaq bio-banked cancer tissues, blood, DNA, RNA, and generated primary cell cultures from a wide range of adult and pediatric brain tumor patients. His relentless pursuit of knowledge led him to the Texas A&M Health Science Center as a postdoctoral researcher and won a prestigious Ronald F. Borne Outstanding Researcher Award.



In brief

Four of a family die in accident F.P. Report

SHANGLA: At least four people belonging to the Chakesar area of Shangla district were killed when the car they were travelling in, was hit by a bus on Hazara Motorway on Monday. Police said the family from Shangla was going to Abbottabad when their car collided with a bus near Hazara University in Hathi Mera area. Four people namely Sajid Ali, Afsar Din, Umar Sadiq and a woman were killed on the scene. Rescue 1122 shifted the dead to King Abdullah Hospital in Mansehra.

Gul rejects allegations Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: President of Shabbaz Gul Fruit & Vegetable Market Kohat Haji Yusuf Khan Afridi, Aharti Abdul Hameed, Habib Khan and others have strongly denied the allegations made by the President of the Government Fruit & Vegetable Market, on Monday. They said that the private market is not doing any illegal business but all legal documents are there, TMO has approved the issuance of NOC, but the matter of license is still pending. Talking to the media representatives, he said that according to the High Court orders, our business is completely legal because business is a fundamental human right and according to the laws, the market can work privately. We strongly condemn the statement of the government market president because we all have the license of the government of Pakistan, so prove those who call this business illegal. In fact, they are defaulters of government market and are not even paying rent because of unavailability of facilities. Employment of thousands of people is related to our business, so a third market should also be created in Kohat so that more people can get employment, but unfortunately these people are looking to close the business that is going well, which is a matter of great concern. He also condemned the baseless allegations against the officers of TMA.

Cop embraces martyrdom F.P. Report

D I KHAN: An Elite Force official, who sustained critical injuries in a terrorist attack on Hathala police station in Dera Islamil Khan last night, has embraced martyrdom on Monday. The name of the martyred policeman was Wakilzadah. It is to be noted here that a group of terrorists Sunday attacked Hathala Police Station with grenades and rockets in Dera Ismail Khan. They threw grenades at the police station and fired five rockets damaging the main gate and the surveillance cameras. The police retaliated bravely and made the attackers run away. A crossfire between the police and the terrorists continued for an hour. Two of the policemen were reported to have sustained injuries.

Man kills wife F.P. Report

MANSEHRA: A man shot dead his wife for giving birth to a second daughter in Darnali village in the jurisdiction of Oghi police station in Mansehra, police informed on Monday. According to police, the accused named Shabbir with the help of his brother, Manzoor shot dead his wife Amina Bibi in village Darnali of union council Sher Garh. Police said the accused who was the father of a girl was not happy with the birth of his second daughter.

Mufti Mahmood moot to set direction of politics in KP: JUI

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl district chief Sirajud Din has said that the proposed 'Mufti Mahmood Conference' to be held in Peshawar on October 14 will set directions of future politics in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He stated this while addressing the Mufti Mahmood conference held at the residence of Qazi Ayazud Din in Qaziabad Talash here on Monday.

The JUI-F member provincial executive council Qazi Ayazud Din, district naib emir Maulana Muhammad Huzaifa, tehsil emir Maulana Bakht Sardar, Qazi Roohullah, Qazi Burhanud Din and others also addressed the conference. The speakers paid tribute to late Mufti Mahmood, father of the JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and said that he

was a continuation of the struggle of the Ulema of Deoband who achieved freedom for the Muslims in India. The speakers said that Mufti Mahmood established the government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1973 and introduced the religion Islam as a political system in the country.

The JUI district chief Sirajuddin said the party had finalized its preparations for the success of the Peshawar event and convoys of party workers in vehicles would participate in that conference. He urged the tehsil and union council's organizations to speed up their preparations so that the message of the party could be reached from door to door. He said the Peshawar conference would be a milestone and it would set new directions for politics in the province.

Without naming the PTI,

the JUI-F provincial leader Qazi Ayazuddin said that his party had won the thirteen-year long war against a 'fitna' in the country. He said that the JUI was not against any individual or group but it would strongly resist against every party and individual who wanted to introduce the culture and customs of non-Muslims in Pakistan.

He said that the Muslims gained independence from the British in 1947, but their agents continued to rule over the country for the last 76 years. He said that it was the time to rid Pakistan of the western's agents and get powers from them. He asked the participants to join hands with the JUI-F in strengthening it. He said the JUI-F had become a popular party in the province and it would form the next government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Municipal committee obtains machinery

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Umar Farooq Waraich and Administrator Municipal Committee Hafizabad Imtiaz Ali Baig inaugurated newly purchased cleanliness machinery with special grant of World Bank with the cost of Rs. 300 million to improve hygienic condition of city Hafizabad.

DC Umar Farooq Waraich and Administrator Municipal Committee Imtiaz Ali Baig said on this occasion that under special grant World Bank, 8 newly purchased mini dumpers were handed over to Municipal Committee, on Friday. 5tractors for lifting wastage from the city and a sucker machine for cleaning sewerage lines was also handed over to Municipal Committee. They said that 200 new push carts, 300 containers and an auto mobile workshop van would also be given to MC soon and with provision of new machinery and equipments, not only performance of sanitary staff would

improve but hygienic condition would also be improved in the great extent.

First-ever Marathon Race held: The first-ever Marathon Race was arranged to promote sports and healthy activities to save the youth from social evils as well as to provide recreational opportunities to people especially young generation in the district. More than four km race was started from Gujranwala Road and concluded at Karamullah Chowk. Almost 400 people of different ages participated in the race. The young athlete Usama won the race.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Waraich distributed cash prizes and certificates among 10 toppers of the race. He gave of Rs. 25000/-, Rs.15000/- and Rs. 10000/= to first, second, third position holders respectively. He also distributed five thousand each to 4th to 10th position holders.

Addressing the ceremony, DC lauded efforts of Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain and District Sports Officer

Hafizabad Madam Nabila Cheema for arranging the race. He said that sports department would hold other sports competitions not only to promote sports healthy activities but also to ensure provision of free of cost recreational opportunities to the people.

National disaster day observed: District Administration and Rescue 1122 observed National Disaster Day in commemoration of demised people in earthquake on 8 October 2005 in the country. In this connection, a walk was taken out at district complex led by Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Waraich.

ADCR Imtiaz Ali Baig, District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Engineer Muhammad Adnan Nawaz, teachers, students, rescue employees and other people belongs to different segments of society participated in the walk.

The participants of walk were carrying banners and placards inscribed with preventive measures in case of natural disaster and other accidents.



SHANGLA: People gathered around the site of mishap. - F.P. photo

Pakistan's economic odyssey: Echoes of history and the road ahead

Khalid Mahmood

IN today's fast-paced Pakistan, where we grapple with pressing economic concerns, there's an invaluable resource often overlooked—the wisdom of our economic history. This isn't a dry chronicle of the past; it's a living narrative that holds the key to help us understand and solve the complexities of our current challenges.

As we embark on this journey through Pakistan's economic past, we'll unearth the connections that tie our history to the urgent issues we face today, offering fresh insights and a roadmap for navigating the crossroads of our economic future.

Progress till 1960: Laying the Foundation for Today

Picture a Pakistan in its early years of independence, abuzz with hope and ambition. From a modest GDP of \$0.9 billion in 1947, our nation's economy surged to a robust \$3.8 billion by 1960. Agriculture was our lifeblood, boasting an impressive annual growth rate of 4.5%. Industries flourished, with a

staggering 7.5% average annual growth rate—a symbol of our progress.

What fueled this remarkable growth? It was a potent combination of visionary leadership, foreign aid amounting to \$1.5 billion, and sheer determination. Poverty rates, which had once loomed large at 40%, had been whittled down to a more manageable 30%. This was our golden era, a time when dreams took flight.

Post-1971 War Turbulence: Shaping Our Present

But history is never a straight line. In 1971, the fall of Dhaka altered our destiny. East Pakistan slipped away, taking with it not just territory but valuable resources. Our GDP growth plummeted to a mere 3.4%, inflation soared to a staggering 20%, and the poverty rate surged to 35%. The scars of that war still echo in our economic landscape today.

Political Instability and Short-Term Policies: Stumbling Blocks on Our Path

Pakistan's journey toward economic stability has been beset by chronic political instability. Imagine a nation with

over 22 changes in government since its inception in 1947, where average government tenures barely exceed four years. Military rule has cast its shadow over our history for more than half of the nation's existence.

This political volatility has hindered the implementation of long-term economic policies, leaving investors wary and businesses uncertain. The result? Sluggish economic growth and rising inflation that we struggle with today.

Oil and Gas Exploration: The Unresolved Burden of Import Dependency

Oil and gas exploration is a critical issue that continues to bedevil our economic landscape. Pakistan is endowed with abundant reserves of these precious resources. Yet, the failure to efficiently harness our own energy potential has left us heavily reliant on costly oil imports, straining our foreign exchange reserves.

In the present day, Pakistan remains stuck in a pattern of importing over 80% of its oil, incurring an annual import bill that surpasses \$10 billion. This ongoing import dependency

leaves us vulnerable to the volatile fluctuations of global oil prices, a vulnerability that continues to cast a long shadow over our economic stability.

Mismanagement of Water Resources: A Lingering Crisis

Moving forward, we confront the chronic issue of water resource mismanagement. Pakistan struggles with severe water shortages, a problem that has far-reaching consequences for both our agriculture and energy sectors. The historical neglect in developing and maintaining crucial dams exacerbates this crisis, hindering our economic progress.

Today, Pakistan ranks among the world's most water-stressed countries. Our per capita annual water availability continues to decline, and our agricultural sector, which employs over 40% of our workforce, remains heavily reliant on irrigation. The failure to address this issue has left us grappling with an impending water crisis that looms large on our economic horizon.

Energy Crisis and Expensive Solutions: A Persistent Roadblock

The energy crisis, another

enduring challenge, continues to thwart our economic growth. Frequent power shortages disrupt daily life, hampering our development prospects. Our continued dependence on costly Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Rental Power Plants (RPPs) as short-term solutions drives up energy costs.

In the present day, Pakistan still faces a daunting shortage of over 5,000 megawatts of electricity. Energy imports are on the rise, and the escalating cost of electricity strains both businesses and consumers. This persistent energy crisis remains a significant impediment to our economic progress.

Population Explosion and Brain Drain: Dual Challenges Persist

Pakistan's rapid population growth rate, at 2.4% annually, places immense pressure on our resources and infrastructure. Our status as the world's fifth-fastest-growing population continues to make it increasingly challenging to provide for our citizens adequately.

Simultaneously, the phenomenon of brain drain persists, with an estimated 7 million Pakistanis

residing abroad, depriving our nation of valuable human capital. This ongoing challenge affects our ability to thrive in today's globalized world.

Connecting the Dots: How History Still Shapes Today's Challenges

These challenges are not relics of the past; they persist as haunting specters in our present-day reality. The failure to have a stable political environment, harness our own oil and gas resources, address water resource mismanagement, tackle the energy crisis, and imbalance in spending continue to hold back our economic progress.

As we reflect on Pakistan's economic odyssey, one question lingers: Can we learn from our history? Our journey, marked by past and present challenges, reminds us that history's shadows shape today. It's a call to action, urging us to break free from history's chains. The question endures: Can we rise above persistent challenges or repeat history? The answer lies in our collective resolve to forge a brighter economic future. History teaches us; the choice to learn is ours.



QUETTA: Students taking keen interest in old ticket during a ceremony in connection with World Post Day.

Police recovers 20 days infant Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Police has recovered 20 days of age infant within five days while arresting two kidnapper mother and daughter in the premises of Masri Banda police station, on Monday.

This was claimed Superintendent of Police (SP) investigation Alamzeb Khan while addressing press conference at Nowshera press club and added that Qari Abdullah registered First Information Report against unknown kidnapper women for snatching his son on 4th October.

SP Investigation said that District Police Officer took notice of the kidnapping and deployed teams for recovery of infant. He added that both kidnappers are residents of Masri Banda and close relatives of the complainant. Police had arrested wives of Noor Zaman and Gul Muhammad respectively while started further investigation in this regard.

Admn makes gathering conditional F.P. Report

MARDAN: The district administration has imposed ban on all political and public gatherings without prior permission, invoking Section 144, on Monday.

According to the notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Mardan, all citizens, both private and public, are hereby informed that, considering the current security situation, a ban under Section 144 has been imposed on organizing any political or public gatherings without prior written permission. The notification emphasizes that during this period, citizens are urged to refrain from holding any form of political or public gatherings without obtaining the required permissions from the local administration and the police, to ensure the safety of lives and property. The spokesperson has appealed to the public to cooperate with the district administration and the police to ensure the protection of life and property.

Faryal Aslam

CORRUPTION is one of the huge problems faced by many economies in the world. Nowadays we can see the spread of corruption in many spheres of life. People often compare it with Cancer but in the course of time its effects are massive & devastating.

Usually, when people talk about corruption in public life they imply the term "corruption" in politics, state, government, business, and all other industries. However, more often government offices, counters dealing with the public; have the most evident corruption facts. Many people strive for wealth with the help of bribes. People have grown insatiable appetite for money.

This type of people will do anything to get more

income & such people do everything to get more profit out of nothing. In spite of the constant promises and talks about the importance of the value-based life, the outside show of being influenced by corruption goes on. The police always have been the symbol of law & order. Nevertheless, society encounters many cases where police officers are involved in corruption, although they were supposed to eradicate it. More often working in government offices experience the issue of corruption. Some of them do not do their work appropriately if nobody's pay for their assistance, although they get high salaries for it and do not work just for free. Government is obligated to solve the issue of corruption.

Corruption can't disappear on its own. The specific step should be taken in order to correct the situation i.e.; Compulsory declaration of assets and property of the public office holder should be made, not on regular basis but by surprise. Every law-obedient citizen who loves his/her country should be well aware of the consequences of corruption and realize that not only government institutions must be blamed, but all people who are directly involved in it. Without a doubt, it is the most difficult, challenging, but very demanding and far-fetched task to totally eradicate corruption. The issue of corruption should be dealt with iron hand. Corruption can be eliminated if we all join our efforts together. High Principles and Morality will help to create corruption free atmosphere.



Why are so many Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails?

GAZA CITY (Agencies): In golf carts, vans and on motorbikes, Hamas fighters have taken dozens of Israeli civilians and soldiers back to the Gaza Strip after their attack on Israel. As Israel's fighter jets bomb the Gaza Strip in retaliation against the surprise Hamas assault, the Palestinian group has said that it plans to use the captured Israelis to strike a deal for the release of Palestinians in Israel's prisons.

But just how many Palestinians are currently in Israeli custody? And how many of them are children? Many would argue that all of Gaza is effectively an open-air prison - 2.2 million people blockaded by Israel in a tiny coastal enclave. But the number of Palestinians who have actually spent time in Israeli jails too is of a similar order. Since 1967, when Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, it has arrested an estimated one million Palestinians, the United Nations reported last summer.

One in every five Palestinians has been arrested and charged under the 1,600 military orders that control every aspect of the lives of Palestinians living under the Israeli military occupation. That incarceration rate doubles for Palestinian men - two in every five have been arrested. By comparison, in the United States, the country notorious for the world's largest prison population, one in 200 people is imprisoned. The imprisonment rate among Black Americans is more than three times the overall rate - but even then is a tiny fraction of an average Palestinian's likelihood of spending time in jail. Palestinian Prisoner rights group Addameer has described the Israeli prison system as a "complex of monstrous machinery in form, laws, procedures, and policies...designed to liquidate and kill". Today, the number of Palestinians currently behind Israeli bars is 5,200, including 33 women and 170 children. If tried, Palestinian prisoners are prosecuted in military courts. Two months after Israel occupied Palestinian and Arab territories in the 1967 war, its government issued Military Order 101 which essentially criminalised civic activities under the basis of "hostile propaganda and prohibition of incitement".

The order, which is still in use in the occupied West Bank, outlaws the participation and organisation of protests, printing and distributing political material, waving flags and other political symbols, and any activity that demonstrates sympathy for an organisation deemed illegal under military orders. Three years later, another military

order (378) was issued by the Israeli government. This established military courts, and basically outlawed all forms of Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation as "terrorism". Hundreds of other military orders have been issued and implemented since then to curtail any Palestinian civic and political expression. There are 19 prisons within Israel and one inside the occupied West Bank that hold Palestinian prisoners. Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, it is against international law for an occupying power to transfer an occupied people from the occupied territory. "It is unlawful and cruel and the consequences for the imprisoned person and their loved ones, who are often deprived from seeing them for months, and at times for years on end, can be devastating," Amnesty International has previously said. There are 1,264 Palestinian administrative detainees, which means that they are held indefinitely behind bars without facing trial or any charges. This practice, a remnant of the British Mandate era, can be extended indefinitely based on "secret evidence", meaning that a detainee can spend months if not years in prison without being charged.

While Israel says the procedure allows authorities to hold suspects while continuing to gather evidence, critics and rights groups say the system is widely abused and denies due process. Since the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000, more than 12,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli forces. At least 700 Palestinian children under the age of 18 from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted every year through Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army. Addameer describes the arrest and imprisonment of children as systemic and part of a collective punishment campaign.

The most common charge is throwing stones, which is punishable by a maximum punishment of 20 years. The children are often subjected to physical and psychological torture, according to child rights groups. They are interrogated without the presence of a parent or lawyer, and critics have accused Israel of exploiting their detention to turn them into informants and to extort their families financially by forcing them to pay huge fines. Military Order 1726 states that children can be held in preventative detention for 15 days before an indictment is submitted and that a military court can extend that detention by 10 days each time for a maximum of 40 times.

Egyptian cop kills Israeli tourists

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies): An Egyptian policeman has opened fire on tourists in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, killing at least two Israeli nationals and one Egyptian, according to local media reports. Extra News television channel, which has close ties to Egyptian security agencies, quoted an unidentified security official as saying that another person was wounded in the attack on an Israeli tour group in Pompey's Pillar site in Alexandria.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry identified the wounded as an Israeli who suffered moderate injuries. The ministry said in a statement that Israeli authorities were working with the Egyptian government to bring the Israelis home. The suspected assailant was detained and the site of the attack was cordoned off, according to the Extra News. A video circulating on social media showed at least three ambulances apparently taking the victims to hospitals. Attack came as Israel carried out air raids on the Gaza Strip as it battled Hamas fighters, who killed about 250 Israelis after crossing into Israeli territory. At least 313 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli bombardment on the Gaza Strip, which has been under an Israeli siege for the past 16 years.

Scholz coalition dealt a blow

FRANKFURT (BBC): After key regional elections in Germany conservatives and right-wing populists are celebrating. But the results are a blow for all three parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz' left-wing-led national coalition. The ramifications will be felt across Germany. A quarter of voters were able to go to the polls in regional elections in two of Germany's largest and wealthiest states, Bavaria and Hesse.

In both regions, conservative and right-wing populist parties used the election campaign to bash Olaf Scholz' national government over migration and energy policy. It paid off. In Hesse, according to initial predictions, the conservative incumbent CDU scored 34.5% of the vote, a substantial gain on its solid win last time. The far-right AfD also upped its previous score by a couple of percent to a predicted 18%, which would be the AfD's highest score in a western German state election and put the party in second place. All three parties in Scholz' national coalition have slipped a couple of percentage points, with both the Greens and Olaf Scholz' centre-left SPD at around 15%, and the free-market liberal FDP hovering at 4.9% and may miss the 5% threshold to stay in parliament. In Bavaria the incumbent conservative CSU, who have led the regional government almost continually since 1946, won the most votes. Although with only 36.7%, according to predicted results, it's the party's worst result since 1958. The CSU looks set to stay in power, but will need to stay in coalition with the right-wing populist Freie Wähler (Free Voters). Having scored their best result yet, at a predicted 15%, the insurgent Free Voters will feel emboldened and are already demanding another ministry.

By sea, by land: Desperate refugees still transit Morocco to get to Europe

RABAT (Agencies): The nearly 3,000 people who died in Morocco's earthquake last month have refocused the world's attention upon the kingdom, and a continuing exodus of people from across Africa passing through it to seek new lives in Europe. Asylum seekers launching their journeys from Morocco, unlike those leaving from North African neighbours Tunisia and Libya, have a number of routes they can take to Europe.

More than 25,000 refugees and migrants have left Morocco this year so far - fewer than those leaving Tunisia and Libya but still significant. At least 600, possibly many more, have died trying to make the crossing. Asylum seekers, Moroccans or people transiting through the North African country from West Africa, all risk adding to the mounting death toll that the promise of a new life in the West exacts from the desperate.

Despite the high waves and vicious rocks that await them, thousands of refugees gather at Moroccan coastal cities like Agadir to take a boat to the Canary Islands, a Spanish island chain off the Atlantic coast of Africa. Shipwrecks and sinkings are commonplace. In August, the Canary Islands said they were overwhelmed by refugee arrivals - 2,692 people that month, more than twice as many as in the same period last year. Others look to the calmer, yet better-policed waters of the Mediterranean for passage, with smugglers even resorting to jet skis to ferry their passengers to Gibraltar, which can be seen from Morocco on a clear day.

Between January and June of this year, the NGO Caminando Fronteras said, about 951 people died trying to reach the Canary Islands or the Iberian Peninsula from across North Africa. "It's more of an artisan business there," Carmen Gonzalez Enriquez, senior analyst at Spain's Elcano Royal Institute, told Al Jazeera, comparing Moroccan smuggling to the multimillion-dollar migration operations being carried out by Libya's militias. "We're looking at very small, local networks," she added. "All the routes carry extraordinary risks, but the Atlantic is the worst." A joint committee between Spain, Morocco and the European Union has expressed its regret over every single death. However, despite their best efforts to stop them, refugees still make the perilous journey.

Moreover, NGOs that rescue refugee boats in distress have accused various European authorities of ignoring or stalling emergency responses to the distress calls. In May, a boat with 500 asylum seekers on board was in distress near Malta, but authorities there did not respond



overnight to a report from an NGO with the location of the struggling boat. When the NGO approached the Italian coastguard, they were told that the boat fell in Maltese jurisdiction, a common ploy to avoid rescuing people, NGOs say. In Spain, Caminando speaks of providing the satellite locations of struggling vessels to the border authorities of both Spain and Morocco, only for them to be ignored and the passengers, including women and children, left to drown. "In other words," the NGO's founder, Helena Maleno said, being left to die at sea had become "a strategy to control people on the move".

Passage by sea to Europe can be treacherous and access by land can be just as bad. On June 24 last year, a day still referred to as the Melilla massacre, 37 refugees and migrants were killed in confrontations in Melilla, a Spanish territory within Morocco, according to Amnesty International. Desperate to get to "Europe", they stormed the fences from the Moroccan side and were beaten back by Spanish and Moroccan police. Seventy-six people are still missing, indicating the death toll is far greater. According to Human Rights Watch, no safe and legal routes exist to access Melilla and Ceuta, the other Spanish territory in Morocco. Both have evolved over recent decades from near-borderless territories to fortified cities whose frontiers are patrolled by armed Spanish and Moroccan police. "In the Rif [the Moroccan area that surrounds the Spanish enclaves] irregular migrants get by in fairly poor camps, waiting to be bussed to Melilla or Ceuta and eventually to Europe," Ahlam Chemlali, a specialist in migration and visiting scholar to both Yale and the University of California, told Al Jazeera.

In ragged tents that dot the mountainside around Melilla, refugees and migrants from across West Africa eke out a living in hostile environments

as they wait their turn to risk the border fence. Nevertheless, despite the immense hardship, they show little sign of being deterred by the European Union's attempts to keep them out. In November, American broadcaster NPR reported an active operation in the nearby Moroccan town of Nador to push out the predominantly Black refugees and migrants.

Officials reportedly pressured shopkeepers and hoteliers to refuse to serve the refugees and migrants. But, the report said, they kept arriving, sometimes in ragged or burned clothing, sometimes without shoes. The numbers of refugees and migrants leaving from Morocco for Spain are dwarfed by those transiting Tunisia and Libya heading for Italy. In the same period that Morocco had roughly 25,000 departures, nearly 60,000 left Tunisia alone. This is because the route is so dangerous and, observers say, the factors pushing West Africans to leave have yet to reach the volatility pushing the people transiting Tunisia and Libya, like war-ravaged Sudan.

Certainly, since the Melita massacre, Spain and Morocco have been at pains to cooperate on migration, with Spain hoping to stem the flow of people arriving at its shores seeking new lives in Europe by keeping people in Morocco. Legal pathways to residency have opened up in Morocco since last June's killings in Melilla, but claims the country might be a poster child for European efforts to externalise its migration concerns beyond its own frontiers are likely overstated, according to experts. "Externalisation doesn't work," Chemlali stated. "It never does. Europe might be externalising its migration concerns to Morocco, but it's also externalising the violence and the racism that comes with migration." Neither the Moroccan or Spanish governments had responded to Al Jazeera's requests for comment at the time of publication.

Family's pain as Congo star lies unburied for seven months

LONDON (BBC): The family of legendary Congolese guitarist Lokassa ya Mbongo say they are going through "unbearable pain" and "humiliation" as they wait for government help to bury him almost seven months after his death. Lokassa's body is lying in a morgue in Democratic Republic Congo's capital Kinshasa after being flown back from the US in accordance with his wish to be buried in his home country.

His son André Marie Lokassa told the BBC that the government had promised to help organise a funeral that would be "worthy" of the music star's name, but it had so far failed to do so. A local charity for artists, however, said that disputes within the family had led to the delay. A communication official in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Magloire Paluku, declined to comment when contacted by the BBC, referring queries to the family. Mr Lokassa told the BBC that the family had submitted a budget request of \$75,000

(£61,000) to the government for funeral costs, but it is yet to be approved, leaving the family in limbo. "It is humiliation, if we must call it that," Mr Lokassa said, adding that the delay was causing tension in the family.

With the morgue bill having already passed \$4,000, the family hopes to bury his father by mid-October even if government help is not forthcoming. Mr Lokassa said, "If things continue to drag on, we will be forced to apply plan B," he added. Lokassa ya Mbongo, whose real name is Denis Kasiya Lokassa, died aged 77 after battling diabetes and complications from a mild stroke he suffered in 2020. He was one of DR Congo's best rhythm guitarists, but spent most of his career based in the French capital, Paris, where he led the Soukous Stars band since 1984. He later teamed up with singer Sam Mangwana in Ivory Coast, to form the African All Stars.

The guitarist is remembered for popular compositions such as Bonne Annee,

Kinshasa for burial.

The family was hoping for government help for his funeral, but relatives then buried him on their own because of fears that his body could decompose as it had reportedly been kept in a casket, rather than a morgue drawer, for about 10 days. Sakul was a member of the Kinshasa-based band, Orchestre SosoSoso Trio Madjesi. Other Congolese musicians have also waited for months to be buried after their death. These include composer and saxophonist Kiamuangana Mateta Verckys, who died in October last year and was buried in December and jazz star Lutumba Simaro Masiya, who died in March 2019 and was only laid to rest in May that year. Lokassa's niece Nicole Londala also blamed the government for the delay, saying it had not yet fulfilled its promise to finance the burial. "We initially hoped that the funeral could be organised in five or 10 days. It is painful that since 16 April, we are still waiting for the funeral to take place," Ms Londala told the BBC.

The Soviet spacecraft cemetery in the Pacific

LONDON (BBC): In the middle of the South Pacific, around 2,688km (1,670 miles) from the nearest dry land, is a frigid patch of anonymous ocean - a deadly place of giant, ever-shifting swells, dramatic skies and storm-force winds. "The Southern Ocean is many shades of grey and can have huge waves... it's exciting and a little scary," says Dee Caffari, a record-breaking British sailor and one of few people on the planet to visit this remote place.

In this distant spot, the furthest from any solid ground on Earth, there is little chance of rescue if you get into trouble. The only signs of life are triangular shark fin-like sails just above the water line in the distance - if you happen to visit at the same time as The Ocean Race, an annual round-the-world yachting competition. If not, you're out of luck. The area is not routinely used for any other human activity, such as shipping or fishing - in fact, the nearest humans are often a very different kind of explorer: astronauts aboard the International Space

Station (ISS), who are just 415km (258 miles) away when they pass overhead. This is known as the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, otherwise known as Point Nemo.

To find Point Nemo on a globe, you can simply look for the vast swathe of unbroken blue between New Zealand and southern Chile - it's roughly halfway. For a more exact location, triangulate between an uninhabited atoll, Ducie Island - part of the Pitcairn Islands - in the north, Antarctica's Maher Island in the south, the Chatham Islands in the west and Chile in the east. This is a place of superlatives: the most lonely, isolated and lifeless part of the ocean ... even the seafloor is some 13,000ft (2.5 miles) from the surface. But there is another link between the icy, empty waters of this desolate place and the void of space besides the ISS: it's famous as the centre of a spacecraft cemetery - an expansive, scattered rubbish dump for obsolete items in Earth's orbit. Between 1971 and 2018, global space powers, including

the United States, Russia, Japan and Europe, crashed more than 263 space objects in the uninhabited region of the ocean around Point Nemo. The list includes the Soviet-era Mir space station and six craft from the country's Salyut programme, as well as 140 Russian resupply vehicles, six cargo transfer vehicles launched by Japan, and five from the European Space Agency (Esa). More recently, this oceanic dump is thought to have received part of a SpaceX capsule rocket. And coincidentally, its closest neighbour, the ISS, is expected to splash-land at this remote spot in just eight years. How do spacecraft end up at Point Nemo? What twisted, broken remains are currently lurking in its inky depths? And what might future archaeologists make of it all?

On 23 March 2001, at 8:59am Moscow time, a group of Russian cosmonauts gazed up at the sky on the island of Fiji in the South Pacific, and waited. This was the moment the country's space agency had been preparing for for over a year; but it

was soon over. For a matter of a few seconds, a sequence of golden lights could be seen blazing through the sky, leaving a smoke trail behind them. The spectacle was accompanied by sonic booms - sounds caused by shock waves formed when objects exceed the speed of sound. This was the day the Mir space station "died", ending its 1.9 billion km (1.2 billion miles) voyage around the world. After a series of carefully choreographed burns from its thrusters, all 134 tonnes of the world's first modular space station re-entered Earth's atmosphere. It initially crossed the threshold from outer space over Japan, then continued its fiery path before crashing into the South Pacific Ocean Uninhabited Area (SPOUA), a region 34 times the size of France surrounding Point Nemo. But though unscrupulous online sellers immediately began selling debris from Mir - oddly, while openly admitting it was fake - and rumours continued for years that some had been found... no one has ever retrieved a single scrap.

The entirety of Mir was swallowed up by the Pacific Ocean, where it remains. Any surviving fragments are likely sitting under several kilometres of water. The question is, how much of Mir - and other defunct spacecraft that have made similar journeys - will have survived an incandescent trip through Earth's atmosphere and abrupt ocean landing?

As objects travel back from outer space, they must run the gauntlet of the thin veil of gas molecules that surrounds our planet. hurtling along at around 17,500 mph (28,164km/h), space debris - whether meteorites, asteroids, old spacecraft or those with human passengers - push air out of the way with such force, they break apart its chemical bonds and create an electrically charged plasma. This causes them to "burn up", and in the case of smaller objects, cease to exist - vanishing into vapour before they hit the ground. But this is not what happens with more substantial remains. According to Alice Gorman, associate professor of

space archaeology at Flinders University, Australia, the parts of spacecraft that remain the most intact after re-entry are usually those that have been designed to withstand extremes of heat or pressure in order to serve their original purpose. "Most often, it's the fuel tanks or the rocket boosters that survive because they've got either cryogenic fuels in them [gas propellants that have been cooled and condensed until they are liquid] or they're combusting at really high temperatures, so the fuel tanks have to be really robust to withstand those," says Gorman. These generally represent some of the largest solid objects on board spacecraft or rockets, and they're protected with extra insulation. "So there's a lot of stainless steel, aluminium alloys, titanium alloys..." she says. The insulation is often made from composites of carbon, like carbon fibres, which don't burn when they get hot - even the early versions could withstand temperatures of up to 287C (549F).

The Frontier Post**JALIL AFRIDI**
Managing EditorPrinted and published by Mahmood Afridi at
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,
Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

PAF vision and exercise Indus Shield

PAKISTAN Air Force (PAF) in a magnificent display of international camaraderie and air-power, has recently inaugurated its 14 Nation Multinational Air Exercise, Indus Shield-2023, at Airpower Centre of Excellence of Pakistan Air Force. According to the reports, the air contingent of thirteen friendly nations including Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, China, and Hungary taking part along with Pakistan Air Force in the ongoing multilateral Exercise, which kicked off on Sunday at an operational air base of the PAF. According to the sources, the multi-national Air Exercise Indus Shield-2023 manifests a unique opportunity for the PAF and all other participating air powers to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities to the spotlight, along with deepening mutual understanding to promote interoperability, which has become more crucial and demanding in the modern age.

Pakistan Air Force has always remained at the forefront of the country's defence and displayed an exceptional level of courage, professionalism, and readiness in the hour of need. Although the technological edge is an important factor in achieving any goal, the man using the latest warhead is more important than the technical gadget, which neither operates on its own nor differentiates between friends and foes. PAF Engineers and ground crews are those unsung heroes who keep the PAF fighter jets serviceable and ready for mission around the clock, whereas fighter Pilots are those combatants who expose their lives to risks and defend the airspace of the Country. The current geopolitical developments in South Asia and adjacent regions including the Indo-Pacific and South China Sea, along with an overwhelming war in Ukraine have seriously destabilized global peace and security. Meanwhile, Russia's blatant aggression against its weak neighbour and China's open harassment of Taiwan has caused serious concerns in weak nations. At the same time, those political disputes have raised questions about the ineffectiveness of the United Nations and the impotence of the UN Security Council, which failed to resist the hegemonism of powerful nations and could not maintain peace in different parts of the globe.

Being a security state and facing an all-time high existential threat from its eternal enemy, Pakistan has always put a special focus on its security needs and strengthened its defences against foreign aggressions and the emerging risks posed by domestic and transnational terrorist groups in the past. Historically, PAF has not only maintained a balance of power with its staunch adversary, the Indian Air Force (IAF) by keeping a higher qualitative edge but also played a crucial role in combatting the menace of terrorism through active participation in Operation Reh-e-Nijjat, Khyber- I and II and globally recognised Operation Zarb-e-Azb that wiped out terrorists from Pakistan's soil.

Pakistan has no offensive designs against any nation, therefore, PAF remained focused on defending the country's skies and providing support to the Pakistan Army and Navy in their operations. Historically, the PAF has proved its mettle during the Pak-India wars in 1965 and 1971, while the successful Operation Swift Retort was the excel of the PAF's vision, and professionalism during which PAF jets knocked down the Indian Air crafts in a dogfight over the LoC in Broad daylight in February 2019.

CDA, land for Dollar campaign

THE Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to launch a new state-of-the-art residential scheme only for overseas Pakistanis at Mauza Kuri in the Federal Capital. The new scheme, sprawled across 14,000 kanal of land along Kuri road, will be reserved exclusively for expatriates, and the plots would be marketed and sold to overseas Pakistanis in US dollars, contributing to the country's foreign exchange reserves. As said, the CDA was currently in the process of bidding and appointing a consultant who would steer the whole process including preparation of a feasibility study, designing, development along with overseeing the execution of the multimillion dollar project which will include all essential modern amenities into this lucrative scheme.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) which was primarily constituted by the federal government for the development, organization and maintenance of the federal capital about six decades ago, has now assumed the role of money-generating and dollars-producing entity after full accomplishment of its primary objective. Interestingly, all other relevant state institutions including the state bank, Pakistan Steel Mills, POF Wah, Heavy Industry Taxila and PAC Kamra and other state corporations failed to export their products to generate dearly needed foreign money. The private sector also faces a slowdown due to no availability of electricity and costly production.

The Chairman CDA and his team took prudent initiative to take advantage of the situation and sell government land in this guise as such favorable conditions never exist again.

Ironically, the bureaucracy is well versed with the tact of exploiting weakness of the public and grabbing money during hard times, natural disasters and calamities. Although the country is embattled with the worst economic conditions, those dire situations do not allow the authorities sitting in government entities like CDA, WAPDA, NADRA etc to start bartering national assets to fill their pockets. The CDA has abandoned the majority areas of the federal territory and owes a tiny land of a few posh sectors while the rest of the city portrays scenes of Tribal areas and Southern Punjab. If CDA authorities feel pain for the country and the public they must uphold their primary responsibilities instead of getting into unlawful, dubious and spongy businesses that aim at personal motives instead of service to the nation.

Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



PukToohe@gmail.com

Washington's turmoil plays right into Putin's hands

Frida Ghitis

If you've found this week's spectacle in the US House of Representatives gripping and more than a little baffling, imagine how it looked for the people of Ukraine, whose life-and-death struggle to defend their country from Russia's invasion risks suffering yet another demoralizing and dangerous blow as the result of the Republican Party's mind-boggling infighting.

As is well known by now, a band of far-right GOP legislators removed now-former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday night, days after he prevented them from shutting down the government by reaching a deal with House Democrats to fund operations for 45 days. That late Saturday night agreement left out urgently needed military funding for Ukraine. Ukrainians reacted with anxiety. And that was before McCarthy was dethroned and the Speaker's chair was left empty, with the outlook for support for Ukraine in limbo as the result of almost-incomprehensible political games in Washington.

When asked by CNN staff in Kyiv, Olha Hrubryna, 60, said she's been following events in Capitol Hill. "I think it's awful, because the safety of our people depends on financial support," she said Wednesday. "We will fight to the last, naturally, but (lack of support) means a lot of losses." Volodymyr Kostiak, a Ukrainian serviceman, called it all political games related to the 2024 US elections, telling CNN, "We [Ukrainians] are hostages to this process." Ukrainian news outlets tried to explain this latest crisis for Kyiv at a time when the horizon is starting to look rather grim.

While the Congress tangled itself in MAGA madness, Slovakia, a member of NATO and the European Union, gave first place in parliamentary elections to the populist Pro-Russian candidate Robert Fico, who has vowed not to send "a single bullet" to Ukraine if he's able to form a coalition as prime minister. In the meantime, a top NATO official warned that the arsenal for supporting Ukraine is running low. "The bottom of the barrel is

now visible," said Adm. Rob Bauer of the Royal Dutch Navy, chairman of NATO's Military Committee. Ukrainians have been fighting ferociously to defend their country, and it's hard to imagine that would ever stop. But the odds for victory would shrink if the US withdraws its support. And a loss for Ukraine would

office - to stoke antipathy toward Ukraine, fueling it with questions about the cost of supporting it.

The European Union is trying to calm Kyiv's fears. EU foreign ministers traveled to Kyiv this week, holding their first ever meeting in a third country as a sign of enduring support. The EU's top foreign policy official, Josep

He added, "Fatigue will lead to the fragmentation of the political establishment." Putin is counting on a divided United States, with former President Donald Trump - who declared Putin a "genius" as he moved to annex pieces of Ukraine, and never uttered a negative word about the Russian autocrat while in office - to stoke antipathy toward Ukraine, fueling it with questions about the cost of supporting it.

constitute a defeat for NATO, for the US, and for the democratic world.

A Russian victory would not only empower Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has repeatedly telegraphed his wishes to reconstitute the former Soviet Union, and even larger Russian Empire, it would also embolden other autocracies - like China - to expand their borders by force. However poorly the war has gone for Russia, which expected a swift victory, this new turn of events is playing right into Putin's plans; plans we long suspected but have now been confirmed by his spokesman. The Kremlin's Dmitry Peskov described the scenario: "Fatigue over this conflict," he said, "will grow in various countries, including the US." He added, "Fatigue will lead to the fragmentation of the political establishment."

Putin is counting on a divided United States, with former President Donald Trump - who declared Putin a "genius" as he moved to annex pieces of Ukraine, and never uttered a negative word about the Russian autocrat while in

Borrell, said, "Let's see what will happen in the US, but from our side, we will continue supporting and increasing our support." President Joe Biden has also offered reassurance, but without question there's reason for concern. The political turmoil and growing extremism now infecting the Republican Party could put poison in the pipeline of support.

Europeans, contrary to the claims of demagogues running for president, are spending heavily to support Ukraine. In fact, as a share of GDP, they are contributing more than the US. In some cases much, much more. But the bulk of the military assistance comes from Washington. That's because the United States has by far the world's largest military arsenal. Even so, as the Nobel Prize-winning economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman noted, claims from opponents of aid that the US is spending too much in Ukraine, and that somehow that affects spending on other areas, don't hold up to scrutiny. Total US aid to Ukraine totals less than

one-third of one percent (0.03%) of GDP, and less than 5% of the defense budget. Krugman argues that the real reason the far-right opposes Ukraine aid is because they, the most devoted admirers of Trump, "view the Putin regime's cruelty and repression as admirable features that America should emulate."

I don't know how many Republicans in Congress think the US should emulate Putin. But there's no doubt that America's far-right nationalists do. Just days after Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine, with much of the world aghast at the unfolding invasion, white nationalists held their America First Political Action Conference (AFPAC). Their meeting erupted in a round of applause for the Russian president, with delegates shouting "Putin! Putin!" What happens in Washington in the days, weeks, and months ahead will go a long way in determining the fate of Ukraine and the outcome of the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II. The Ukrainian ambassador in Washington, Oksana Markarova, says she's in contact with potential incoming speakers. "I can only say that we lead a good and constructive dialogue with the vast majority of potential candidates and her teams," she wrote. But some of the potential candidates would spell trouble. A report card of GOP members' votes on Ukraine prepared by Defending Democracies Together, gives Rep. Steve Scalise a score of B, or "Okay." But Rep. Jim Jordan, the firebrand Trump supporter, scores an F, "Very Poor." And he's not alone. He voted against four of five bills supporting Ukraine as it sought to defend itself from a Russian invasion, which is now in its 20th month.

Depending on how it plays out, the outcome of this crisis - and of the mayhem in the GOP - will be felt acutely in Ukraine; it will affect the security of Europe, and could shape America's standing for years to come. Asked if Ukraine would be able to fight without US military support, 37-year-old Olha said, "Of course, we will fight - but it will be many times bloodier."

CNN

There is nothing surprising about Hamas's operation

Somdeep Sen

THE Israeli authorities seem to have been caught off-guard by Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on Saturday. Besides launching rocket fire, the Palestinian faction also sent its fighters from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, where they attacked military targets, briefly took control of some Israeli settlements and took dozens of civilians and soldiers hostage.

Some have called Hamas's attack a "colossal failure" of the Israeli military and intelligence apparatus. Others, mostly diplomats and political leaders from the West and beyond, have labelled it an "unprovoked" "terrorist" act while insisting that Israel has the "right to defend itself". But nothing about this operation is surprising or unprovoked. Neither is it just the result of gaps in Israeli security measures. It is a response that is to be expected from the Palestinian people, who have faced Israeli settler colonial rule and occupation for decades.

International law prohibits states from "any military occupation, however temporary". United Nations General Assembly Resolution 37/43 also reaffirms that people struggling for independence and liberation from colonial rule have the right to do so using "all available means, including armed struggle". In other words, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood is part of the armed Palestinian struggle provoked by the Israeli occupation and colonialism. It is also not surprising that the Palestinian armed factions rely on asymmetric tactics and stealth. That is because they are up against one of the most sophisticated and well-funded armed forces in the world.

That the operation was launched from Gaza is also not surprising. The late Palestinian-American scholar Edward Said once called Gaza the "essential core" of the Palestinian struggle. It is an impoverished, congested place inhabited largely by Palestinian refugees expelled from their homes during the Nakba of 1948. It previously gave birth to the first Intifada and has been hosting the bulk of the Palestinian armed resistance over the past few decades. Gaza has also been under debilitating siege for 16 years, which has taken a heavy toll on its people but has failed to destroy their will to resist. The blockade was imposed after Hamas won the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in 2006, but its Palestinian rival, Fatah, along with Israel and its backers conspired to prevent it from taking power. After several months of fighting, Hamas was able to take full control of Gaza in June 2007, for which Israel and its partners decided to collectively punish the Palestinians living there.

For more than 16 years, the residents of Gaza have had no freedom of movement. They can leave through the Israeli-controlled checkpoints if they have an Israeli work permit or in rare cases if they have been given special permissions by Israel to receive medical treatment in the occupied West Bank for life-threatening conditions. To leave for any other part of the world, they must have a valid visa, which is difficult to obtain by stateless people, and then navigate the Egyptian authorities' arbitrary decisions to close the Rafah border crossing and deny entry to Palestinians. The blockade has brought the economy of Gaza nearly to a

standstill. Today close to half the population is unemployed. Among the young, the unemployment rate is more than 60 percent. The food supply is also limited by the siege. From 2007 to 2010, Israeli authorities kept a calorie count of Palestinians' nutritional needs to narrowly avoid malnutrition while restricting access to food for the people in Gaza. Today, according to the World Food Programme, a significant portion of the population is food insecure. In 2022, 1.84 million people across Palestine - one-third of the population - did not have enough food to eat. Among these people, 1.1 million were considered "severely food insecure", 90 percent of whom lived in Gaza.

The strip also suffers from an energy crisis. The Israeli ban on the entry of fuel into Gaza means that electricity production is severely limited. In 2023, Gaza has had only 13 hours of electricity a day. In 2017 and 2018, this was down to seven hours a day. This has in turn caused severe problems with water provision and sanitation. The constant blackouts have prevented water treatment plants from functioning properly. As a result, untreated sewage simply flows into the Mediterranean Sea. Gaza's aquifers, the main source of its water, are also nearly depleted and contaminated by sea- and wastewater. A significant portion of all reported diseases in Gaza is caused by poor access to safe water.

The blockade has also taken a toll on the strip's medical facilities. Hospitals lack basic supplies, equipment and infrastructure and are unable to handle severe cases or provide proper care for the chronically ill. Then there are the routine Israeli military campaigns. Israel justifies its onslaughts on the enclave by claiming they are in pursuit of Palestinian fighters. Yet it systematically targets civilians and non-military civilian infrastructure like residential buildings, hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, etc, making life in Gaza all the more unbearable. The psychological impact of all of this cannot be understated, especially among the young, who feel a heightened sense of hopelessness and mental distress. As a Palestinian youth in Gaza told me during an interview in 2013: "Every day here is a struggle to stop yourself from losing your mind. You will notice that the youth in Gaza often go to university and then on the side they do internships, volunteer or set up organizations. All this is done to remain occupied mentally and delay the inevitable point when you lose it."

But all these years of tragedy and suffering have not killed the Palestinian spirit of resistance. The formal justification for the operation Hamas gave was the desecration by Israelis of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, and increased settler violence against the Palestinians. But considering how well-planned it looks, it is likely that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood has been in the works from before the recent events in Jerusalem and the West Bank. In fact, what appears to be the largest military response by Palestinians in decades was an inevitable development, an act of resistance and a reaction to the suffering of the people of Gaza under a brutal blockade and occupation. It is part of the Palestinian struggle for freedom, and it solidifies Gaza's place at the heart of it.

Aljazeera

World must help resolve Suda's refugee crisis

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

THE war that erupted in Sudan in April between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces continues to rage with no resolution in sight. This kind of protracted conflict often has long-term consequences, which can be catastrophic and cause an existential crisis not only for the country affected but also for other countries in the region. This is why it is critical for media outlets, scholars, politicians and policy analysts to raise awareness about the severity of the issue.

The armed conflict has caused more than 5 million people from all of Sudan's 18 states to become displaced as they try to flee the violence. According to the latest statistics, more than 4 million people are internally displaced, while more than 1 million have fled the country. The highest concentrations of people leaving their homes are from the following states:

River Nile (15 percent), Northern (11 percent), North Darfur (9 percent) and White Nile (9 percent). But it is also important to point out that, before the current conflict began, Sudan was among the world's top 10 countries in terms of hosting refugees. These people were from countries including Ethiopia, Syria and Eritrea. As a result, not only is the armed conflict forcing Sudanese to leave their homes, but it will most likely also force asylum seekers and refugees from other countries to leave as well. This will make the refugee crisis in the region much more severe. One of the countries to have received a large number of Sudanese refugees is Chad. Other refugee-receiving countries include South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya. Those who make it to one of Sudan's neighboring countries go through a harrowing and difficult journey. World Food Programme Chad

Country Director Pierre Honnorat in July described the situation while speaking to journalists via Zoom from the Zabout refugee camp in Goz Beida. He said: "We can see that they have suffered, many lost family members, and we don't even dare ask them, 'Where are the men?' The answer from the mothers is often that they were killed. So, you just see many women, many children."

In such a large-scale displacement and refugee crisis, women, children and the wounded are among the most vulnerable groups. They need medical attention and basic needs such as food, water and shelter. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, almost 90 percent of the Sudanese arriving in Chad are women and children. And an analysis from August by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification showed that more than 6 million

Sudanese are currently one step away from famine. This means that if the funding to provide basic necessities is not provided by the international community, there could be a humanitarian disaster potentially impacting societies and countries for generations to come. Global assistance in the areas of food, nutrition, primary healthcare, mental health and child health services are critical to prevent deaths, suffering and more cases of infectious diseases and other illnesses. "Every week, children are dying at the nutrition centers; this is a reality. The malnutrition rate for children now is just too high and we need to be extremely quick in prevention to make sure that those who are under what we call moderate to acute malnutrition can urgently get what they need so they don't fall into severe malnutrition," Honnorat said.

In other words, for

Sudanese refugees, fleeing the conflict and making it to a neighboring country does not mean that their problems are over. The countries that Sudanese refugees are fleeing to are struggling with their own socioeconomic crises. For example, although Chad is welcoming Sudanese refugees, many of whom come from Darfur, it has its own multifaceted crisis and financial woes. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world and it was already hosting more than half a million refugees from Sudan before the conflict erupted in April. Most of the Sudanese refugees in Chad are living in refugee camps and host communities. The level of underdevelopment in the country is alarming, which makes the situation much worse. As the US Agency for International Development has pointed out: "Only about 6 percent of the population has access to electricity and only 8 percent has access to basic sanitation. Adult literacy is 22 percent.

Life expectancy is only 53 years. Around three-quarters of all births take place without the attendance of a skilled health professional."

Countries such as Chad and Egypt will likely face more political and economic strain if they are not prepared for this crisis due to the fact that refugees can have a significant impact not only on the economy of the host nation, but also on its social, political and even environmental landscapes. This is why it is critical that the UN, in cooperation with the African Union, assists the Sudanese refugees when it comes to providing nutrition, primary healthcare, mental health and child health services. Helping the host countries that lack the resources to deal with the influx of refugees is also paramount. In summary, it is incumbent on the international community to make it a priority to help the Sudanese refugees and their host nations.

What’s behind the Washington, DC murder spike?

Belén Fernández

THE capital of the United States of America is threatening to reclaim its reputation as the nation's murder capital, as well. According to preliminary data for 2023 from Washington, DC's Metropolitan Police Department, a total of 214 homicides had been committed in the metropolis as of September 29, constituting a 37 percent increase over last year. This is the first time in a quarter-century that Washington's homicide count has exceeded 200 before October.

Victims include 10-year-old Arianna Davis, who received a stray bullet to the head on Mother's Day; 16-year-old Jamal Jones, shot near his high school on September 25; and 31-year-old father of four Nasrat Ahmad Yar, a Lyft driver shot on Capitol Hill in July. Ahmad Yar had fled Afghanistan after serving as a translator for the US armed forces, only to end up a casualty of US gun violence in imperial headquarters itself - a morbid twist, no doubt, on the theme of "bringing the war home". As usual, the bulk of this year's homicides have taken place in Washington's poorer neighbourhoods, which, in keeping with the system of racist classism that passes for democracy in the US, also happen to be the city's Blacker neighbourhoods.

But why the spike in killings in the nation's capital when various other major US cities are experiencing a post-pandemic decline in the homicide rate? Of course, the "tough-on-crime" crowd has its own

convenient explanations for the trend, such as that wishy-washy criminal justice policies in Washington let people get away with murder and that there aren't enough police. Never mind the intermittently homicidal behaviour of the police themselves, like in March when a DC officer fatally shot Black teenager Dalaneo Martin in the back. And as if a militarised police force weren't enough, the likes of Washington, DC Council-member Trayon White have called for the deployment of the National Guard on local streets to deal with the "state of emergency" and veritable "war zone". After all, there is clearly nothing more conducive to a cohesive and harmonious society than making folks feel like enemy combatants in their own land.

Back in 2015, incidentally, the National Guard was unleashed on the streets of nearby Baltimore, Maryland - another traditionally notorious homicide hotspot - to quell protests following the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man whose spine had mysteriously ended up "80 percent severed" while he was in police custody for the crime of "running while Black". An official state of emergency was declared in Baltimore, which just underscored the often inextricable links between "states of emergency" and state violence. Washington, DC, meanwhile, has long been what you might call a "state of emergency" for people of colour. In fact, the US cap-

ital's peculiar status as a non-state - and its corresponding dearth of political representation - is the result of a historical effort to disenfranchise Black Americans. That racial injustice remains so institutionalised at the very epicentre of the US political machine is ultimately only fitting for a nation founded on white supremacy and oppression. In addition, the gentrification that has come to define the Washington, DC area is a sinister form of racism cast as development. And what do you know? As the sociologist Tanya Golash-Boza, author of, Before Gentrification: The Creation of DC's Sacred Wealth Gap, recently commented to me, "DC neighbourhoods that are undergoing gentrification and have high levels of inequality are hotspots for homicides today."

Remark on Washington's previous stint as the country's murder capital in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Golash-Boza attributed the high homicide rates in those years to "disinvestment in Black communities" as well as the "availability of handguns" and the "particularities of the developing market for crack cocaine". As any student of the crack epidemic knows, the powers that be in the US consciously utilised the drug to subjugate Black communities. Golash-Boza went on to stress that the current surge in homicides in Washington would be most effectively addressed via mechanisms to "mitigate the effects of intense inequality" in the city, rather than by

going down the old police-and-prisons route of the 1990s that led to mass incarceration and attendant societal devastation. But old habits die hard, and local progressive criminal justice reforms of recent years are now being rolled back in favour of a more "mano dura" attitude. This is at least a handy way to refocus the blame for violence on individuals who are themselves products of violent contexts rather than on, say, a US arms industry that makes a killing off of killing - and that has turned mass shootings into an unofficial national pastime. The tough-on-crime approach also helpfully distracts from the fact that life for a whole lot of people in the US is about being antagonised at every turn by a government that denies them opportunities and basic rights, from healthcare and education to housing and nutrition. In the end, of course, humans can't all be equal under capitalism - since equality would defeat the whole purpose.

But when you've got a whole lot of people with nothing to lose inhabiting a landscape saturated with firearms, it should be no surprise when a "war zone" results. As Washington, DC remains on track to clock its deadliest year in more than two decades, it is a fitting microcosm of a general state of emergency in the US, where the systemic devotion to racist capitalism trumps the professed right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". And as the bodies continue to pile up, it's time we talked more about whose war this really is.

The strange story of how I became a character in a North Korean novel

Mike Chinoy

THE novel, published in 2018 by a member of the North Korean Writers' Union named Kim Ryong Yon, is called "Thunderclap." The heroine is a fictional Korean American CNN correspondent, Byun Sa-hwang. She is preparing to make a reporting trip to North Korea in 2009 and is wrestling with conflicting emotions. On the one hand, she is desperate to make the trip, as it was "the dying wish left by my father for me to visit the homeland where my ancestors were buried."

And yet, she worries, "Why would [North] Korea, the most formidable enemy of the US, let in someone like me, an American citizen and reporter?" For encouragement, she turns to a fellow CNN correspondent. But the character from whom she draws inspiration is not made up. In fact, this character named "Michael Chinoy" is me - making me one of a very small number of real-life Americans who appear with a speaking part in any North Korean novels. But the fictional me - and the fictional CNN I work for - are depicted in "Thunderclap" in a way designed to show that the network was sympathetic to the North Korean regime - something that was never the case.

I discovered this when I recently received an email from Korea scholar Meredith Shaw, an associate professor affiliated with the University of Tokyo Institute of Social Science, who is writing a book on the treatment of foreigners in North Korean literature. The novel Shaw pointed me to, for which she did the translation, quotes me as saying, "The greatest strength of Korea is its unique political system, in which the leader and people act as one." To the fictional Byun Sa-hyang, CNN was "a little different" from other Western media, not least because, "Michael Chinoy had been on the reporting team [to cover celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK in 1998] and said that the reality of the country had left a good impression." For Sa-hyang, "Michael Chinoy's impression added fuel to my already burning fire, so much so that my heart felt intolerably heavy. I have to go. I must go!"

As a CNN correspondent, I did indeed make 14 trips to North Korea, and three more after I left the network. I also met the late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, grandfather of current dictator Kim Jong Un, three times. Moreover, my CNN camera crew and I were the only Western journalists allowed to visit North Korea to cover the 1998 celebrations. But the language attributed to me in "Thunderclap" is entirely made up. In my live report, which can be seen here, I described North Korean leader Kim Jong Il as being "worshipped like a virtual God" in "a nation where unquestioning loyalty to the supreme leader is drummed in almost literally from birth, where the individual pales into insignificance against the all-pervasive influence of the state." Moreover, although 1998 was the height of the famine that devastated North Korea, I noted that "we were not able to visit the areas of the country worst hit by the food shortages." So what explains this remarkably positive depiction of me and CNN, which stands in sharp contrast to the way other authoritarian systems, such as those of Russia and China, have often demonized the international media? Shaw observes that, somewhat surprisingly, Western media are treated with "something akin to reverence, and foreign journalists are depicted as indefatigable servants of truth." This is especially true in relation to CNN, which has had a long and complicated relationship with North Korea. I first visited Pyongyang in 1989. Three years later, cameraman Mitch Farkas and I were the only foreign journalists allowed to accompany the Rev. Billy Graham, who had long been lobbying to visit and whose wife Ruth had attended a missionary-run school in Pyongyang in the 1930s. Graham, who had asked the North Koreans to give CNN visas, was granted a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, and as

the reporter with him, I met the Great Leader as well.

In the spring of 1994, with tensions over the North's nuclear program rising, I was able to visit again, accompanied by a camera crew and CNN International Editor Eason Jordan. This time it was representatives of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church (the "Moonies") who got us in. Moon himself had visited Pyongyang in 1991, and, in yet another example of Kim Il Sung's apparent soft spot for religious leaders, had established a cordial understanding with Kim. In April 1994, the North Koreans asked the Moonies to organize a goodwill delegation of "international VIPs" to Pyongyang to mark Kim's 82nd birthday. After considerable lobbying, my colleagues and I were given permission to cover the delegation. We were told the decision had been taken personally by the Great Leader's son, Kim Jong Il. That visit included a memorable lunch with Kim Il Sung, in which Eason and I, along with about a dozen other guests, were able to ask him about the nuclear program and other issues, as well as my doing the first ever live TV shot from Pyongyang. Two months later, Jordan and I, along with a camera crew, were the only foreign journalists allowed to cover former President Jimmy Carter's historic trip. During the trip, Carter used a CNN interview conducted at his Pyongyang guest house to successfully pressure the Clinton administration to resume negotiations and abandon consideration of a military strike on the North's nuclear facilities.

This kept the door open to talks that produced the October 1994 Agreed Framework deal, under which Pyongyang agreed to freeze production of its plutonium-based nuclear program, in return for an American promise of better relations and agreement to supply the North with proliferation-resistant light water nuclear reactors. Interestingly, a 1997 North Korean novel called "Eternal Life," written by North Korean Writers' Union members Song Sang Won and Baek Bo Heum, recounts the heroic achievements of Kim Il Sung and has a chapter on the Carter visit, which mentions my colleague Eason Jordan by name. Like me, Jordan is depicted sympathetically, including this highly embroidered account of a chat with Kim while waiting for Carter to arrive: "How are you, Mr. Jordan?" At the sound of his name called by such a booming, hearty voice, Jordan looked up from his equipment and froze, his eyes instantly bulging out. "Ah, Premier!" "Bingo!" Comrade Kim Il Sung stuck out his hand. Jordan rushed over to shake it.

"I've been looking forward to this," Comrade Kim Il Sung added cheerfully. "Have you been well, old friend?" "Fine. And you?" "As you can see, I am the picture of health." Laughing heartily, he continued, "Mr. Jordan, you can't keep coming here only for formal events. You must come again as my personal guest. Bring your wife and kids this fall." Jordan noted in an email that this account "appears based on official records and eavesdropping, while other bits are enlightened speculation and wishful thinking." In fact, less than a month later, Kim Il Sung died of a heart attack. But when we saw him, he certainly looked healthy, and we did have several cordial exchanges.

To Korea scholar Shaw, "the repeated mention of Eason Jordan by name and his warm personal interactions with the Leader indicate that he, like Mike Chinoy, is someone whose reporting did not offend the regime enough to override their gratification at the prestige afforded by CNN's presence."

One of the most fascinating points in analysing these books is that it appears the authors were given access to some official records - perhaps even transcripts of monitored phone calls - on which to base at least part of their narrative. Indeed, in "Eternal Life," there is a purported verbatim transcript, presumably from a tapped phone line, of a call from Carter to Clinton

administration officials. The former president did in fact make several calls on an open line from the presidential guest house in Pyongyang, although whether Carter actually used the language attributed to him or whether the North Koreans made it up remains unknown. There is little information about the writers or how these two novels were vetted or written. Although published more than a quarter century ago, "Eternal Life" only became available on North Korea websites in the past decade. And a digital version of "Thunderclap" only appeared last year. "Thunderclap" author Kim Ryong Yon is credited for other novels featuring North Korea's leaders, and is believed to be a member of an elite organization called the 4.15 Writer's Group (the date refers to Kim Il Sung's birthday). Paek Bo Hum and Song Sang Won are now both in their 80s and have a long literary history, including stories featuring Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Within North Korea, according to Shaw, "Eternal Life" is considered one of the country's most important novels. However they were assembled, the references to me, Jordan, and CNN indicate how eager the North Korean regime has been to show its own people that it is respected and admired around the world. Moreover - and somewhat surprisingly - at least the scenes dealing with us do so in a way that is unusually non-polemical in a system known for its extreme, often comically overblown rhetoric.

Since everything North Koreans are allowed to read is tightly controlled, people there, apart from a few officials, would almost certainly be unaware of the more critical reports which I also filed on my various trips. This is equally true for reports that other CNN correspondents who have visited the country in more recent years, like Will Ripley, also did. Moreover, having portrayed the network sympathetically and as having some kind of special relationship with Kim Il Sung, CNN would be in what one former US North Korea intelligence analyst described as a "sacred spot." That may help explain CNN's unusual access over the years, and the more recent positive literary portrayal. As Shaw notes, what is fascinating is how the North Korean regime, in literature created for domestic readers, "intentionally maintains the fiction that CNN, a major international news organization, is impressed with North Korea," presumably to boost its own public image. Thus, as soon as the character Byun Sa-hyang arrives in Pyongyang, she rushes to file, worrying that otherwise, "American media might start spreading ridiculous slander like a CNN reporter had been detained in North Korea." Her first report shows "the streets of Pyongyang with kindergarten children laughing and playing happily." She also includes an almost poetic description: "The sky in Pyongyang is exceptionally clear and blue. In this sky are flying not fierce hawks, but peaceful doves."

The novel then describes me, having watched her report, sending her a message: "Sa-hyang, do not waver, do not give in. Pyongyang is an impressive city. Let's meet in Beijing when you return. Michael Chinoy." But while "Thunderclap" describes Sa-hyang walking around Pyongyang on her own, without a government guide, as she decides to "see and feel with her own eyes and skin, and tell the reality of North Korea," the actual reality for correspondents, is, of course, almost precisely the opposite. Indeed, on my many trips to North Korea, I was regularly prevented by government minders from leaving my hotel, even for a jog, and there were more than a few occasions when our requests to stop and film were denied. So, as Meredith Shaw observed, "Thunderclap" "takes every single thing people have said about covering North Korea and basically says - it's not true. The scenes of Byun Sa-hyang exploring Pyongyang read like a masterclass in gaslighting against real journalists' recurrent complaints."

Kennedy could have a major impact on US presidential election

Dalia Al-Aqidi

AN unexpected turn of events has captured national attention in the US, just as the political landscape begins to take shape ahead of the 2024 presidential election. A prominent Democratic presidential contender has strongly hinted at the possibility of diverging from the traditional party line and running as a third-party candidate against the incumbent, President Joe Biden.

This surprising revelation raised eyebrows and stirred significant curiosity, not only within Democratic ranks but also among Republicans and independent voters. Many began to question the identity and motives of this candidate. There is a growing eagerness to understand who this individual is, the principles and policies he stands for and, most importantly, how his potential third-party bid might impact the dynamics and eventual outcome of the election. The political arena is rife with speculation and the nation watches with bated breath to see how this unfolds. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a distinguished environmental attorney who carries a legacy as the son of Robert F. Kennedy, a US senator tragically assassinated in 1968, and Ethel Kennedy, a commendable human rights advocate who was honored with a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014 by President Barack Obama. The third of 11 children, he also has the distinction of being former President John F. Kennedy's nephew.

Educationally, Kennedy has an illustrious background, having attended Harvard, furthered his studies at the London School of Economics, obtained his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School and later secured a master's in environmental law from Pace University School of Law. However,

Kennedy has been a notable voice in the anti-vaccine movement. He once suggested that a flu vaccine might have been the origin of his voice disorder. Moreover, during a press event in New York City in July, he claimed that COVID-19 could have been genetically engineered to target specific ethnic groups. Notably, the esteemed Kennedy family, firmly rooted in the Democratic tradition, has given the US a president, three significant presidential contenders and several senators and members of Congress. In an ironic turn of events, a Kennedy seeking the presidency now faces criticism from within Democratic ranks. He has even taken center stage on Capitol Hill as a guest of the rival party.

Despite his growing popularity within the Democratic base, he appears sidelined by the party's leadership. Many within the establishment seem to perceive him as a potential challenge to the status quo rather than a promising candidate for the future. His capacity to tackle intricate policy challenges starkly contrasts perceptions of Biden's approach, which some critics argue lacks innovative and independent thought. This dynamic raises questions about the party's direction and responsiveness to its members' evolving sentiments.

According to a Reuters report, Kennedy boasts a commendable favorability rating, surpassing both Biden and former President Donald Trump. Data from a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in September indicates that 51 percent of those surveyed hold a favorable opinion of Kennedy, in contrast to 45 percent for Biden and 40 percent for Trump. However, when it comes to the race for the Democratic nomination, an

aggregation of data by RealClearPolitics reveals that Biden holds a significant lead, outpacing Kennedy by a substantial 50-point margin. This juxtaposition underscores the complex dynamics between the Democratic Party and the broader electorate. In July, Kennedy shared via X that Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas determined that Secret Service protection for him was "not warranted at this time." He highlighted that this decision followed almost three months of silence in response to his campaign's plea for such protection. This decision seems to overlook the tragic history of the Kennedy family, with both his father and uncle being assassinated. Further emphasizing the need for such protection, an armed individual last month falsely presented himself as a police officer and claimed to be part of Kennedy's security team at a campaign event in Los Angeles.

Denying him security measures presents a potential safety oversight and carries negative political implications. Kennedy has been openly critical of the Biden administration's approach to the southern border, labeling it a "disaster." He has expressed concerns about the "endless floods of migrants" placing "overwhelming" strains on American cities and leading to a "humanitarian crisis of unimaginable proportions." The decision by the 69-year-old politician to change his political stance, which is expected to be announced on Monday, is anticipated to stir unease within Democratic circles. Common political wisdom suggests that a third-party contender could divert crucial votes away from Biden, especially if he faces another election against

Trump. Sources close to the Biden administration suggest there is palpable concern among White House staff. They reportedly believe that introducing an alternative candidate into the mix, alongside Biden and Trump - if he gets his party's nomination - might inadvertently pave a more straightforward pathway to a Republican triumph. The dynamics of such a triangular contest would certainly introduce new challenges and uncertainties to the electoral landscape.

Nevertheless, Kennedy's choice might also similarly influence Trump's chances. Such a decision introduces a level of unpredictability, potentially reshaping the dynamics not only for the Democratic side but also for the Republican contender. The presence of a third formidable candidate could redefine traditional voting patterns and expectations for both major parties. In the forthcoming electoral contest, the route to victory for either Biden or Trump might delicately hang on the decisions of a few thousand voters in pivotal states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and Arizona. In particular, the inclinations of independent voters - those not formally aligned with either of the major parties - promise to play a decisive role in determining the outcome.

Democrats disillusioned with the current administration's leadership, Republicans eager to distance themselves from a return to the Trump years and independent voters weary of the continuous tug of war between the two dominant parties might perceive Kennedy as a refreshing and viable alternative. While a definitive victory might be challenging, his candidacy could undeniably influence the distribution of votes, drawing from both leading contenders' traditional support bases.

Zsombor Peter

ONE year ago Friday, a police officer who was recently fired for drug abuse stormed a nursery in northeast Thailand and proceeded to shoot and stab 36 people to death, including 24 children, before fatally shooting himself. Panya Kamrab's killing spree made for Thailand's worst mass killing by a lone gunman on record. It set off a wave of calls for tougher firearms laws in a country with the highest rate of gun ownership in the region. Then-Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha convened a special meeting of top officials to brainstorm ideas and promised action.

A year later, however, none of the laws and regulations governing who can buy, sell or own a gun in Thailand has changed. "At this moment, [there has been] no ... change in the laws and regulations," Chavanut Janekam, a criminologist at Thailand's Thammasat University and retired 25-year veteran of the police force, told VOA.

"It's the same," he said of the rules for buying and owning a gun. "It's still easy." Gun dealers in Bangkok's Wang Burapha neighborhood, the epicenter of the capital's retail firearms trade, echoed the point. They told VOA the government has been applying existing laws more strictly but has not changed them. "The rules [are] the same because the rules never changed," said Thitorn Bupparamee, president of the Firearms Traders Association of Thailand and a Wang Burapha gun shop owner.

Proposed reforms from the police following last year's tragedy included adding psychological evaluations to

the application process and having gun owners periodically reassessed, and a chance for unlicensed gun owners to turn their weapons in without being prosecuted. The police also announced plans to freeze a "welfare guns" program that allows officers, soldiers and many other government officials to purchase guns at steep discounts. A spokesperson for the government that took office last month following national elections in May confirmed to VOA this week that none of the reforms came to pass but conceded that his own administration has not prioritized gun reform either. Chai Watcharong said that changed Tuesday after another shooting shocked the nation. That afternoon, police say, a 14-year-old boy shot and killed two people and wounded five in one of Bangkok's premier shopping malls with a pistol designed to shoot blanks but which had been modified to fire live rounds.

In the days since, authorities have proposed a raft of reforms, from reclassifying guns that shoot blanks as lethal weapons to an immediate and indefinite freeze on all new gun permits. Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told reporters he would review the country's gun laws for possible amendments but offered no details. Industry experts are skeptical that real, lasting changes are on the way. "The gun business sector is very large in Thailand and there are lots of gun dealers that have close connections to the government or to the Ministry of Interior or to the police and to the military. So, in my opinion, I think it's quite difficult to propose any policy that disrupts the gun business in Thailand," Chavanut said.

That business has given Thailand the highest rate of gun ownership in Southeast Asia, with some 6 million registered firearms in civilian hands in a country of 71 million. GunPolicy.org, a project of the University of Sydney, listed another 4 million unregistered guns in 2017 and 1.2 million in 2021, citing different sources, though both may be vast undercounts. "For most countries like Thailand - similar level of wealth, not an island country - we expect unregistered guns to be two to three times the total number of registered; that would be very common," said Aaron Karp, a senior consultant for the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey. Conservatively, that would mean at least 18 million civilian guns in Thailand, or roughly one for every four people.

Government figures also show gun-related crime surging, from about 24,000 cases in 2018 to over 87,000 last year. Most of the reforms authorities have proposed over the past year have been little more than "window dressing" or miss the root causes, says Michael Picard, a consultant for HALO Trust and Transparency International on the small arms trade. He says real change will take a fundamental shift in thinking. "It's not so much the Thai gun laws that have to change, in the sense of the laws that govern civilian weapons and civilian-owned weapons. It's really internal, it's the institutions themselves that don't really ... want to reform their firearms regulations," he said. Perhaps the best thing the government could do, Picard said, is to scrap the welfare guns program altogether and have the

state supply the security forces with all the weapons they need to do their jobs, as most countries do.

"It's just an easy way for underpaid police officers to make a buck," he said of the program. "They pay 60% of what they normally would if they were just buying a firearm through the legal civilian market, and then they can easily go and sell that online or to whoever and supplement their income." Chavanut agreed that the program has provided freelance gun traders with a back door to the black market. He advised the government to at least rein it in, and to follow through on the idea of demanding a clean bill of mental health from anyone applying for a gun permit. The government has not floated either idea since Tuesday's mall shooting, and Bangkok's firearms dealers are wary of both. They say Thailand needs the welfare guns program to keep its police well-armed, and that any mental health tests would prove flimsy. "Anyone's mental state can change at any time, and they can trick the psychologists," said one shop owner, who asked to remain anonymous. "Give it a try, I guess ... but I'm not sure it would actually work."

They say the laws are as tough as they need to be and that the authorities just must do a better job of catching those trying to get around them. "The law can control only the people who [have] respect for the law and the law cannot control ... the bad guy to have illegal guns; they still can [get] the illegal gun from the black market," the trade association's Thititorn said. "If they have more controls [on] the good guy to buy the gun, then sometimes the good guys don't have the guns to protect themselves."

VOA

Recovery continues unabated: Rupee gains Rs1.03

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed the 23rd consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.03 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs281.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs282.68.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.75 and Rs281.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.60 to close at Rs296.43 against the last day's closing of Rs298.03, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went down by 01 paisa to close at Rs1.88, whereas a decrease of Rs1.78 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs342.95 as compared to the last closing of Rs344.73.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 28 and 29 paisa to close at Rs76.68 and Rs75.08 respectively.

Despite macroeconomic challenges and slow progress of fiscal indicators, there is a glimmer of hope for improvement as the Pakistani rupee showcases remarkable resilience against the US dollar, which experts believe would have a positive impact on national economy.

On September 6, the caretaker government announced launching a massive crackdown against the elements involved in dollar smuggling, hoarding and organized crime cartels, causing loss to the national economy.

By adopting a 'zero-tolerance' stance towards the smuggling and hoarding, Pakistani rupee started gaining against the dollar and since September 5 it witnessed around Rs 25.44 appreciation and Rs281.65 in interbank trading during 23 consecutive recovery sessions, as of October 9.

Official sources told APP that strict action was being taken after the identification of facilitators and patrons of government officials indulged in illegal economic activities.

They said complete lists of the elements involved in illegal economic activities were ready; and accordingly, an extensive crackdown was underway.

The sources said the main reason to initiate and enforce administrative measures against hoarders, black marketers, and dollar smugglers were the constant devaluation of the rupee against the US dollar.

They said the government had ordered to take strict action against unauthorized money changers and other mafias operating in the country. "Major policy reforms are underway. Commodity/currency trading will be changed."

Whereas, the sources said surveillance systems were being upgraded at land, sea and airports, adding "Illegal movement of goods and currency will not be allowed."

On September 5, the rupee against the dollar in the interbank trading was at Rs 307.09 and by October 9 it came down to Rs 281.65, price of the Euro declined to Rs 296.43 from Rs 330.13, British Pound to Rs 342.95 from Rs 385.22, Emirate Dirham to Rs 76.68 from Rs 83.60 and Saudi Riyal to Rs 75.08 from Rs 81.87. Whereas the buying and selling of the dollar in the open market came down from Rs 320.8 to Rs 278.75 and Rs 324 to Rs 281.5 respectively.

Experts believe that all economic indicators would start moving in the right direction once the Pakistani currency got its real worth, strength and stability.

Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar said the foreign exchange reserves position was stable, adding that Exchange Companies Reform and anti-smuggling operations did stabilize the rupee. "This stability came without any bank intervention." She said the measures being taken for the value of currency include strengthening the regulatory rules for exchange companies, along with the ongoing measures for smuggling and hoarding of foreign exchange because no country can allow playing with the currency.

Commerce Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz said one of the causes of depreciation of Pakistani currency was smuggling of transit goods from Afghanistan to Pakistan which had risen from \$4 billion to \$6.7 billion.

He said without any intervention by State Bank of Pakistan, the dollar went down to Rs 280 from Rs 330 due to government measures and crackdown on hundi-hawala set ups.

The appreciation of rupee was also acknowledged internationally as Bloomberg in a recent report said Pakistani currency was set to become the top performer globally in the last month (September). "Many leakages were happening through illegal channels of hawala and hundi trade from the open market," Khurram Schehzad, Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Beta Core Solutions Pvt. Ltd, a financial consultancy in Karachi told Bloomberg.

He said, "The dollar rate reverses everybody including hoarders, exporters who are holding their export proceeds, started selling their dollars.

Meanwhile, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced structural reforms in the Exchange Companies' sector as part of these reforms, following which leading banks remained actively engaged in foreign exchange business for establishing wholly owned Exchange Companies to cater to the legitimate foreign exchange needs of general public.

Talking to APP, General Secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP) Zafar Sultan Paracha confirmed that the crackdown against smugglers and hoarders of dollars had a "highly positive impact."

He mentioned that exchange companies were depositing approximately \$30-40 million to banks on a daily basis.

He pointed out that for the first time; the open market rates were lower than the interbank rates.

Muhammad Suhail, a noted economist observed that the winning streak of the rupee will depend on future economic fundamentals. "In the short run, we may see the PKR strengthening due to ongoing measures taken by the regulators for compliance with laws," he added.

Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid landed in Karachi



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Hyundai Nishat Motor Private (Limited) (HNMP) has organized an exclusive event in the city of Karachi in a bid to provide a closer experience of company's latest SUV masterpiece, the all-new Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid.

After the successful launch event of the Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid SUV in Lahore, last Sunday, the HNMP management decided to equally provide the citizens of the country's biggest cosmopolitan city, Karachi, a chance to get a closer look into the classic high-tech SUV variant.

HNMP Chief Executive Officer Hassan Mansha said "Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid has received an extremely overwhelming response nationwide after the launch and we are pleased to provide the people of Karachi to witness the greatest story never told".

The Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid stands out in the Pakistani market with its hybrid technology, offering fuel efficiency, performance, and reduced emissions. As Pakistan's first AWD 7-seater Hybrid D SUV, it caters to the needs of larger families and environmentally conscious drivers alike.

As a luxury SUV, it provides ample space and a lavish interior, delivering a premium driving experience. Its turbocharged engine ensures dynamic performance and advanced safety features prioritize driver and passenger safety. In summary, the Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid is a groundbreaking hybrid SUV that combines luxury, power, and safety to redefine the driving experience in Pakistan.

The company's vision is to cater to every car segment, and with the introduction of the SANTA FE Hybrid, they aim to capture the SUV market in Pakistan, setting new standards for innovation and luxury.

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

Xiaomi 13T Series Photo Exhibition held

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Xiaomi, a global leader in consumer electronics, hosted an unforgettable evening of visual artistry and celebration at the highly-anticipated Xiaomi 13T Series Photo Exhibition. The event took place at Packages Mall with a repeat performance scheduled, offering attendees multiple opportunities to experience the power of photography and the Masterpiece in Sight: Xiaomi 13T Series smartphones.

The exhibition venue was filled to the brim with an enthusiastic and diverse audience. From photography enthusiasts to smartphone aficionados, the event brought together individuals from all walks of life who share a passion for creativity and innovation. The vibrant atmosphere buzzed with excitement and conversation. Xiaomi created more than 2000 live portraits in true style today.

Masters Behind the Lens: The event featured an impressive lineup of guest photographers, each a master in their own right: Qamar Pervaiz: Qamar Parvez is a pioneer photographer who possess unequalled artistic and aesthetic sense. His admirable photography exhibits the elegance, grace and charm of radiant individuals, thus unveils the concealed beauty. Not many artists enjoy the faculty of illuminating their portraits, which is truly a matchless characteristic of his genius.

Irfan Ahsan: Irfan Ahsan is an award-winning photographer in Pakistan. He runs a studio in Lahore named "Fine Art Weddings by Irfan Ahsan". A colleague of Ahsan was getting married and it was the moment from where he got an opportunity to start his wedding photography journey. "The fleeting nature of life encouraged me to indulge into photography," he says. Ahsan has a team of twenty people working with him for the last three years, full-time. Learning something new every day through YouTube tutorials and books is a part of Ahsan's daily life routine.

Arfa & Usman: We are Usman and Arfa, a couple who shares their passion of photography. We believe that together our versatility in photographic styles adds spark and life to the images, like none other. We enjoy photography because it gives us the opportunity to share in people's most special moments on a regular basis and record them in eternal beauty. We enjoy photography because it has made us fall in love with light and see the world with fresh eyes every single day.

One of the evening's highlights was the live portrait sessions, where guests witnessed the photographers at work, demonstrating the art of capturing captivating portraits using the Xiaomi 13T Series smartphones. The intimate sessions allowed attendees to gain firsthand knowledge and inspiration.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent bloggers, influencers, and media icons, who played a pivotal role in amplifying the event's impact. They interacted with guest photographers, shared live updates, and contributed to the event's social media presence. Their presence added an extra layer of significance to the evening. Media coverage of the Xiaomi 13T Series Photo Exhibition was extensive and far-reaching. Journalists and reporters from leading publications and television networks were on-site to capture the essence of the event. The exhibition received widespread coverage, further solidifying its position as a remarkable cultural and technological milestone.

The Xiaomi 13T Series Photo Exhibition was an evening of inspiration, innovation, and creative exploration. It brought together photography enthusiasts, smartphone users, and art lovers to witness the seamless fusion of technology and creativity.

Xiaomi Corporation is a global leader in consumer electronics and smart manufacturing, committed to making innovative technology accessible to all. With a dedication to delivering high-quality user experiences and operational excellence, Xiaomi continues to innovate and enhance lives worldwide.

Lost & Found

I have lost my original Degree and DMC of Master of science under Roll No. 15237 year 2015 Abrid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. If anyone found please send me on following address. Name: Nafesa D/o Najeab Hussain, Address: District Kurram.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Big Breezy, Ocean Amitie, Huang Shan-16, Mei Lin Wan and Al-Thakira carrying Containers, Steel Coil, Palm oil, Mogas and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal and Gas Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Nave Andromeda and MSC Silvana carrying Mogas and Containers also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Big Breezy, Maersk Phuket, Marietta and Abu Al Abyad left the port today morning, while another General Cargo ship 'Ocean Amitie' is expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 108,668 tonnes, comprising 85,480 tonnes of import cargo and 23,188 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,785 Containers (421 TEUs Imports and 1,364 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them a containers ship MSC Silvana & other containers ship Maersk Boston are expected to take berths at Container Terminal on Monday, 9th October, while four more Container ships, MSC Tampica, Maersk Kensington, MSC Vilda-X and MSC Jemima are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Finance Revenue Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ahmad Rasool Bangash presenting a shield to Deputy Director Communication British

Pakistan Stock Exchange gains 228 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 228.23 points, a positive change of 0.48 per cent on Monday, closing at 47,721.80 points against 47,493.57 points the previous day. A total of 233,661,179 shares valuing Rs.7,076 billion were traded during the day as compared to 246,382,303 shares valuing Rs. 7,184 billion the previous day.

As many as 332 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 150 of them recorded gains and 166 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 16 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 38,535,527 shares at Rs.2.30 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 25,223,744 shares at Rs.1.29 per share and P.I.A.C (A) with 12,363,000 shares at Rs.5.49 per share.

Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.38.95 per share price, closing at Rs.1075.00, whereas the runner-up was Siemens Pak. with a Rs.35.25 rise in its per share price to Rs.705.25.

Mehmood Tex. witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.41.25 per share closing at Rs.508.75, followed by Pak Engineering with a Rs.26.96 decline to close at Rs.333.04.

INP adds: The 24-karat gold price in Pakistan has experienced a slight dip, reaching Rs195,000 per tola. Likewise, those interested in 22-karat gold can now secure it at a rate of Rs178,750 per tola.

For individuals seeking smaller quantities, the rates are equally enticing. Presently, 10 grams of 24-karat gold are priced at Rs167,181, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold can be acquired for Rs153,249.

It is important to note that gold rates in Pakistan can fluctuate multiple times throughout the day in response to global market trends. These rates are sourced from reliable outlets, primarily situated in Karachi and Multan.

However, it is worth mentioning that the official gold rates provided by the All Pakistan Jewelers Association have not been updated since September 12, 2023. For those closely monitoring the gold market, it is advisable to remain vigilant as rates continue to respond to global developments in the world of gold. Rest assured, we are dedicated to keeping our readers well-informed and will provide regular updates on the gold market in Pakistan. Stay tuned for the latest developments in gold prices.

Gas theft crackdown continued: SNGPL

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 42 connections while imposing fine of Rs.09 Lac and 25 under billing cases processed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas and another three on use of compressor.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company launched 01 Fir against gas thieves. The regional team also imposed fine of Rs.0.35M against gas theft.

In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected 02 gas connections on illegal use of gas and imposed fine of Rs.0.07M against gas theft. SNGPL's team in Mardan six connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and amount of Rs0.34 has been booked against gas theft.

In Sialkot, the company disconnected 03 connections on illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.001M booked against under billing. The regional team in Gujranwala 25 under billing cases processed and 01 meter was disconnected on the use of compressor while another 01 on illegal use of gas. The region also imposed fine of Rs.0.164M on gas theft and under billing cases.

The company disconnected 17 connections on illegal use of gas in Islamabad.

In Sahiwal, 04 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas.

Healthx Pakistan, PQFTL join forces to transform Pak's Islamic insurance sector

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Healthx Pakistan, a multinational healthcare management company, is thrilled to announce its partnership with Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), Pakistan's first and largest dedicated Family Takaful Company. This collaboration brings Healthx's innovative "phygital" healthcare management model to PQFTL's 2,000 corporate clients and over 1 million Individual Takaful members, marking a significant milestone in advancing employee well-being and savings for PQFTL and its customers.

Healthx Pakistan's signature Disease Management Program will play a pivotal role in reducing disease burdens among PQFTL's employees and customers. This comprehensive program focuses on proactive care through meticulous disease risk identification and stratification, aiming to fortify the health and resilience of PQFTL's workforce and customers while ensuring cost savings.

As part of this partnership, PQFTL's employees, their families, and customers gain access to state-of-the-art primary healthcare services available 24/7 through Healthx's IVR number or their user-friendly mobile app. Healthx's in-house team of internationally trained medical practitioners, including General Practitioners, Clinical Psychologists, and Nutritionists, will provide continuous monitoring, timely interventions, and robust support to optimize their health outcomes.

Khaqan Sikander, CEO of Healthx Pakistan, emphasized, "Our partnership with Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited marks a vital stride in enhancing the health and financial well-being of their employees and customers. Utilizing data-driven insights and our proactive, "phygital", approach, we aim to empower PQFTL in improving the well-being of their stakeholders while achieving substantial cost efficiencies over time."

Azeem Iqbal Pirani, CEO of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited, echoed the sentiment, stating, "We are truly elated to forge this pivotal partnership with Healthx Pakistan. This collaboration exemplifies our unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled healthcare services to our esteemed clientele, tailored precisely to their individual needs, all from the comfort of their homes. Our unwavering objective remains the provision of service excellence and the utmost convenience for our discerning customers."

Healthx Pakistan is a multinational healthcare management company dedicated to delivering innovative, data-driven, and human-centered healthcare solutions across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

PQFTL is part of Pak-Qatar Group, which stands as Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, offering a range of savings and protection solutions that adhere to the principles of Shariah-compliant finance. With a steadfast commitment to excellence and a strong emphasis on Islamic values, the group encompasses esteemed companies such as Pak-Qatar Investment (Private) Limited (PQIL), Pak-Qatar Family Takaful (PQFTL), Pak-Qatar General Takaful (PQGTL) and Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC).





In brief

Pakistan team lands in Cambodia for FIFA WC 2026 qualifiers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national football team has landed in Cambodia to play match against the hosts on October 12 as part of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers. The green shirts would play their World Cup qualifier match against Cambodia on a home-and-away basis. The team would play an away leg on October 12 while the home leg was scheduled on October 17 here at Jinnah Stadium. After some rest, the national team would train for the game. Pakistan Squad includes Goalkeepers: Usman Ali, Salman ul Haq and Yousaf Butt; Defenders: Mamoon Moosa Khan, Mohibullah, Sohail Khan, Junaid Shah, Ali Khan Niazi, Rao Umar Hayat, Abdullah Iqbal and Easah Suliman; idfielders: Alamgir Ghazi, Ali Uzair, Rajab Ali, Nizamuddin, Harun Hamid and Rahis Nabi; Forwards: Waleed Khan, Mohammad Waheed, Yousef, Fareed Khan, Abdul Samad, Otis Khan, Mo'in Ahmed and Shayak Dost.

National Academy wins Karate C'ship

FAISALABAD (APP): FAISALABAD (APP): The National Youth Karate academy has won the District Karate Championship played under the aegis of District Sports Department and District Karate Association at Sports Complex Dijkot Road. A spokesman of district sports department said here on Monday that National Youth Karate Academy remained on top with 4 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals whereas Youth Karate Academy secured second position with 3 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals. Similarly, World Class Karate Club got third position in this championship by winning 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. District Sports Officer (DSO) Sajid Latif, Patron-in-Chief District Karate Association Mehboob witnessed the final event and distributed medals and certificates among the position holders. Senior Vice President District Karate Association Majid Butt, its Chairman Chaudhry Taveer-ul-Haq, General Secretary Yasir Arfat, Technical Official Taj Rehmani, National Referee Karate Shakeel King and others were also present on the occasion, spokesman added.

Netball Cup kicks off

KARACHI (APP): The PNF Netball Cup 2023 by the Pakistan Netball Federation has started at the National Coaching Center. 48 teams are participating in the 4-day girls and boys event. In the first match, Habib Girls school beat Alpha PECHS by 9-0, second match, City School URC Campus beat Beacon Light by 3-1, third match Trinity Girls School beat City School North Nazimabad by 3-1, in the fourth match, Habib Girls School beat Nasra School Korangi by 12-0, fifth match, Karachi Grammar (W) beat Alpha School PECHS by 4-0, sixth match, Karachi Grammar W Nasira School beat Malir by 4-1, seventh match, Alpha School PECHS beat Nasra School Korangi by 5-0, eighth match, Karachi Grammar beat St Joseph Girls College by 4-3, ninth match The City School PAF beat Alpha College PECHS by 13-1, tenth match, Karachi Grammar (G) defeated Highbrow College by 12-0, eleventh match, Habib School defeated Alpha PECHS by 10-2, twelfth match, draw between Elite Netball IOBM University White by 11-11, while in a thirteenth match, Karachi University defeated IOBM University (Red) by 11-1.



HYDERABAD: Will Young made a steady fifty in 59 balls.

Zainab Abbas not deported, left India for personal reasons: ICC

KARACHI (Web Desk): The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday denied that Pakistani sports presenter Zainab Abbas was deported from India — where she was a part of the World Cup 2023 broadcast team — adding that her exit from the country was due to “personal reasons”. ICC official C. Rajshekhar Rao confirmed the development to Arab News, although some media reports suggested her departure was necessitated by “security concerns”, which arose after a complaint was filed in Delhi last week by a local lawyer, who accused her of posting “derogatory” tweets targeting the Hindu faith in the past.

The complaint was rooted in screenshots of posts made by an account with Abbas’ name in the Twitter handle on micro-blogging site X (formerly

Twitter) in 2014.

Dawn.com could not independently verify the veracity of the tweets attributed to Abbas in the complaint, and has also reached out to her for a comment.

However, another tweet of hers, which was indeed from her official account, was cited in the complaint merely because of its pro-Kashmir content.

According to Indian news website OPIndia, the lawyer named Vineet Jindal had on Oct 4 filed the cyber complaint against Abbas with New Delhi police’s cyber cell.

The complainant had also sought a registration of a first information report (FIR) against the presenter under various sections of the law “for making disparaging remarks about Hinduism and for anti-India statements”, the report added.

In his post on X, the advocate demanded that

the presenter be removed from the list of presenters for the ongoing World Cup, claiming that “anti Bharat people are not welcome in Bharat.”

Two days later, on Oct 7, Vineet shared a redacted version of another letter he sent to Board of Cricket Control of India Secretary Jay Shah. The letter in question contained the recipient’s name and the subject and sought action against the presenter for her alleged anti-India remarks.

Meanwhile, Samaa TV, citing unnamed sources, said that Abbas “categorically denied the allegations” and insisted that she was “unjustly targeted”.

The report also quoted sources close to the presenter as saying that she has been falsely accused and that her past social media activity was “taken out of context” and “unrelated to her work as a presenter”.



HYDERABAD: Shadab Khan and Haris Rauf meet Matthew Hayden at a training session in Hyderabad.

Pakistan eyes another victory in Hyderabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan had a perfect start to their ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023 campaign with a thumping 81-run win over the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium thanks to some outstanding performances.

Pakistan found themselves three down for 38 after being inserted, but a sparkling partnership worth 120 off 114 between Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel, the World Cup debutant, rebuilt the innings before all-rounders Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz put together a 64-run stand for the seventh wicket to lift their side to 286, said a press release.

While Rizwan made 68 off 75, which was his seventh half-century of the year, it was Saud, playing only his seventh ODI, who got the limelight with a 52-ball 68, hitting nine fours and a maximum. The next best score in the innings came from Nawaz, who made 39 off 43, and Shadab scored 32 off 34.

There were initial hiccups in Pakistan’s defence as half-centurions Vikramjit Singh and Bas de Leede added 70 off 76 for

the third wicket, before Haris Rauf’s two wickets in three balls thumped Pakistan’s authority in the contest. Hasan Ali, returning to ODI cricket after a gap of over 15 months, finished with two wickets, and Shaheen Afridi, Iftikhar Ahmed, Nawaz and Shadab picked up a wicket each.

Pakistan managed the net run rate of 1.620 for rolling out the opposition in 41 overs. De Leede, who made 67 off 68, threatened to take the proceedings further deep that could have lowered Pakistan’s net run rate but a Nawaz ripper undid the right-hander in the 34th over.

They play Sri Lanka tomorrow in what will be their final outing in Hyderabad in this tournament, and are eager to leave the city with two wins in two matches. Speaking to PCB Digital ahead of the contest, Nawaz, said, “It is very important to start a big tournament on a positive note and that is what we were looking for.”

“We have played two practice matches here and our tournament opener in Hyderabad. It all, however, boils down to playing good cricket on the day and ex-

cuting your skills perfectly. We are hopeful of carrying the momentum that we have gained by beating the Netherlands and finishing the Hyderabad leg with a win.”

That Pakistan were able to set a defensible score after initial dismissals was because of some brilliant rearguard partnerships in the middle and lower-middle order. While reflecting on those partnerships and Saud’s incredible half-century, Nawaz said, “It was an outstanding partnership between Rizwan and Saud Shakeel considering the circumstances it came in. Saud played some brilliant counterattacking cricket after going in at 40 for three (38 for three) and it gave us a good stand.

“Shadab and I were looking to take the innings deep and the plan was to keep building the partnership till the 45th, 46th over and then finish on an attacking note. Unfortunately, we could not provide that finishing but we were able to get a good total for the team.” After that 27th over by Haris, Pakistan had a tight grip on the match, but de Leede continued to provide resistance.

Saudi Arabia takes second step in bid for 2034 FIFA World Cup

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia on Monday took a significant step in its bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, officially submitting a letter of intent to FIFA, the world soccer governing body, on Monday.

Yasser Al Masehal, the President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), expressed the nation’s determination in a statement, saying, “Last week we announced our ambitions to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, and this official submission continues our journey to make the dreams of our people a reality.”

He further emphasized their commitment to presenting a highly competitive bid that aims to bring the world together through the universal passion for football.

SAFF disclosed that since announcing their intention to bid for the tournament last Wednesday, “over 70 FIFA Member Associations from across different continents have publicly pledged their support for the Kingdom.”

In a related development, FIFA recently designated Morocco, Spain, and Portugal as hosts for the 2030 World Cup, with Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay being granted the honor of hosting the opening matches, commemorating the tournament’s centenary.

Tanveer bags 2nd spot in Indoor Archery League

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Visually impaired Archer Tanveer Ahmed has got 2nd place in the 60x Remote Shoot Indoor Archery League Stage 183 at Belgium.

Tanveer Ahmed got 2nd Place in 60x Remote Shoot Indoor Archery League Stage 183 Belgium on October 8.

Earlier Tanveer Ahmed also participated in the World Archery Para Championship 2023 at Pilsen Czech Republic. Tanveer, hopes to perform best in the upcoming events.

It may be mentioned here that the 39-year-old Tanveer claimed the first-ever silver medal for the country in the last edition of the Championships that was held in Dubai, last year.

“That was my first appearance in the event and I returned home with a silver medal. Now I’m targeting another medal; hopefully, gold this time,” he said, who has low vision and shoots blindfolded.

Tanveer has won several medals in national and international competitions since taking on archery in 2017. Prior to that, he was a blind cricketer and he showcased his talent for 16 years. “I’ve been a cricketer. But it is archery that gave me real recognition.”

The 2022 has been a year of success for him as he earned five international medals, including the first-ever mix team gold medal in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, a silver medal in the 30-metre individual event of VI Archery and a bronze medal in 18-metre individual event of VI Archery in Andorra International Open.

World Cup 2023

New Zealand beat Netherlands by 99 runs

HYDERABAD (AP): Mitchell Santner became the first New Zealand spinner to grab a five-wicket haul at a Cricket World Cup as the Black Caps thumped the Netherlands by 99 runs on Monday to claim their second successive victory in the tournament.

New Zealand didn’t feel the absence of captain Kane Williamson for the second game in a row as it powered to 322-7 on a slow, dry wicket, with top-order batters Will Young (70), stand-in skipper Tom Latham (53) and Rachin Ravindra (51) all shining.

Santner, who also made a quickfire unbeaten 36 off 17 balls, then took 5-59 with his left-arm spin as the Netherlands was bowled out for 223 in 46.3 overs.

It was the Netherlands’ second consecutive defeat after losing its opening game against Pakistan by 81 runs.

“I think we did a great job with the bat, built partnerships and put up a great score,” Latham said. “Any time in the middle is valuable, partnership after partnership allowed us to put good runs on the board. The spinners were outstanding and the big boys did a great job up

front and squeezed them.” New Zealand had already avenged its narrow defeat in the 2019 World Cup final after beating England by nine wickets in Ahmedabad last week. One of the heroes of that win, Devon Conway, and opening partner Young provided a solid stand of 67, but not before the Netherlands had bowled three successive maidens up front.

Conway, who struck an unbeaten 152 against England, holed out at long-on after scoring 32 but Ravindra carried on where he left off in his magnificent unbeaten century against the defending champion. Ravindra and Young complied a 77-run stand before New Zealand tried to switch gears in the latter half of the innings. Young was caught at mid-on after hitting seven fours and two sixes in his 80-ball knock and Ravindra edged left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe down the leg side soon after completing his half century.

Daryl Mitchell, who was dropped on 22, and Latham then put on 53 before the Netherlands hit back in the last powerplay with three quick wickets for 16 runs.

Mitchell was bowled by

fast bowler Paul van Meekeren (2-59) as he deceived the batter with an off-cutter. Spinner Aryan Dutt ended with 2-62 after having Latham stumped and Mark Chapman (4) caught at point.

But Santner provided the Black Caps with a perfect finish by slamming Bas de Leede (1-64) for two consecutive sixes in the last over, which went for 23.

New Zealand then dropped a couple of catches and Santner missed out with two of three run-out chances. The Netherlands, though, never looked threatening in its run-chase.

Vikramjit Singh and Max O’Dowd were tied down by disciplined lengths from Trent Boult and Matt Henry (3-40) in the powerplay. Colin Ackermann (69) made a fighting half century, but the fall of De Leede in the 17th over to a superb juggling catch by Boult on the edge of the boundary at long off took the game further away from the Netherlands. Santner baffled the Netherlands with his variations of pace and, after having O’Dowd trapped leg before wicket in his first spell, he returned to grab four more wickets.

PCB ‘extremely disappointed’ over World Cup visa delays for Pakistani fans, journalists

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Monday it was “extremely disappointed” that Pakistani fans and journalists were facing visa delays for the World Cup tournament in India, urging Islamabad to take up the matter with the Indian government.

When Pakistan captain Babar Azam’s team arrived in Hyderabad last month, they were pleasantly surprised to receive a warm welcome at the airport. However, they have lamented a lack of support from the stands as their fans remain stranded in Pakistan.

Around 60 Pakistani journalists are expected to make the trip for the World Cup. Pakistan had plenty of local support for their World Cup opener against Netherlands in Hyderabad on Friday but no member of their media contingent or fan was present. Cricket has been a victim of a soured political relationship between the neighbors and bitter rivals, who play each other only in multi-team events like the World Cup.

“PCB is extremely disappointed to see that journalists from Pakistan and fans are still facing uncertainty about obtaining an Indian visa to cover Pakistan games in ICC World Cup 2023,” the board said in a statement.

The board said it has again reminded the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about their respective obligations and of the conditions stipulated in the Host agreement to guarantee visas for fans and journalists of participating teams.

The board said PCB Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf met Pakistan Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi to raise his concerns over the issue. The PCB official urged Pakistan’s government to discuss the issue with India’s home ministry via the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the statement added.

Ashraf also took note of Indian media reports about security threats and requested the government

to evaluate players’ security in the country.

“He emphasized that the well-being and safety of the Pakistan squad was of paramount importance,” the PCB statement added.

Visas for the Pakistan team itself were granted barely 48 hours before they left for what is their first tour of India since the T20 World Cup in 2016.

Earlier this week, the ICC told Indian media it was working with the BCCI to ensure visas for Pakistani fans and journalists were issued. “This [visa] is an obligation of our host [BCCI] and they are working hard on it with our full support. Every effort is being made to get this sorted,” an ICC spokesperson told India’s PTI news agency.

Pakistan began their campaign on the field with an easy victory over the Netherlands on Friday. They next take on Sri Lanka in a match between two former champions on Tuesday. On Oct. 14, Pakistan take on arch-rivals India in arguably the most anticipated match of the tournament.

South Africa seek to avoid Rugby World Cup flag, anthem bans

JOHANNESBURG (AFP): South Africa will this week announce plans to defuse a row over non-compliance with anti-doping regulations that could see the rugby team barred from flying their flag in this week-end’s World Cup quarter-final against France, an official told AFP on Monday.

The country looks set to miss a Friday deadline to update its anti-doping legislation.

Lawmakers are still debating the regulation changes demanded by world anti-doping body WADA, and have no hope of passing new legislation before Friday’s deadline.

Missing the deadline would trigger a ban on the world champions’ flying their flag and playing the national anthem for Sunday’s crunch clash in Paris.

One of the few options available to the Springboks to avoid the sanctions would be to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to buy time.

The new WADA code came into effect in 2021, and South Africa and Bermuda are the only countries not to update their regulations, according to the Montreal-based

anti-doping organisation.

A South African sports ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP on Monday that “there will be an announcement early this week concerning our plans”.

“Among possibilities being considered is appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland.”

Another ministry official told South African media that the “government is engaging with WADA in relation to our amendment bill, and we will provide an update in due course.”

“However, there is no way we will be in a situation where our teams will not play under the South African flag.”

If South Africa fails to take action this week, the Springboks could also be banned from wearing the national flag on their jerseys.

“Government failed” It has left SA rugby boss Mark Alexander fuming.

“We have this problem because our government failed to have new legislation promulgated,” he told South African media.

“It is a disgrace. It is an

embarrassment for our country. They were issued notice well in advance.

“This is not a debatable thing. You cannot change things. You just have to put it in your legislation. “We are supposed to conform to WADA requirements. We failed to change our legislation to include the changes”. “Heads should roll,” added Alexander.

In a separate interview, Springboks scrum coach Daan Human insisted the controversy was not affecting the players’ preparations.

“The Springbok players are 100 percent focused on the job, on what needs to be done this week,” said Human. “It does not matter in which colour jersey, or a jersey without a flag on, or even without the national anthem. “I can assure you of one thing -- the players, the coaches and the back-room staff are here to represent South Africa.

“They represent 60 million people back home and they are willing to fight for them.” Were a WADA ban enforced, it would also affect the South African team competing at the Cricket World Cup, which began in India last Thursday.



In brief

Mehfil-e-Milad held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Sarah Naeem, spouse of Pakistan High Commissioner, has organized Mehfil-e-Milad-un-Nabi at Pakistan House to mark the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal and celebrate birthday of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Attended by a diverse gathering of British Pakistani women, the event featured sacred tributes to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), highlighting his virtues of mercy, compassion, and love for humanity, through soul stirring Naat recitals, a press release on Monday said. Begum of the high commissioner, speaking on the occasion, emphasized the significance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi as a time for spiritual reflection, unity, and gratitude. She highlighted the timeless relevance of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) teachings of mutual respect, understanding, and promoting universal values of love, kindness, and empathy. The event also highlighted the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) teachings, exemplifying the principles of tolerance, respect, and fair treatment of minorities, in diverse societies like Pakistan.

IRSA releases 141,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 141,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 74,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.41 feet and was 1322.41 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 41,800 cusecs and 75,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1218.19 feet, which was 168.19 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,600 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 79,800, 71,800, 60,400 and 23,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Rain lashes federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rain of moderate to high intensity lashed the federal capital like other parts of the country Monday afternoon reminding the people to take out woollies and welcome the Winter season. The rain started around 4:00 pm and continued till evening with occasional gaps, decreasing the temperatures while turning the weather cold. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), dry weather is likely to prevail in most parts of the country. However, partly cloudy weather with light rain is expected at isolated places in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and adjoining areas. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was present over upper parts of the country and likely to prevail during the next 12 to 18 hours. During the last 24 hours, dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country and hot in southern parts. However, rain occurred in upper Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. The rainfall recorded during the period was Punjab: Islamabad (Bokra 15mm, Zero point 12, A/P 06, Zolra 02), Noorpur Thal 14, Chakwal 09, Rawalpindi (Shamsabad 07, Chaklala 05, Kacheri 01), Murree, Jhelum 01.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.

SAPM vows to bring foreign investment, support caretaker administration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Investment, Tahir Javed, on Monday, pledged to attract foreign investments in the country and to offer unwavering support to the caretaker administration.

Pakistani-American businessman Muhammad Tahir Javed, based in Texas, is hopeful that Pakistan's immediate challenges will be resolved in the near future, said a news statement. Tahir Javed, has previously held the position of Special Assistant on Investment during his service with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Tahir Javed 57, moved from Tobta Tek Singh, Pakistan, to the United States with just \$500. In his interviews, he recounted how he took on various small jobs when he first

arrived in the U.S. as part of his journey to becoming a successful businessman.

Tahir Javed, the proprietor of the multi-million-dollar American health company Riceland Healthcare, identifies himself as a Pakistani American entrepreneur, investor, business tycoon, and philanthropist on his social media profiles.

Claiming closeness to the Biden administration, Tahir Javed pledges to attract overseas investment to Pakistan and offers full support to the interim administration, believing that Pakistan's short-term issues will be resolved quickly.

Tahir Javed played a significant role in establishing the Pakistan Congress Foundation, which played a crucial part in revitalizing and engaging the

Congressional Pakistan Caucus during the 116th Congress.

During the 2018 US Primary Elections, Muhammad Tahir Javed campaigned to represent Texas District 29 in Congress. His campaign message highlighted his grasp of the district and national challenges, along with his experience and determination to bring about positive change.

He aimed to succeed Democrat Gene Green, who had been the Representative for Texas District 29 since its establishment in 1993. However, he was defeated by the experienced Democratic candidate.

Tahir Javed, once a PTI supporter, has turned into a vocal critic of PTI, labeling it a failed government.

Saqib urges for creating awareness about smog

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Saqib Rafique on Monday said that anti-smog awareness campaign and cleanliness drive launched by RWMC were underway in the city.

Talking to a delegation of Anjuman Tajran Rawalpindi Cantonment and People's Traders cell, he asked the representatives of trade bodies to aware the masses about the hazards of smog, and dengue virus and to motivate them to keep their surroundings clean for the elimination of such fatal virus. Saqib appealed to the delegation to ensure the spraying of water in their respective markets to prevent dust and to use masks and glasses.

Railways earn over Rs 6 million from saloons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 6,340,156 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three and half years. "At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry." The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments." In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (BS-22). Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Federal Government Inspector, and four saloons were allocated for Principal Officers, he added.

Saudi minister assures support to Pakistan's health initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Jalal on Monday assured full support towards new health initiatives in Pakistan.

The Saudi minister made this assurance during a meeting with the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the WHO's Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo today.

Senior officials from the Saudi Ministry of Health were present during the meeting. Bilateral fraternal relations between Pakistan and KSA are based on common faith and aspirations, the minister added.

The Minister of Health Kingdom of Saudi Arabia noted with appreciation that relations with Pakistan in the field of health have touched a new level.

Dr. Nadeem Jan discussed the possibility of mutual collaboration in the vaccine production capacity.

The Saudi Health Minister offered to provide assistance and support in developing vaccine production capacity in Pakistan. Both the ministers agreed to exchange of expertise through a team of health experts to formalize the transfer of technology. Dr. Nadeem Jan expressed gratitude for accommodating Pakistani doctors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He discussed the possibility of exchange of knowledge and expertise especially in the field of nursing and paramedics. The Saudi Health Minister agreed to send a high-level team from Saudi Health Ministry to deliberate on this pro-

posal and formalize an MoU soon.

Dr Nadeem Jan also explained his innovative idea of establishing a "Pharma Park" in Pakistan to manufacture the basic ingredients of medicines.

The Health Minister of Saudi Arabia appreciated the idea and expressed his willingness to support Pakistan in the establishment of the proposed Pharma Park. Dr Nadeem Jan informed the Saudi Minister about the steps for polio eradication in Pakistan.

He highlighted the newly revamped communication strategy and the localized operational hub for stopping the wild poliovirus circulation in high-risk zones.

The Saudi Health Minister lauded the strategy for the eradication of polio from Pakistan. The minister informed that Pakistan is sending a team of doctors and paramedics, with a 30-bed field hospital equipped with all the diagnostic and life-saving emergency interventions to Afghanistan for the provision of health emergency cover to the victims of earthquake in Herat.

The Saudi Health Minister appreciated this gesture and informed that the King Salman Relief Centre is also busy in providing emergency relief to the victims. The minister apprised the Saudi Health Minister of the forthcoming Global Health Security Summit in Pakistan. The Saudi Health Minister appreciated and said that this summit will contribute towards strengthening health security capabilities for better pandemic preparedness and response. The Saudi Health Minister assured of the Saudi government's full support for making this summit a resounding success.

NUST think tank holds roundtable on 'Expanding BRICS and New Alignments'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) Monday organised a high-level roundtable on "Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments." Moderated by Amir Yaqub, Director NIPS, the roundtable witnessed multinational participation consisting of senior diplomats, academics, veteran state officials, think tank experts, scholars and students. Dr Asad Majeed Khan, Pakistan's former Foreign Secretary, delivered the keynote address on the impact of BRICS's expansion on prevailing global geopolitics.

He highlighted that BRICS represents 41% of the world population, 24% of the world GDP, and more than 16% share of the world trade.

He stated that BRICS is both undergoing the process of institutionalisation and strategically expanding its external relations, thereby solidifying its position as a prominent global player.

He underscored that while the case for Pakistan's closer engagement with BRICS is indeed strong, the country could expect

unique challenges in terms of the question of the membership of the global grouping.

In the roundtable's second keynote on the expansion of BRICS and the new alignments, Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, DG NIPS, proposed the concept of "New Geoeconomics."

He argued that the new geoeconomics can be viewed as a global response to the geopolitical upheavals of the last two decades. This response, he said, is based on the efforts of emerging states to resist traditional power politics by means of new forms of connectivity, cooperation, trade partnerships and financial integration.

The Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, Alfredo Leon, highlighted the dynamic nature of the world today and the emergence of new alignments in the global landscape. The Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Danila V. Ganich, said that the BRICS nations prefer cooperation over conflict. He welcomed any potential participation in BRICS, emphasising the significance of collaboration in the contemporary international community.

Jamal Shah inaugurates Second Wildlife Art Exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah, on Monday, inaugurated the Wildlife Art Exhibition at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), highlighting Pakistan's exquisite natural beauty. The two-day exhibition showcases the exceptional skills of two self-taught wildlife artists, Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi.

In his remarks, Jamal Shah highly praised the work of both artists, adding that their stunning artwork aims to showcase the beauty and diversity of the wildlife of Pakistan.

They have a passion for the conservation of nature for which, through their work, they hope to generate awareness and call for collective action, said the minister.

The event marks a significant moment in Pakistan's art scene, showcasing the profound passion for nature and wildlife shared by these gifted artists.

Both Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi have translated their childhood experiences of hunting and trekking with their father into

hyper-realistic paintings. Their dedication to wildlife conservation and their meticulous portrayal of Pakistan's endangered species have earned them recognition, both nationally and internationally. Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi's artworks, rendered in oils and watercolours, encapsulate the essence of freedom from spatial constraints.

Through their brushstrokes, they delicately balance the relationship between humanity and nature, drawing attention to the fragile harmony between the two. The exhibition promises a unique opportunity for art enthusiasts and nature lovers to immerse themselves in the rich biodiversity of Pakistan. The stunning artworks not only captivate the senses but also serve as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for wildlife preservation in the country. The exhibition will remain on display until Sunday, 15th October, offering visitors a week-long chance to appreciate the masterpieces. Director General PNCA Ayub Jamali and artists Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister of National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah addressing a week-long Wildlife Art Exhibition, depicting the living jewels of Pakistan at PNCA.

Task Force takes action against four illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Task Force constituted to take action against illegal housing schemes here on Monday conducted a grand operation and took action in accordance with the law against four illegal housing societies.

The Task Force on the directives of the Divisional Intelligence Committee conducted raids and took action against Zam Zam Villas, Ham Watan, Gulshan-e-Bahar, Bahram Villas in Mouzas Misriot, Pilo and Katarian Rawalpindi and demolished site offices, boundary walls, main gates, electric poles and road infrastructure.

On the directives of the Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chattha, the Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority, the Deputy Commissioner and the City Police Officer are supervising the operations against the rules violators.

The DG RDA Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa said that on the instructions of the Commissioner, grand operations against all illegal societies would continue across

the board to stop the illegal business of unapproved housing schemes.

The DG informed that the administration on the complaints of the citizens had launched a grand operation against illegal housing schemes. Strict actions were being taken against the rules violators, he added. The RDA had advised the citizens not to invest in illegal housing schemes and to check their status on RDA's official website www.rda.gop.pk or visit RDA office to get information.

Earlier, notices were also issued to the owners and sponsors of the illegal housing schemes and directed to stop illegal advertisements, booking of the plots and development work, he added.

The operation team including Ms. Mehwish Naseem, Assistant Director Planning RDA, Hussain Shah, SHO Dhamial Police Station, RDA Scheme/Building Inspectors, District Council Inspector, District Administration Representative along with other team members took part in the operation.

Turkish officials visit Herat

KABUL (Agencies): Jang Onal, the Turkish Chargé d’Affaires in Kabul, and Sinan Ilkhan, the Turkish Consul General in Herat, visited the areas damaged by the recent earthquake in Zindajan district of Herat province. They distributed relief packages to 500 families who were affected by the disaster. The Turkish Embassy in Kabul also announced that it will soon provide another 2,000 aid packages to the earthquake victims in Herat province.

Foreign Minister pledges help

KABUL (Agencies): Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has expressed his deepest condolences to the victims of the recent earthquake in Herat province during a phone call with Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate. According to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdollahian assured that Iran is ready to provide any necessary assistance to earthquake victims.

World reacts to Herat earthquake

KABUL (TOLONews): The earthquake in Herat that reportedly left over 2,400 people dead and over 2,000 others injured has sparked widespread reactions inside Afghanistan as well as abroad.

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake shocked Herat and its neighboring provinces on Saturday. This was followed by a series of aftershocks.

The US Secretary of State said on X that Washington is “carefully tracking the impact of the earthquake” and “our humanitarian partners are responding with urgent aid in support of the people of Afghanistan.”

The Qatari foreign ministry also in a statement expressed “its solidarity” with victims.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that Qatar stands with the vic-

tims of the earthquake and is fully prepared to provide necessary assistance for the recovery from its effects,” the statement reads.

The foreign ministry of Saudi Arabia in a statement expressed “its deepest sympathy and sorrow for the victims of the earthquake.”

The office of the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan said in a statement that the chairman of the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan), Inam Haider Malik, on Sunday chaired a session which was attended by Pakistan’s ambassador in Afghanistan Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani, and representatives from Pakistan’s ministry of foreign affairs and other departments joined the session on the situation of earthquake in western Afghanistan.

“NDMA has arranged to

dispatch relief items which include: food items, medications, tents and blankets,” the statement said. “In addition to these items, Search and Rescue Teams... are ready to be dispatched.”

The UAE’s ministry of foreign affairs also offered its “sincere condolences and solidarity with the Afghan people.”

Hissein Ibrahim Taha, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on social media expressed his condolences. Taha affirmed that the OIC stands in full support of and in solidarity with Afghanistan and its people in this “trying moment.”

The deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, said that the Islamic Emirate will welcome any assistance of any country to the victims.

Death toll from Herat earthquake rise to 2,445

KABUL (Agencies): The spokesperson for the Ministry of Disaster Management reported on Monday that the latest figures indicate 2,445 people have lost their lives due to the earthquake that struck the Zindajan district of Herat on Saturday.

Mullah Janan Sayeq, while expressing his apologies to the public, stated that a typographical error had been made in the previous day’s press conference regarding the number of fatalities and injuries caused by the disaster.

The spokesperson for the State Ministry for Disaster Management emphasized that the count of those who have lost their lives or been injured in this incident is subject to change.

He assured that more information will be provided to the media as new reports are received from the disaster site.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister’s Office has established a joint commission to provide immediate assistance to the victims of the recent earthquake in Herat province. This decision was made during an emergency meeting chaired by Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate.

The commission is led by Mawlawi Sharafuddin Muslim, Deputy Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. It comprises representatives from the State Ministry for Natural Disasters Management, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Public Health. Representatives from the Afghan Red Crescent and the Director of Information and Culture Department of Herat province are also part of this commission.

The commission members have been tasked with traveling to Herat province as soon as possible to arrange medical and other emergency aid for the victims. The Acting Prime Minister has approved a cash aid of one hundred million Afghanis for the victim families in that province. This fund will be utilized by the commission as needed.

Furthermore, the Acting Prime Minister has directed officials from relevant departments to fully cooperate with this commission in assisting the earthquake victims.

Baradar pledges to help private investment

KABUL (TOLONews): The deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, said that the Islamic Emirate will support all traders who seek to invest in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of an air corridor between Kabul and Shanghai, Baradar said that the air corridor will help improve the economic sector in the country.

“We call on all traders and industrial owners to work to expand trade. We urge the traders abroad to bring their investment to Afghanistan,” Baradar said.

This comes as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) said that within the past six months, products worth \$72 million were exported through the air corridor.

“We also had imports of \$62 million,” said Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, a spokesman for the MoIC.

Meanwhile, the officials of the Afghanistan



Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) said that efforts are underway to extend the flights to European countries and the US.

“We will provide assistance through any possible way to the people of Afghanistan. We can export

precious products such as pine nuts, saffron and hing plants through the air corridor,” said Mohammad Younus Momand, acting head of the ACCI.

The traders meanwhile said that the Islamic Emirate needs to provide subsidies to the traders to

export their products through the air corridor.

“90 percent of our pine nuts are being exported to China. We should have a proper path and air corridor. The fees should be fair. We want to compete with the neighbors,” said Shir Ali, a trader.

Nationwide collection of aid donations started



KABUL (TOLONews): The process of collecting aid for the victims of the deadly Herat earthquake has started in various provinces of the country.

These donations include medicine, cash, and blood for the injured.

Residents of Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Helmand, Farah, Khost, Paktia, and Nimroz are asking businessmen in the country to

provide lasting aid to the victims of the earthquake.

“Collect blood from people and deliver it to Herat at the right time,” said Enamullah Samangani, head of the information and culture department in Kandahar.

“Equipped medical teams were sent to Herat province to help the victims of the earthquake in health and various sectors,” said

Mohammad Qasim Riyaz, deputy of the information and culture department in Helmand.

At the same time, the citizens of the country asked domestic and foreign aid organizations to provide immediate assistance to the victims of the earthquake.

“The people of Herat should be helped with cash and non-cash donations, God willing, the donations will be made,” said Mohammad Nabi, a Nemroz resident.

“Today, the youth of Khost province stood up, patrolled the streets, and started a campaign to help these injured people,” said Naqibullah Zaland, a Khost resident.

Rashid Khan Arman, a member of the National cricket team, and Hashmatullah Shahidi, Afghan cricketer and the captain of the Afghanistan national cricket team, expressed their condolences for the victims of the Herat earthquake and announced their assistance to the victims of the event.

IEA’s deputy PM travels to Herat to assess quake-affected areas

HERAT (TOLONews): A high-level Islamic Emirate delegation, under the leadership of deputy prime minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, traveled to Herat province Monday morning to assess the situation following Saturday’s deadly earthquakes.

Baradar was expected to personally tour the earthquake-affected regions.

In addition to delivering immediate relief assistance, he will also issue directives to ensure the fair and accurate distribution of aid collected for the affected people.

The ministry of migration meanwhile said rescue and relief teams from civilian and military depart-

ments and institutions are working to search for and rescue survivors, and to distribute aid.

According to Herat’s Provincial Immigrant Affairs Directorate, rescue operations are being carried out by teams from the directorates of immigrant affairs, disaster management, Red Crescent Society, the provincial authority, 207 Al-Farooq Army Corps and partner institutions. These teams have been deployed to the worst hit areas, where people are still digging for survivors.

A provincial official said that the people and families who have been rescued so far have been moved to

safer areas, including to Herat city.

According to the source, the directorate of refugees in Herat has erected several tents at Ansar Camp to house earthquake victims. So far 124 families have been moved to the camp, 250 blankets and 200 jackets have also been made available to victims, the source said.

Other aid that is trickling in has included bread on Monday morning that was distributed by the Hasas charity organization; the establishment of a mobile health clinic in Camp Ansar and the distribution of cash by the DRC Institute.

The International Organization for Migration

(IOM) has also supplied 121 tents, and 121 packages of kitchen utensils and plastic carpets. The IOM also erected four very large tents, and 25 smaller ones. The Ansari Institute and the local chambers of commerce also stepped in to help with 120 blankets and health packs.

The massive earthquakes on Saturday have left over 2,445 people dead, and more than 2,400 injured. Officials expect the casualty toll to rise.

Zinda Jan, Rabat Sangi and Ghoryan districts in Herat were the worst affected – with at least 20 villages totally destroyed in Saturday’s two 6.3 magnitude quakes.

IOM deploys medical teams to earthquake zone

HERAT (Khaama Press): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has announced that it has dispatched three mobile medical teams to the earthquake-affected region of Zendejan District in Herat Province.

The organization states that many families urgently need support after destroying their homes.

The IOM office in Afghanistan reported on its social media account that four ambulances and several doctors and health counsellors had been stationed at the local hospital in the earthquake-hit area.

On Saturday, a 6.3 mag-

nitude earthquake struck northwestern Afghanistan, with Zendejan District in Herat Province being the quake’s epicentre.

A recent report reveals a devastating death toll of 2,060 people and 900 injuries resulting from a powerful earthquake in Herat. With a magnitude of 6.3, this catastrophic event struck on a Saturday morning, its epicentre located 40 kilometres northwest of Herat city.

The casualty figures continue to rise in the aftermath of the earthquake. The head of Herat Province’s Ministry of Information and Culture, Abdulwahid

Ryan, disclosed that nearly 3,000 people have been affected.

Taliban spokesperson Bilal Karimi reported over 1,000 deaths and numerous injuries.

As confirmed by the Afghan Red Crescent Society, the earthquake has wreaked havoc on 12 villages in Herat province, including Zinda Jan and Ghoryan. Survivors are frustrated with the insufficient relief efforts and urgently call for support to rebuild their lives and communities. Additionally, experts warn of potential aftershocks, highlighting the need for vigilance in western Afghanistan.

Ministry to prioritize victims

HERAT (TOLONews): The Ministry of Economy (MoE) said that addressing the situation of the people affected by the earthquake in Herat is its priority.

Speaking at a gathering held to appeal to aid organizations to address the situation in Herat, acting Minister of Economy Din Mohammad Hanif said that efforts are underway to convince other organizations to aid the people who have been affected.

“We assure the suffering people of Herat that the Islamic Emirate will help), and the Economic Ministry, as well as the participants of this meeting, which include representatives of domestic and foreign organizations,” he said.

The head of the coordinating department of non-government organizations, Abdul Salam Ashrafi, said that victims trapped under the wreckage. “I call on the national and international organizations to provide emergency support such as water, tents, blankets and other assistance to the vulnerable people as soon as possible,” he said.

An envoy of the World Food Program at the gathering, Abdul Rahman, called on the Islamic Emirate to allow women aid workers to deliver the assistance. “We request the Ministry of Economy and officials there to provide assistance. If they have the condition of a male guardian, we will solve this problem, so we can reach to the female vulnerable people,” he said.

The MoE said that many committees have been established to facilitate the assistance to victims in Herat.

Iran dispatches rescue team to help earthquake rescue efforts

KABUL (Agencies): The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) sent rescue teams, relief items and two sniffer dogs to Herat, in Afghanistan, following Saturday’s deadly earthquakes that have left over 2,000 people dead and hundreds injured.

After receiving a request for assistance from the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) sent in a rapid response team with rescue vehicles and related equipment, said Mohsen Zakarian, the head of IRCS in Iran’s Khorasan province.

“The Red Crescent Society of this province prepared 21 rescue forces, 11 operational rescue vehicles, 2 sniffer dogs, and relief items related to accommodation and feeding 500 families and is sending them,” Zakarian told Iranian media.

Save the Children is another organization that has sprung into action to help thousands of families affected by this tragedy. The organization said it is



deploying emergency humanitarian assistance and is coordinating its response with partners, which will include cash distributions for families, baby hygiene and children’s wellbeing kits, and mental health support for children.

Arshad Malik, Country Director for Save the Children in Afghanistan, said: “The scale of the damage is horrific. The numbers affected by this tragedy are truly disturbing

– and those numbers will rise as people are still trapped in the rubble of their homes in Herat. Our thoughts and condolences are with all those who have lost loved ones.

“Thousands of children and families are now without homes, without shelter. They have lost everything. The terror of aftershocks and buildings collapsing has forced families out into the open in Herat.

“This is a crisis on top of

a crisis. Even before this disaster, children were suffering from a devastating lack of food. Donors must provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance. This new emergency requires new funding. Without an urgent injection of money, existing humanitarian programmes will be impacted as already overstretched funding is strained further. The international community cannot turn its backs on children in Herat who need urgent help.”

3,000 Afghan migrants return home from Iran



KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of Migration said Monday that more than 3,000 Afghan migrants returned home on Sunday.

The ministry said 3,061 Afghan immigrants

returned to their homeland from Iran forcibly and voluntarily.

According to the border commander of Islam Qala, those who returned included families and single peo-

ple; 458 of them were identified as needy and vulnerable and were introduced to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and received food and non-food items.

Iran begins identifying, deporting undocumented Afghan migrants

KABUL (Khaama Press): Bahadori Jahromi’s statements were published on the Iranian government’s social media platform X. In his remarks, he highlighted that with each shift in leadership in Afghanistan, there has been a substantial influx of Afghan migrants into neighbouring countries.

He noted that the government has recently intensified the process of identifying and expelling “undocumented foreign nationals.”

Iran and Pakistan, countries with the most Afghan migrants, have announced plans to deport illegal

migrants.

In response to the expulsion of Afghan migrants from neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and Iran, international migration groups, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), have called on them to continue assisting migrants facing potential danger.

They stress the importance of halting forced deportations, citing Afghanistan’s numerous human rights challenges,

particularly for women and girls.

UNHCR and IOM issued a joint statement emphasizing the severe security threats that Afghan returnees may encounter. They urge Pakistan to facilitate Afghans’ voluntary and dignified return without coercion.

United Nations underscores the need for cooperation with Pakistan in establishing a comprehensive and sustainable mechanism for registering Afghan nationals, highlighting the risk of severe human rights violations with forced deportations.

Our past is very rotten, says Chief Justice

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed that parliament passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 — the law seeking to regulate discretionary powers of the country's top judge — with "good intentions".

The CJP's remarks came as the Supreme Court's full court resumed hearing the petitions against the SC law on Monday. The hearing of the case is being broadcast live on state-run PTV. During the hearing, the CJP expressed displeasure after a petitioner cited the US court's verdict as precedent to challenge the amendments in the SC law.

CJP Isa-led full-court bench consists of 15 judges of the Supreme Court including Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali. After hearing Monday's arguments, the CJP adjourned the hearing till 11:30am tomorrow and asked the lawyers to keep their arguments concise.

At the outset of the hearing, the CJP told the petitioners' counsels to conclude their arguments early as the top court wanted to conclude proceedings of the case Monday. "At least cite the decision of the US Supreme Court. Our standards have stooped so low that we are now citing a verdict of a New Jersey court," the

CJP remarked after Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid Zuberi quoted a verdict to defend his objections to the law. "This is not even a decision," CJP Isa added. CJP Isa asked if the parliament could correct a mistake made by the country's top judge.

The CJP directed his question toward the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Abid Zuberi, while he presented his arguments pertaining to one of the pleas Monday on behalf of the association. "If a Supreme Court chief justice made a mistake, can the Parliament correct it or not?" CJP Isa asked.

Responding to the chief justice, Zuberi said he was just coming to Article 184 (3) and agreed that it continues to be misused. The CJP asked Zuberi if Article 184 (3) was used in the right or wrong way in the past, responding to which he said it had been misused and there should be an appeal against it. The chief justice said that the court is hearing the current case under the same article.

"If the Supreme Court expands the scope of Article 184 (3) in cases, it is right, but it is wrong if the Parliament does the same?" CJP Isa asked. Justice Mandokhail asked Zuberi regarding the fundamental rights that were being affected by the law.

Justice Minallah, in the course of the hearing, remarked that the Parliament has the power to expand or restrict the apex court's jurisdiction. "Can Parliament not legislate for fundamental rights?" he asked, addressing the SCBA president. Justice Ahsan remarked that the question in the case is that of authority.

"Tell me, no matter how good the law is, does the Parliament have the power to make rules for the Supreme Court?" he asked Zuberi. In his query,

Justice Minallah asked if the Supreme Court is violating the right to access to justice, can the Parliament not intervene then? "You have failed to argue the admissibility of this case," he said, addressing the SCBA president.

Addressing Zuberi, both CJP Isa and Justice Ahsan delivered back-to-back and contrasting remarks regarding the Parliament's powers. Justice Ahsan said there will be no end to the Parliament's powers, once the door is opened for it to interfere in the Supreme Court's matters.

"The constitution cannot operate like this," he said. The chief justice, on the other hand, said: "Look at the past, one person comes and turns the Parliament into a rubberstamp." He added that all this does not happen in the US. "Our past is very rotten," the CJP said. Justice Hilali, meanwhile, said the door of legislation is being opened with such a clear majority.

"The door is being opened by directly amending the Constitution through simple majority," remarked Justice Akhtar. The CJP asked Zuberi to end his arguments before taking a 20-minute break. After returning to the hearing, lawyer Adnan Khan, who was representing a petitioned named Amir Sadiq, began his arguments, rejecting the Parliament's powers to make SC rules by act.

"The framers of the Constitution deliberately did not give Parliament the power to alter the rules of the Supreme Court," he said. Khan added that through the SC law, the chief justice's office has been made redundant by the Parliament. "The Supreme Court stands on two bases, one is the chief justice and the other is the rest of the judges," he said. "What is the need to call the full court in this case then, only the chief justice would

have heard it," Justice Mandokail remarked.

The CJP, addressing Khan, said the powers given to the chief justice are listed in the Constitution. "Apart from the Supreme Court, where has the chief justice been given sole powers?" he asked the counsel. "The Constitution says that the chief justice himself can form benches without any consultation," Khan replied.

He added that the powers of the CJP will be useless if two judges refuse to form a bench and only want to do chamber work. Justice Minallah asked Khan which of his fundamental rights were being affected by the law. "Parliament has no power to legislate, all fundamental rights are affected by it," he responded, adding that Article 4 of the Constitution pertaining to access to justice was being violated because of it.

The CJP asked Khan if there was any law or Sharia law regarding the lack of right to appeal. "Where in the law or Shariah is it mentioned that the judge's decision will be final? Give me a reference," CJP Isa remarked. "I will submit the reference," Khan said, concluding his arguments. In his argument, Muhammad Shahid Rana, the lawyer and petitioner himself, maintained who would the appeal go to if the 15 judges make a decision.

"If 15 judges will decide, then the appeal will not be [made] here, it will go to Allah," the CJP remarked. The lawyer then said that appeals to the Supreme Court are made under Article 185. "An appeal under Article 185 cannot be made under Article 184," "We will give you the answer to that in the decision," CJP Isa remarked.

He asked if all the decisions made within the scope of Article 184 (3) are correct. "The Supreme Court should

hear cases of public interest, not special interest, under Article 184(3)," the lawyer replied. The CJP then summoned the attorney general to the rostrum. However, he told the SC that the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's (PML-Q) counsel wanted to present his arguments, after which the lawyer Zahid Fakhruddin G Ibrahim took the rostrum.

"The legislative authority related to the Supreme Court comes from Article 142. The Constitution also does not empower the Parliament to legislate for the Supreme Court," he said. He asked the court to look at Article 191 with entries 55, 59 of the Federal Legislative List. Justice Malik asked the counsel if the power to legislate on the rules been given. "There is a difference between Article 188 and Article 191."

"In Article 191, the SC does not have the power to make its own rules, it only recognises the right to make rules," he said. Ibrahim said he wanted to present arguments regarding the right to appeal before the court took a lunch break. "Parliament has the power to legislate on Federal Legislative Entries under Article 142 (2)," the lawyer said, after the hearing resumed.

Article 191 under legislative authority says Supreme Court rules can be changed by law," Justice Shah remarked. Justice Ahsan asked how was the scope of the law expanded by giving the right of appeal and how something can be added to the SC's jurisdiction through legislation.

Justice Mazhar also inquired if the jurisdiction's extension can be read in conjunction with Article 175 clause (4) or not. "Is the appeal a matter of law or is it a fundamental right?" Justice Ahsan asked. "Appeal is a

fundamental right, Islam also grants it and the right should be given," the lawyer said.

Justice Minallah said lawyers have, several times in the past, talked about the SC misusing its powers under Article 184(3). "Can the jurisdiction be extended by an act of the parliament or does it require a constitutional amendment? Can other articles of the Constitution be amended without constitutional amendment?" asked Justice Waheed. The CJP asked Ibrahim what will happen if the parliament abolishes 184 (3) through a constitutional amendment.

The lawyer told the judges to not see the law as an attack on the independence of the judiciary. Justice Ahsan said the "only way to agree to the act is to close one's eyes". "This court should not convey the message that the Constitution and law depend on who the chief justice is," CJP Isa said, adding that the Constitution and law do not depend on the intention of the country's top judge.

"If this is accepted, it will be the destruction of the Constitution and law," he added. The chief justice maintained that he is the "slave of the Constitution". During the hearing, CJP Isa allowed just two lawyers to be present at the rostrum. "A hearing has been ordered in open court on this application. If something sensitive comes up, then in-camera arguments will be held in consultation with lawyers," he said.

Responding to which, advocate Shah Khawar said that the lawyers will assist the court and inform them about reading a certain part of the statement by itself. The PML-Q lawyer completed his arguments, after which PML-Nawaz counsel Salahuddin Ahmed arrived at the rostrum.

ATC confirms PTI's workers BBA in 9th May case Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Peshawar Jahanzeb Shinwari confirmed Bail before Arrest (BBA) of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) six workers including two former provincial minister Kamran Bangash and Taimour Salim Jaghra, on Monday.

PTI's workers including Kamran Bangash, Taimour Salim, former member national assembly Arbab Sher Ali, former members provincial assembly Fazal Elahi, Asif and Peshawar region additional general secretary Irfan Salim BBA pleas confirmed by ATC while ordering to join police investigation in two other cases.

The counsel Syed Sikandar Shah, Inam Yousafzai and Ali Zaman advocates appeared before court while prosecution had submitted record in this regard. They identified flaws in First Information Report (FIR) registered at Khan Razzaq police station. There is no evidence and witness expect the FIR against PTI's workers to be made liable for 9th May vandalism, the counsel argued. They added that PTI's leaders are nominated in the FIR for political victimization.

The counsel argued that PTI workers were legislators and approached courts while can't be abrogator of law. They requested for confirmation of BBA pleas. However, Public prosecutor opposed bail's plea and argued that the petitioners were absconders since 9th May while appeared before court law with long delay. He added that the petitioners had pleaded under 498 which not applicable in the cases and argued for rejections of bail pleas.

Special ATC Peshawar Judge Jahan Zeb Shinwari confirmed BBA pleas of PTI's six workers including two provincial ministers and ordered to appears in other investigation with police. Meanwhile, Special Anti-corruption court Peshawar issued non-bailable arrest warrant of electricity thieves and ordered to produce before court on 25th October.

Anti-corruption court issued non-bailable arrested warrant after absentia of Steel Mill's owners named Khalid Khan and Ghafoor Khan from court proceedings. National Accountability Bureau (NAB) pleaded that petitioners had obtained illegal electricity connection for steel mill located at Jamrud which had caused lost to national exchequers.

Meanwhile, a local court in Karachi granted bail to PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh on Monday in a case about attempting to facilitate an arrested accused from police custody. However, another case — registered with the Mobina Town Police Station in which he has been nominated for torching a police vehicle — is still pending as he awaits bail in the matter.

Cipher case: Imran, Qureshi to be indicted on 17th

E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and former foreign minister and party vice-chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi will be indicted in cipher case on October 17. Copies of the challan were distributed among the lawyers of the accused in the cipher case during the proceedings of the Official Secrets Act special court at Adiala Jail on Monday. Imran Khan and Qureshi were also present in the court.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain declared that the indictment will be announced on October 17 and adjourning the hearing until then. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Navi, defence lawyer Salman Safdar were present in the court when the FIA investigating officer submitted the copies of the callan in the court which were later distributed among the accused.

The court proceedings are being conducted inside

the Adiala Jail due to security reasons. The cipher case is related to "misuse" of alleged contents of a diplomatic cipher, cited by ex-prime minister Imran Khan as proof of an attempt to remove his government. Imran Khan on Monday protested against the treatment meted out to him in Adiala jail during the hearing of the cipher case and asked he be treated like any other prisoner, said his lawyer Salman Safdar.

Talking to the media, Safdar said "The chairman protested that he was provided with a room where it was difficult to live, it is also difficult to move or walk in the cell." Safdar added that he felt that the PTI chief's blood pressure was high during today's hearing. Moreover, the lawyer asked that the trial of the case be conducted in an open court so the public could be aware of it. He added that it was not "right" to hold the trial in jail.

Judge orders to create 60-70ft space for walk

outside Imran's prison cell: Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, special court judge in the cipher case, paid a visit to Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, and checked the cells of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

"I've checked Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi's cells given directions. It was a surprise visit to the cells of Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi," the judge said after visiting the jail. On Imran Khan's complaint about little space for a walk, the judge ordered to make a 60 to 70-foot space for a walk by demolishing the wall outside the PTI chairman's cell.

"Attached bath is also available. The environment is clean," he said. He said that there was a small argument from the lawyers' side during the hearing, adding that Sher Afzal Marwat stopped the PTI chairman from signing the copy of the challan.

IHC issues notices to Bajwa, Faiz E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notices to the FIA, retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and Faiz Hameed over a petition of violating legal bindings. The high court bench also issued notices to journalists, Javed Chaudhry, Shahid Maitla, PEMRA and the Press Association of Pakistan over a petition seeking registration of case in the FIA against Qamar Bajwa, Faiz Hameed and others.

Chief Justice Aamir Farooq issued written court order on petition of a citizen Atif Ali seeking registration of case in the FIA over flouting legal bindings after retirement and misinterpretation of various events. "According to the petitioner he requested to the court for registration of case repeatedly, but no action taken", the court order stated. "Petitioner lawyer sought an order to the FIA for filing a case and action over the matter," court said.

Petitioner stated, "Only for the sake of viewership two articles were written, which negatively influenced the society". "I was surprised to see the articles, how a mafia polluting the society," petition read. "A criminal attitude surfaced in the name of the freedom of expression thus I applied for registration of case," petitioner said. "Different events were interpreted wrongly and in a concocted manner and a negative picture of the institution was presented in articles in the name of journalism to invite the attention," petitioner said. "In context of these incidents, it was a bid to create mistrust between the public and the institutions," petition read. It pleaded to the court to issue directions to the director general of the FIA to register an FIR.

PAF's exercise kicks off E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a magnificent display of international camaraderie and airpower, PAF has proudly inaugurated its14 Nation Multinational Air Exercise, Indus Shield-2023, at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force today. Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmood Ghazi, Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, Pakistan Air Force, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony.

While addressing the exercise participants Air Officer Commanding Central Air Command emphasized on the significance of multi-national air exercises in achieving common objectives in the face of evolving dynamics of air warfare. He commended the efforts of the Air Power Center of Excellence on the organization of the mega exercise, which would augment the existing partnership between the key allies in addition to bolstering interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces.



TORKHAM: Hundreds of Afghan nationals waiting in front of pedestrian terminal for repatriating to Afghanistan.

Solangi for boosting cooperation with Russia

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday underlined the need for boosting cooperation with Russia in various fields including media, drama, films, joint productions and training programmes.

The minister, in a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich, also stressed that a formal invitation would be extended to his Russian counterpart for his visit to Pakistan. During the meeting, cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including media and the modalities regarding the Russian information minister's visit to Pakistan were also discussed. Possible signing of agree-

ments between APP and TAAS News Agency, PTV and Russian Television and Russian Radio and Radio Pakistan during the visit of the Russian Minister also came under discussion during the meeting. Both Solangi and the Russian Ambassador expressed the commitment of the two countries to strengthen relations in various fields including security, economy, education, culture and tourism.

Pakistan valued its relations with Russia and it was desirous to expand cooperation with Moscow in the fields of media, drama, and films, the minister said. They also discussed matters pertaining to organizing a ceremony in Islamabad on the completion of 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Solangi said both countries enjoyed long-standing ties and the business community and people of Pakistan were keen to strengthen the bilateral relation and find ways to achieve common goals. "We are confident that our bilateral relations will continue to grow towards a bright future with the changing global scenario," MurtazaSolangi remarked.

The Russian Ambassador said Pakistan and Russia were cooperating with each other in every sphere of life including the media sector. Russia wanted to cooperate with Pakistan in other spheres of life besides media, said the ambassador. He said that Pakistani television dramas were very popular in Russia.

Absence of DCs a public concern in KP

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In KP, the absence of Deputy Commissioners in several districts has become a pressing issue, causing significant challenges for the public.

It's worth noting that Deputy Commissioners used to sought permissions from the Commissioners of their respective divisions. However, a worrying trend has emerged, wherein many Deputy Commissioners now disregard this practice, seemingly doing as they please without any regard for higher authorities. They often remain absent from their duties without prior approval from Commissioners or the Chief Secretary, leaving their districts without effective leadership and causing considerable disruption in the public services.

This lack of accountability and discipline in the administrative hierarchy has created a vacuum in the decision-making process, leading to delays in addressing public concerns and implementing crucial developmental projects. Citizens are facing difficulties in obtaining essential

administrative services, which were previously streamlined through the Deputy Commissioners' offices.

A noteworthy aspect of this issue is the role of Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADC) and Assistant Commissioners (AC) in district administration. These officials are expected to handle district matters in the absence of Deputy Commissioners. However, the continued absence of Deputy Commissioners raises the pertinent question: what is the need for Deputy Commissioners if ADCs and ACs are expected to manage district affairs independently?

Historically, Deputy Commissioners played a pivotal role in the efficient functioning of districts. They were not only responsible for administrative matters but also acted as a bridge between the government and the public. However, the changing dynamics in the administrative setup have left the public grappling with uncertainties. One of the concerning aspects is the ripple effect of the DCs' absence on the presence of other officials. The Additional Deputy

Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, who are crucial in local governance and public service delivery, are also frequently missing from their duties. This further exacerbates the challenges faced by the public.

Local businesses, educational institutions, and development projects are particularly affected due to the absence of these officials. The lack of oversight has led to delays in approving licenses, resolving land disputes, and implementing educational reforms. Additionally, citizens are finding it increasingly challenging to navigate bureaucratic procedures, hindering their access to essential services. The growing concern among the public calls for urgent attention from the relevant authorities. It is imperative that the government takes proactive measures to ensure the presence of Deputy Commissioners and other key officials in their designated districts. Addressing this issue promptly is crucial for maintaining efficient governance, restoring public trust, and ensuring the seamless delivery of services to the citizens of KP.