

**British HC calls on Bilawal
F.P. Report**

KARACHI: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jean Marriott called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House on Monday. Deputy High Commissioner Sarah Mooney was also present on the occasion of the meeting. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and British diplomats discussed the promotion of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

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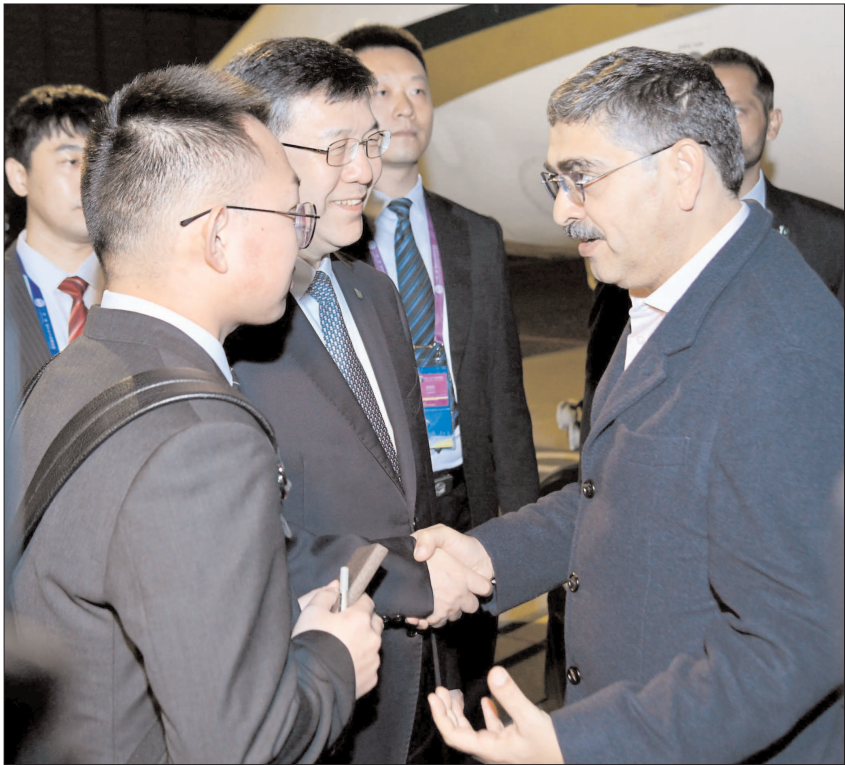
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BEIJING: Mr. Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science & Technology of China receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at airport.

PM arrives in China to attend 3rd BRF

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has arrived in China to participate in the '3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation.' He was received by Chinese Minister of Science & Technology, Wang Zhigang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin-ul-Haq.

The Prime Minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of China's President Xi Jinping. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials. The Prime Minister will attend the Opening Ceremony of the BRF and address the High-Level Forum titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' to be held on 18 October 2023.

The Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Mr. Li Xi, member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of CPC Central Committee. The leaders will discuss all facets of bilateral relations, with particular focus on strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They will exchange views on major regional and global developments. The Prime Minister will also meet with other leaders of countries participating in the BRF.

While in China, the Prime Minister will meet

Kakar asks CMs to cut rates of essential items

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday asked the chief ministers to cut the prices of essential commodities and services, consequent to the substantial reduction in fuel prices.

In a major move, the government has slashed the petrol prices by Rs 40. The prime minister issued the directive at federal and provincial levels, calling for the activation of a strict price control mechanism. "All efforts should be directed towards transferring the benefit of reduction in petroleum prices to the people of Pakistan," he wrote on social media platform, X. The prime minister emphasized the strict implementation of this directive.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for an immediate ceasefire and lifting of the blockade in Gaza. In a tweet on Monday, he expressed Pakistan's complete solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine. Expressing deep concern on the ongoing violence and loss of life in Gaza, the Prime Minister said Israel's deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate targeting of civilians is against all norms of civility and in manifest violation of international law.

with leading Chinese entrepreneurs and preside over an interactive roundtable on CPEC to explore new avenues for strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and China. To further strengthen regional connectivity, trade, investment and people-to-people contacts between the neighbouring regions of Pakistan and China, Prime Minister Kakar will pay a two-day visit to Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. In Urumqi, he will meet with local leadership and business persons and deliver a speech at the Xinjiang University.

The visit of the Prime

Minister comes in the backdrop of ongoing celebrations marking the ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) will be held in Beijing from Tuesday to Wednesday, as the year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Leaders and representatives of countries from around the globe and international organizations have arrived in China, and Beijing is fully prepared for this major home diplomatic event.

Pakistan, Iran, Egypt agree for peace in Gaza

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Jilani Abbas Jilani on Monday telephonically spoke to his counterparts from Iran and Egypt and discussed the crisis in Gaza including the killing of civilians.

The foreign minister, in the conversation with Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian also discussed the large-scale displacement of the Palestinians from their homes. Both sides agreed that urgent steps were needed to prevent conflict from escalating and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

As part of efforts for a coordinated response to ongoing conflict in Gaza, Foreign Minister Jilani also spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri. In the conversation, the stressed preventing conflict from escalating, protecting civilians from collective punishment, starvation and displacement. The foreign minister also assured of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance.

Bench okays plea seeking SC staff details

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has allowed an appeal seeking disclosure of the details of the apex court's staffers under the Right of Access to Information Act.

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, directed the registrar of the Supreme Court to apex court staff members' details to applicant Mukhtar Ahmed within seven days. Justice Minallah authored an additional note on the matter.

The verdict said all citizens are entitled to the right to information under Article 191 of the Constitution. "Transparency brings with it the added benefit of introspection, which benefits institutions by promoting self-accountability. Article 19A stipulates that information be provided subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law. However, there is no law which attends to the Supreme Court in this regard nor has the Supreme Court itself made any regulations. Needless to state that if a law is enacted and/or regulations made, requests for information would be attended to in accordance therewith and in accordance with Article 19A," read the verdict.

The apex court in its verdict on Monday said an applicant seeking details is bound to give reasons for acquiring the information and the informant is bound to review the reasons. "In the present case, there is no reason why the information sought by the petitioner should not be provided, nor can the provision of such information be categorized as being contrary to the public interest. Consequently, the information sought by the petitioner should have been provided to him."

The court also ordered to return of the petitioner's fees submitted for filing an appeal and intra-court appeal. The CJP-led bench also ordered to issue the verdict in Urdu as well. Applicant Mukhtar Ahmad had approached the Supreme Court registrar in connection with details of apex court employees.

The former SC registrar had refused to provide details. The applicant then resorted to the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC). The commission had asked the then registrar of SC to provide details. The former registrar had moved to Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the decision of PIC. The applicant approached the Supreme Court after the IHC gave a decision against him. The Supreme Court had reserved its decision on September 27 after hearing the arguments of the applicant and the attorney general for Pakistan.

The Frontier Post

Any move by Israel to occupy Gaza would be a 'big mistake': Biden

Monitorig Desk

GAZA: Israel and Hamas officials denied the reports that a ceasefire had been implemented in southern Gaza to allow foreigners out of the besieged Palestinian enclave and aid to be brought in amid a deepening crisis. Security sources in Egypt said a deal had been reached to open the Rafah border crossing to allow aid into the enclave from 0600 GMT.

Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq told Reuters that there was no truth to reports about the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt or a temporary ceasefire. More than 2,700 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have lost their lives during Israel-Hamas war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement: "There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out."

In an address to Knesset, Netanyahu urged the world countries to stand against Hamas. Meanwhile, Russia reiterated its appeal for an "immediate ceasefire" in the Israel-Gaza conflict on Monday and urged officials to begin talks to resolve violence. The situation at the Rafah crossing remained unclear. The bombardment of Hamas-ruled Gaza continued overnight, with residents saying it was the heaviest pounding yet in nine days of conflict.

As a humanitarian crisis gripped Gaza, two Egyptian security sources said Israel had agreed to halt its bombardment of southern Gaza. The Egyptian-controlled Rafah border crossing was expected to reopen to allow foreign passport holders to leave, they said. Diplomatic efforts have been intensifying to get aid into the enclave, which has been under complete blockade following the Hamas attack on Israel.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Office has raised alarm over humanitarian situation in the besieged Palestinian enclave, calling for "urgent need" to halt hostilities to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. "There have been very mammoth diplomatic efforts to try to make this happen. The secretary-general is constantly liaising with all the parties that are involved, and many other member states are also exercising what leverage they can. We need the security for the aid deliveries to be able to happen," UNHRO spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told CNN on Monday.

"We have seen hospitals that have been forced to evacuate. Doctors



Germany's Scholz to visit Israel, Egypt this week amid Mideast conflict

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will travel to Israel on Tuesday, the German dpa news agency and other media reported, as Western nations step up their efforts to forestall a dangerous spread of the Middle East conflict. Scholz is scheduled to depart for Israel following his meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah in Berlin on Tuesday, dpa reported, and would then travel onwards to Egypt. A government spokesperson declined to comment on the reported travel plans.

"This is really a sign of solidarity," Ron Prosor, Israel's ambassador to Germany, told German TV channel Welt. "He is the first prime minister to visit Israel (since the Hamas-Israel war erupted) and we see that as incredibly important." The German government has rallied around Israel since at least 1,300 people were killed and dozens taken hostage in an unprecedented, mass cross-border infiltration by Hamas militants into Israeli towns and villages near Gaza on Oct. 7. Israel has responded with its heaviest ever bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which Hamas authorities say have killed at least 2,750 people, in preparation for an expected ground invasion. Israel's relentless air strikes have complicated diplomatic efforts to allow foreign passport holders to leave the besieged, densely populated enclave while allowing in aid for Gaza via the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. Heightening international fears of the conflict expanding, Lebanon's Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, has been exchanging fire with Israel across the border for days in the deadliest escalation since they fought a major war in 2006.

insisting that they will stay with patients who are in the ICU wards and the neonatal units, where you had the impossible choice of whether to abandon your patients or to stay with them and risk death. The access to water, access to food, the forced evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people into southern Gaza has created a very, very difficult humanitarian situation in southern Gaza as well," Shamdasani said. She said there is a significant amount of aid waiting at the border

to get in.

As Israel is preparing for the Gaza invasion, US President Joe Biden has warned Israel against the occupation of the Palestinian territory, saying the ground assault would be "a big mistake". Massing thousands of troops and heavy weaponry in the desert south of the country, the Israeli military has said it is awaiting the "political" green light to go into northern Gaza.

(Continued on Back Page)

IHC rules Imran's trial will be held in jail

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ruled that the trial of PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan will be held in prison, disposing of the plea against his cipher case trial inside the jail. Pronouncing the verdict on Monday, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq wrapped up the case with directions stating that the jail trial is in favour of the PTI chairman, as he himself had talked about threats to his life.

The decision further stated that the court did not find any malice in the matter of the jail trial. The PTI chief can approach the trial court if he has reservations about the jail trial, the verdict said. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the judgment on the former premier's plea on September 12. The PTI chairman had challenged the notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice that allowed the holding of cipher case trial in jail. Presenting his arguments during today's hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa said that former prime minister and PTI chairman was the Chief Executive of this country and his oath gives authority to the Chief Executive in such a situation.

The Chief Justice inquired of Khosa whether there is a law to declassify documents in Pakistan like America? Khosa said that this cipher was declassified by the federal cabinet, Liaquat Ali Khan was killed in this country while what happened to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto is also in front of you. He said that the cipher was sent to the Foreign Office by Asad Majeed. US official Donald Lu threatened to oust the country's prime minister.

It has been established this was an interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, he added. Then Khosa read the Prime Minister's affidavit before the court which says that the Prime Minister has to tell that there is no danger to the country, it is for the Prime Minister himself to judge that there is no danger to the country from any act. Khosa also read the oath of the ministers in front of the court. The court inquired if he is saying that he who thinks it is right, could disclose it?

Khosa replied in affirmative asserting that the Prime Minister could disclose what he thinks is right. If the previous coalition want-

ed to remain a slave then it was its political weapon, he added. The court stopped Khosa from naming any party. The PTI lawyer said that this matter went to the meeting of the National Security Committee and it was decided in the committee that a diplomatic protest would be made to the US. In the meantime, the Prime Minister was dismissed. Khosa said that Bhutto Sahib was also brought to the dock in the court of Maulvi Mushtaq, here the PTI chairman was also brought to the dock.

He is the former prime minister and has rights, he said adding that the prosecution came with the statement of former principal secretary Azam Khan who went missing for three weeks, and suddenly he appeared and claimed that the PTI chairman PTI took the cipher with him. Azam's statement is ridiculous, Khosa said. The PTI lawyer said that they did not give us anything, now they are saying that tomorrow they would frame the charge. He requested the judge to see what sessions judge Humayun Dilawar had done to them. He said that the source of power is the people. He said that state means parliament, provincial assemblies and local governance. But we have made the government, a state.

The Chief Justice remarked that we have mixed up the concepts of government and state. Khosa said that some authority has been taken by the powerful circles, the nation has expectations from the higher judiciary and he hopes that the court would stand up to protect the rights of the citizens. The lawyer argued that Section 5 does not apply in the cipher case. He said Imran Khan's government was removed through a conspiracy and the PDM claimed that the premier was removed after losing the trust vote in parliament. He said Imran claimed that he did not possess cipher while cipher was in the foreign office. The lawyer wondered who told them to write that code in the FIR. The Chief Justice inquired of the lawyer whether he wanted to say that neither the Act nor Section 5 is applied in this case. Imran Khan's lawyer said that yes, the Act does not apply here nor does Section 5. He said this is not a prohibited place, if there is a conspiracy against the country, it is the job of the Prime Minister to tell the people.

Six-year-old Palestinian killed in US

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: An innocent Palestinian-American boy was killed and his mother was injured after they were stabbed by their landlord in the state of Illinois on Saturday morning because they were Muslims.

The 71-year-old man named Joseph Czuba has been charged with murder and hate crimes after allegedly stabbing a six-year-old boy, and his 32-year-old mother, in Plainfield, Illinois because they were Muslims. The mother and her son were targeted because of the current conflict between Hamas and Israel, the Will County Sheriff's Office said.

President Biden took to X, formerly known as Twitter, saying he and his wife, Jill Biden, were "sickened" by the attack on the mother and her son. "This horrific act of hate has no place in America, and stands against our fundamental values: freedom from fear for how we pray, what we believe, and who we are," Biden said in a statement. "As Americans, we must come together and reject Islamophobia and all forms of bigotry and hatred."

Czuba was charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, hate crimes and aggravated battery. In Sunday's statement, the Will County Sheriff's Office said that on Saturday morning it received an emergency call from the woman who said she was being attacked by her landlord in Plainfield, near Chicago.

Drizzle in city bring temperature down

LAHORE (APP): The provincial capital on Monday received a drizzle which turned the weather pleasant bringing some cold conditions, as the minimum temperature decreased to 17 degree Celsius. According to a spokesman for the Pakistan Meteorological Department, partly cloudy weather is expected in most upper parts of the country, including the city, while rain-wind/thunderstorm (with snow over high mountains) is expected in Potohar region and north-east Punjab during the next 24 hours.

CS inspects construction work in Mayo Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Monday paid a surprise visit to Mayo Hospital and inspected the construction work of the emergency block. He issued instructions regarding display of signage and proper arrangement of lighting for the convenience of patients.

The Chief Secretary said that the construction work should be in accordance with the prescribed standards in any case. He mentioned that the SOPs would be issued to standardize the civil works of health facilities across the province. He said that SOPs would be prepared based on the observations made during the inspection.

He further said that timely completion of public welfare projects was a priority. He said that all possible resources were being utilized to improve the health facilities in the province and sizable funds were being spent on the reconstruction of 28 major hospitals and provision of medical equipment. Vice-Chancellor King Edward Medical University Prof Dr Mahmood Ayyaz gave briefing to the Chief Secretary. Finance Secretary Mujahid Sher Dil was also present on this occasion.

19 more dengue cases reported

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 19 more dengue cases were reported in the district during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1,955.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, 14 cases had arrived from Potohar town urban area, two each from Kahutta and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi and one from Chaklala Cantonment area.

He added that presently 105 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 72 were confirmed cases while 1,882 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 29 FIRs, issued tickets to five, sealed two premises, and a fine of Rs 55,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. During indoor surveillance, in the last 24 hours, the teams checked 9,021 houses and found larvae in 320 homes.

CM reviews progress of Band Road controlled access corridor project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a morning inspection of the ongoing Controlled Access Corridor project on Band Road.

He meticulously assessed the progress of this significant endeavor, spanning from Niazi Chowk to Babu Sabu. He underscored the importance of ensuring smooth traffic flow on the closed road throughout the construction phase. He emphasized that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) should personally oversee operations and recommended deploying additional traffic wardens. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi promptly ordered the relocation of street lights and poles from the closed roads. He further directed that the poles be removed and re-purposed elsewhere. The Chief Minister set forth a clear directive for the timely completion of the controlled access corridor project. He highlighted that this project would grant immediate motorway access from any corner of Lahore upon its completion.

The Controlled Access Corridor is poised to yield substantial savings, both in terms of time and fuel, benefiting the economy significantly. The Chief Minister received a comprehensive briefing, underscoring the round-the-clock efforts being made to complete the 7.3 km long controlled access corridor within four months.

The project encompasses two packages, with Package One spanning 3.65 km from Niazi to Sagian Interchange, and Package Two covering an equivalent distance from Sagian to Babu Sabu Interchange.

Commissioner Lahore Division and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa along with the Chief Engineer LDA and the contractor, provided detailed updates to the Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi regarding the project's progress. The event was attended by Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, Chairman Planning and Development Board Iftikhar Sahu, CTO, and various other officials.

CM greets ambassador-designate: Pakistan's ambassador-designate to Morocco Sami Malik paid a courtesy call on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday.

Extending warm congratulations to Sami Malik on his appointment as ambassador to Morocco, the CM conveyed his best wishes. Emphasising fraternal ties between Pakistan and Morocco, the chief minister highlighted abundant prospects for collaboration, particularly in the realms of culture, tourism and trade. He expressed optimism that in his capacity as ambassador, Sami Malik would foster even stronger connections at both public and governmental levels.

Trying to change things in health sector: Health Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Saad Khalid Niazi has said that they were trying to change things in the health sector during a short period of time.

He said that they were working on 'Insurance' and he also discussed it when he visited Turkey.

While addressing the inauguration ceremony of an Operation Theatre (Operating Room) renovated and equipped by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) at the National Institute of Child Health (NICH), also attended by Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Caretaker Minister Dr. Saad Niazi said, 'Operation Theatre is a good addition to NICH.'

He thanked Turkey and said that she was a real brother. Dr. Niazi said that Turkey always stood shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan whenever she was in need of help or in trouble.

The minister said Pakistan and Turkey had old and strong relations.

He said that NICH was providing health services to children and adolescents free of cost. He also highlighted that there was always room for improvement.

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Mehmet Pacaci addressing the ceremony said that Pakistan and Turkey had a brotherhood more than a friendship.

He said that both the countries had people-to-people contacts. He said that Pakistan had a special place in the hearts of Turkish people.

Pacaci said, 'Our relations are unparalleled.' He said that TIKa was performing well in Pakistan and its work was making our relations stronger. He also congratulated TIKa on its successful projects in Pakistan. He said that Pak-Turk colleges were also imparting education to the students in Pakistan. TIKa Karachi Programme Coordinator Halil Ibrahim Basaran on the occasion said that they continue to contribute to the development of Pakistan in the field of health. He said that TIKa had carried out seven important projects in different health fields in Sindh province between 2019 and 2023.

Executive Director of the National Institute of Child Health (NICH) Dr. Nasir Saleem Saddal on the occasion gave a presentation to the Minister and Ambassador about the performance of NICH. He said that NICH had treated 122911 children in 2022.

PSQCA arranges awareness walk

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) on Monday arranged an awareness walk with a theme "Shared Vision for a Better World", in connection with World Standards Day - 2023.

This day serves as a tribute to the collaborative efforts of experts worldwide who contribute to the creation of International Standards and to raise awareness about the significance of fostering a quality culture through adherence to the standards and regulations.

The walk was led by Director General PSQCA, Dr. H.U. Khan, commencing from 'Hamdard Chowk, Madar-e-Millat Road' and ended at Regional Office of PSQCA '125-A Quaid e Azam Industrial Estate, Kot Lakhpat. The event saw the participation of Directors Dr. Shahzad Afzal, Mr. Muhammad Yasin Akhtar, Dr. Muhammad Rizwan, Ms. Amna Qasim, and Engr. Khurram Mateen along with officers, staff members, and representatives from the industry, academia, NGOs, and civil society.

Addressing the participants, Dr. H.U. Khan highlighted the organization's achievements, stating that PSQCA has

developed more than 22,000 national standards and adopted a number of ISO and IEC standards. He underscored the pivotal role of standardization and regulations, emphasizing that PSQCA plays a crucial part in Pakistan's economic development by providing technical guidance to the industry, enabling them to manufacture products that meet the national as well as international standards.

"Furthermore, PSQCA is entrusted with regulating 166 food and non-food products and handles all aspects of quality infrastructure, including standardization, legal metrology standards, and conformity assessment at the national level. In line with the government's policy to promote ease of doing business, PSQCA is creating a conducive environment and offering facilitation to the industry," he added. He promised a more stringent campaign against illegal, unlicensed, and substandard food and non-food products, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy. Furthermore, he stated that only PSQCA registered products would be permitted in the market, and illicit items would be removed from the shelves and confiscated.



LAHORE: Activists of civil society holding play cards during a protest demonstration to show solidarity with the people of Palestine and take part in an anti-Israel demonstration outside the Press club.

Mayor inaugurates Divisional Food Testing Lab at KU

KARACHI (APP): Mayor of Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui inaugurated the Divisional Food Testing Lab (DFTL) established at the Department of Food Science and Technology of the University of Karachi (KU) on Monday.

The KU DFST and the Sindh Food Authority have jointly established the DFTL to improve food quality in the province. Murtaza Wahab and the KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi also inaugurated the FST Alumni Conference Hall at the KU DFST. On this occasion, the KU DFST organized a seminar on 'water is life, water is food, leave no one behind', of World Food Day 2023.

Addressing the ceremony, the mayor said that food security was the biggest problem in the present era and added that many countries were still facing this problem.

He shared that Pakistan was an agricultural country with about 65 percent of its economy based on sustainable agriculture. He stressed that we needed to promote good quality seeds and had to use technologies through which water could be saved.

"This is so unfortunate that despite being an agricultural country, we still import wheat and pulses. We need to get out of this situation as soon as

possible. We have agricultural land and manpower. We just need seriousness and dedication." The mayor said that every person had the right to get clean drinking water and healthy food. He expressed that steps had to be taken to save minor children from malnutrition and expressed that World Food Day was commemorated all across the globe to inculcate a sense of responsibility in people for the careful use of food resources.

Murtaza Wahab mentioned that he would like to work with the KU regarding the acquisition of alternative energy and the establishment of laboratories with the help of the SFA.

He observed that there was a need to establish a technology park that could easily fulfill the requirements of today's world.

Meanwhile, Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Ahmad said that food security was impossible without the supply of clean water.

He said that agriculture was possible with water, and water was the most important ingredient in any diet.

He mentioned that saving water was everyone's responsibility.

The international community has to play an important role in combating malnutrition. He further said that most of the world's countries, includ-

ing Pakistan, had abundant water available. "Still, a large part of the country's population is deprived of clean drinking water, which is a matter of concern. It is our shared responsibility to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to the entire population," he added. Malaysian CG Herman Ahmad observed that Pakistan was a resource-rich country, but water resources were facing challenges including floods, droughts, and climate change. Later, KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that water had the most important role in our life.

It is very important in the field of agriculture as well. In a country like Pakistan where food security is a major issue, saving water is a very important matter. He informed the audience that the KU DFST had engaged a good number of private organizations in the department and completed several projects under the public-private partnership scheme which was a very good sign. He said that academia should be able to produce reliable solutions to the industry's problems and manufacturers' should also engage academicians and scholars whenever they faced difficulties and would like to have durable solutions.

Turkish Ambassador calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Monday.

They discussed Pakistan and Turkey relations, the exchange of delegations in various fields, investment opportunities and other issues of mutual interests. Governor Tessori said that Pakistan and Turkey were two nations but one soul.

He said that Turkey and Pakistan had brotherly relations, rooted in his-

tory. The Turkish Ambassador visited the site of Bell of Hope and appreciated Governor's initiative.

He also witnessed articles, used by Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

British HC calls on Sindh Governor: British High

Commissioner (HC) to Pakistan Jane Marriot called on Sindh Governor Moahmmed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House on Monday.

They discussed economic relations between Pakistan and Britain, enhanced cooperation in the field of

education, investment opportunities in the Sindh province and other issues of mutual interests. Deputy High Commissioner of Britain Sara Mooney was also present on the occasion. The Governor said the province offered good opportunities of investment and British investors could invest in the province.

The High Commissioner visited the site of Bell of Hope and appreciated the Governor's initiative. The envoy also reviewed the articles, used by Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Rich tribute paid to former PM Liaquat Ali Khan

LAHORE (APP): The 72nd death anniversary of Pakistan's first prime minister Shaheed-e-Millat, Khan Liaquat Ali Khan, was observed on Monday across the country.

Born in Karnal, East Punjab, Liaquat Ali Khan got education from Aligarh Muslim University, India and Oxford University, United Kingdom. Liaquat Ali Khan then struggled with Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to get a separate homeland for Muslims of Sub-continent. Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated on this day in 1951 during a public meeting at Company Bagh in Rawalpindi which was later named after him as 'Liaquat Bagh.'

Noted writer, educationist Professor Dr. Kamran paid a rich tribute to former PM Liaquat Ali Khan for his role as prime minister and his contribution in the Movement of Pakistan as the 'right hand' of Jinnah as the Quaid himself termed him. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away on 11 September 1948, but it was Liaquat who guided the Pakistani Nation in crucial moments after the demise of the Quaid, he said, adding that he was a brave and courageous leader who knew how to lead Pakistan in different directions.

Allegations of conspiracy against VC of Jinnah Sindh Medical University

F.P. Report

KARACHI : Certain elements, based on verbal and other biased reports, are running a condemnable campaign against Vice Chancellor Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon of Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU). These elements are part of a mafia that is causing harm to the reputation of JSMU for their personal gains. These individuals, who failed to bring their preferred candidate during the selection of the Vice Chancellor, are now involved in a con-

spiracy against Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon and the university.

The involvement of these elements includes spreading propaganda and creating various issues, including leaking of medical entrance test papers. It should be noted that the Sindh government has handed over the matter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) after conducting thorough investigations into the leakage of test papers for medical colleges. The investigation is currently underway, and soon the roles of those involved in this matter will be exposed.



LAHORE: Sikh Yatrees are being welcomed on their arrival at JCP Wagah Border.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
PAKHTUNKHWA HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY (PKHA)
PESHAWAR
NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING (3rd Time)
Single Stage Two Envelope E-Bidding System

Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority invites electronic Bids from eligible firms/ contractors in accordance with KPPRA procurement rules 2014 on single stage two envelope E-Bidding procedure for the following work. The Bidders should be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for the year 2023-24 in relevant category & field of specialization. The firms enlisted with PKHA having adequate financial soundness, relevant experience, personnel capabilities, required equipments and others requirement as included in ITB/Bidding Document can participate in the tender.

Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Millions)	Bid Security (Rs. In Millions)	Tender Entry Fee (Rs.)	Period of completion	Last date and time of submission	Date of opening and time
(ADP Scheme No. 1236 / 200004) (2023-24) Provision of Buildings and Department for NH&MP on Swat Expressway	309.947	6.198	92,984/-	18 months	3rd November 2023 (12:30 pm)	3rd November 2023 (12:30 pm)

II. Bidding documents including Priced BOQ/ Engineer Estimate, instruction to bidders (ITB), Draft Contract Agreement, preamble, Drawings etc. are available on PKHA website (www.pkha.gov.pk) which can be downloaded for bidding purpose. These documents can also be obtained from the office of Project Director Provincial Expressways PKHA, Peshawar.

III. Tender Entry Fee mentioned above in the shape of call deposit (Non-Refundable) in the name of Managing Director-PKHA, Peshawar be put in Technical proposal failing which both the Technical and Financial proposals will be considered as non-responsive.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Provincial Expressways

INF(P)2549/23

PDMA works on winter contingency plan

— to minimize disaster risks

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), under the guidance of the Relief, Rehabilitation & Settlement Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is actively working on its Winter Contingency Plan for the year 2023-24.

In an essential pre-winter planning and orientation meeting, Inayat Ullah Wasim, Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presided over the gathering of Additional Deputy Commissioners Relief & HR.

Secretary Relief emphasized, "this comprehensive contingency plan aims to mitigate potential losses resulting from winter-related natural hazards, including extreme low temperatures, fog/smog, snowfall, rainfall, landslides, flash floods, and seismic activity in the mountainous north and west."

Inayat Ullah Wasim praised the dedication and pivotal role played by the district administration during rescue operations and the Relief and Rehabilitation phases during times of crisis.

He also highlighted the essential role of Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) Relief and HR as the "eyes and ears" on the ground, responsible for monitoring and reporting on disaster situations.

Furthermore, he stressed the importance of understanding and adapting to prevailing climatic conditions, acknowledging their impact on disaster preparedness and response.

Secretary Relief empha-

21780 candidates appear in test

PESHAWAR (APP): The Entrance Test and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has successfully conducted written test of 21780 candidates who qualified the physical test for recruitment in KP police.

According to a press release issued here on Monday, as many as 82000 candidates appeared in the physical test out of which 21780 passed the test and qualified for the written exam.

ETEA KP set up 14 centres in seven divisions of the province and conducted the test amid strict security and vigilance to avoid any untoward incident and chances of cheating.

Afghan refugees to be deported

PESHAWAR (INP): The authorities are mulling a proposal to deport Afghan refugees imprisoned in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa jails.

The security forces have started to collect data of the Afghans involved in different crimes and will be sent back to their country after getting government's nod. According to sources in police, lists have been prepared of the refugee criminals which will be forwarded to the government.

Meanwhile, 15 days have been left in federal government's deadline for illegal foreigners to leave Pakistan, otherwise security forces will arrest them and will ensure their repatriation.

sized the significance of proactive planning to mitigate the effects of disasters, reinforcing that preparedness is crucial in reducing potential damage.

He also stressed the importance of effective interaction with medical staff and healthcare facilities to ensure the availability of medical resources during disaster situations.

He further emphasized the need for a robust pre-planning and coordination mechanism to ensure that all stakeholders work seamlessly together during emergencies.

He also addressed the importance of tourist preparedness, ensuring that the local tourist industry is adequately prepared to deal with potential disasters while prioritizing the safety of tourists.

Director General of PDMA, Janat Gul Afridi, outlined the Winter Contingency Plan's approach, which stratifies districts based on Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.

FC passing out parade held at Scouts Training Academy



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Passing Out Parade ceremony culminated of basic military training at the Scouts Training Academy in Warsak, on Monday.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished guests and proud families, celebrating the achievements of 1354 recruits from the 33rd edition, who successfully completed their rigorous training.

The ceremony's chief guest, Inspector General

nts, ranging from very high to low vulnerability levels.

Each distinct weather pattern will have its tailored contingencies. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's unique geography, topography, and natural resources make it susceptible to various climate-related challenges throughout the year, be it in summer or winter.

Comprehensive data collection tools have been developed and shared with stakeholders.

These tools encompass information related to district/sector-specific hazards, vulnerability profiles, hazard impacts, damage assessments, compensation details, resource mapping, needs assessments, and coordination efforts.

Iqbal Wazir, Director of Disaster Risk Management at PDMA, elaborated on the proactive preparedness measures being implemented in line with guidelines stipulated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

This approach aims to

streamline responses at both provincial and district levels, ensuring seamless coordination among all stakeholders.

"We have initiated the Winter Contingency Planning process, fostering collaboration with all pertinent stakeholders. We aim to finalize the plan by mid-November, with our core objectives focused on proactively reducing disaster risks, hazard identification, risk assessment, and resource mapping to enhance our preparedness."

The comprehensive contingency planning for major hazards will facilitate the implementation of necessary mitigation measures and ensure a well-coordinated response to minimize the loss of life and property during disaster events.

This all-encompassing exercise encompasses resource assessments, hazard analysis, and estimating potential relief caseloads as part of the planning assumptions."

Frontier Corps North, Major General Noor Wali Khan, graced the event with his presence.

Major General Noor Wali Khan inspected the parade and bestowed shields, trophies and honorary swords to those recruits who exhibited exceptional performance throughout their training.

One notable event highlight was the recognition of the "Best Performer," a Lady Recruit from Charsadda, who received a special award for her outstanding dedication and

skills.

The recruits, who had tirelessly worked to prepare for this moment, showcased their discipline and determination as they marched past and saluted the Chief Guest.

The ceremony was a testament to the recruits' commitment and a heartening occasion for the families and well-wishers who attended in large numbers.

Senior civil & military present and retired officers were also among the distinguished guests who graced the event.

Businessmen flay increase in rents of properties

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Cantt Business leaders have expressed concern over rise in rents of waqf properties by the Muslim Awqaf department under the guise of unfair rent.

Business leaders among them Haji Amin Hussain Babar, President Peshawar Traders Chamber Ghulam Bilal Javed, Former Member Cantt Board Ghulam Hussain Chand, Senior Vice Chairman Sarhad Chamber Car Dealers Standing Committee Haji Ehsan, Senior Vice President Peshawar Traders Chamber and former MPA Arif Yousaf and other officials expressed

their concern over the rise in rents.

They will missing a news statement said the previous government had passed a law and the reason why the increase in rents has taken place.

The committee appointed by the affected businessmen to resolve the issue submitted recommendations in writing to the Awqaf department and after several meetings, the Muslim Awqaf department ignored the recommendations of the committee, they regretted.

A notification has been issued in rents which is not acceptable at any cost and they will not implement it, businessmen clarified. They added the arbitrari-

ness and obstinacy of the Muslim endowment department will prove to be the economic murder of businessmen.

If the provincial government cannot provide employment to the people, it should not make the employed people unemployed, they said and adding the officials of the Muslim Endowment department humiliated the businessmen under the guise of this black law and adopted a coercive way, then all the businessmen of the province and all the businessmen of Peshawar Cantt should join hands with the affected businessmen in all kinds of protests and other decisions against this cruel decision.



PESHAWAR: A vendor on way during rain in Provincial Capital.

Malgary Wakelan calls meeting F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Malgary Wakelan had constituted a committee to complete organizational structure across the country while called parliamentary committee meeting for nomination of candidate for Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) presidency for next year, on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by Malgary Wakelan provincial president Farooq Khattak in which Zar Badshah, Sagher Ahmad, Malak Ishfaq Ahmad, Rafiq Mohmand, Ayaz Warsak, Tayyab Zaman, Zamir Khan, Sajeed Khan and Sheikh Fakhar Ayaz were present.

A committee was constituted for completion of organizational structure across the country and scrutiny of aspirant candidates for PHCBA principal seat upcoming elections.

FIA arrests six involved in Hawala

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) on Monday arrested six individuals involved in the illegal activities of Hawala and foreign currency smuggling.

The FIA's conducted the raids at multiple locations, including Peshawar, Abbottabad, and Kohat.

Among the arrested individuals, two hold Afghan nationality.

In these operations, a significant amount of foreign currency was seized, comprising UAE Dirham 42,350 and Saudi Riyal 18,800 and 10 million in Pakistani currency.

The police, FIA and other law enforcement agencies, have intensified their crackdown on individuals involved in illegal currency trading and Hawala networks in the province.

Advisor directs inquiry

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Mineral Development, Planning, Energy and Power, Dr Sayyed Sarfaraz Ali Shah on Monday expressed profound grief over the deaths of three miners due to breaking of the mine rope in Kalakhel area of Khyber district.

Advisor for Mines Development, while taking strong notice of the incident, directed the authorities concerned to conduct a transparent inquiry into the incident and take steps for ensuring safety of the miners in future.

KP govt prepares 2nd quarterly budget

PESHAWAR (APP): The Caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has prepared second quarterly budget 2023-23 for six departments of the province on Monday.

According to the budget document Rs563 million rupees has been allocated for Excise and Taxation including Rs428 million for payment of salaries.

Similarly Rs 340 million rupees has been allocated for the department of Industries including Rs202 million rupees for payment of salaries to employees and 87 million rupees non-salary budget, the document said.

The finance department has allocated Rs652 million for the Minerals' Department, of which which

Rs293 million has been earmarked for salaries and Rs308 million non-salary budget.

It further proposed allocation of Rs1036.527 million for TEVTA, Rs112.005 million for Printing and Stationery and Rs250 million for the Department of Labor for payment of salaries and non-salary budget.

KPBC observes strike in solidarity with Palestinians

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) observed strike from court proceedings while Peshawar High Court and Peshawar Bar Associations arranged rally from High Court to Assembly Chowk in solidarity with Palestinians against Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip, on Monday.

Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) president Tariq Afridi along with general secretary

Lajbar Khan led the lawyers from High Court to Assembly Chowk in a rally. However, Peshawar Bar Association Ishfaq Khalil along with large number of lawyers participated in the rally to show solidarity with Palestinians.

The lawyers burnt down the Israeli flag while chanting slogans in solidarity with Palestinians and argued global community to stop Israel's crimes against humanity. The legal fraternity displayed Palestine flags in solidarity.

Moreover, Peshawar High Court Bar general body meeting held at high court bar room in which Tariq Afridi and Lajbar Khan along with other lawyers were present. The legal fraternity argued international community to act against Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council argued Islamic countries to boycott Israel in every aspect of life to compel him for stoppage of crimes against humanity in Palestine.

Karsaz tragedy: 16th anniversary to be observed

PESHAWAR (APP): On the directives of the PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, KP chapter of the party has decided to observe the 16th anniversary of Karsaz tragedy in a befitting manner.

PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the anniversary functions across the country through video link.

According to Deputy Secretary Information PPP KP, Gohar Inqilabi, the speech of the party chairman would be broadcasted live in the province. He said arrangements for the live broad-

casting of the speech would be made at all district headquarters.

In this connection, he said that all ticket holders, all subsidiary party affiliated wings, local party office bearers and workers have been issued directives to ensure their attendance in the public meetings of October 18.

He said that the party will begin its pre-election activities from the 16th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy and PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his address to the party workers will announce his electoral strategy.

Awareness session held

PESHAWAR (APP): An awareness session against plastic pollution was held at Hangu district.

Faraz Ahmad, a Teaching Excellence and Achievement program alumnus, conducted a "Plastic-Free Campus: Reducing Plastic Waste and Promoting Recycling" information session that was attended by cross section of the society.

The seminar was part of a Pakistan-US Alumni Network small grants program. The program was aimed to raise awareness about environmental challenges through seminars at secondary schools and colleges.

Faculty members, academia and students besides civil society attended.

Seminar on climate change arranged

PESHAWAR (APP): In joint collaboration, Firdous Welfare Organization and Forest Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa arranged a seminar on climate change and its impacts at City District College here on Monday.

At the seminar, Professor Dr Sabah Sahib (gold medalist) briefed the audience in detail on climate change and its impact

on life.

The students took keen interest in information regarding climate change and its remedial measures. A question-answer session was also arranged for the students.

Chairperson Firdous Welfare Organization, Muslim Taj and Community Development Officer, Forest Department, Aleema Ata were present

on the occasion.

Chairperson Firdous Foundation, Muslim Taj said no one can deny the credibility of forests in human life adding that thorough plantation drives the forest areas would be increased. She urged the students and teachers to persuade the people to plant a maximum number of trees in their respective areas.

World Food Day observed with theme to empower farmers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: World Food Day observed with the title of sustainable agriculture, utilization of water resources properly and empowering framers key for food security globally, on Monday.

According to details, as part of World Food Day 2023 celebrations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa KP Office in collaboration with PepsiCo Pakistan, a leading global food and beverage corporation, hosted a cross-sectoral panel discussion at University of Agriculture in

Peshawar.

The panel discussion focused on the Living Indus Initiative, highlighting the theme, "Water is life, Water is food. Leave no one behind," aiming to raise awareness about food security, sustainable agriculture, and the fight against global hunger and poverty.

Senior representatives from World Food Programme, UN Women, PepsiCo, and the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as academics, were in attendance.

This theme harmoniously aligns with the goals of the Living Indus Initiative, a collaborative venture between the Government of Pakistan and UN agencies,

dedicated to repairing and restoring the ecological health of the Indus River Basin, especially in the face of pressing climate challenge.

Farrukh Toirov, FAO's Head of Office in KP, highlighted the nexus between the mighty Indus River and the region's agricultural prospects. He emphasized the importance of water for agriculture and food security. He stressed the need for responsible and efficient water management to support sustainable agriculture through initiatives like the Living Indus Initiative. This approach helps build resilience in the face of climate challenges and

ensures access to balanced and nutritious food for all.

Haseeb Malik, Director of Agriculture Operations at PepsiCo Pakistan, discussed the company's efforts in the panel. He focused on restoring the Indus Basin, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting farming communities, particularly women. Malik highlighted PepsiCo Pakistan's commitment to sustainable water management, equipping farmers with knowledge and technology for sustainable water use. He also mentioned their dedication to water conservation in company operations and communities. He also

added that the scope of the Living Indus Initiative aligns with PepsiCo's global pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) sustainability agenda and aspirations for creating a more resilient agricultural system that benefits both people and the planet.

Dr Rizwan Ahmed Registrar Agriculture University Peshawar moderated the panel discussion. While other panelist included, Dr Abdul Bari, DG Agriculture Research, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Jan Mohammad, Director General, Agriculture Extension and Zainab Qaiser Khan, Head of UN Women, Sub Office in KP and Louis Sowe, World Food



Programme (WFP) Head in KP. They highlighted critical issues that held the key to Pakistan's in particular Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's agricultural future.

Panelists also discussed ensuring equitable water

access for small farmers, sustainable farming practices championed by women for food security, battling climate change for agricultural resilience, and empowering women and youth for inclusive agricul-

ture. By bringing together diverse perspectives and innovative ideas, this panel discussion aimed to chart a path towards a more resilient and inclusive agricultural landscape in Pakistan.



In brief

KP Minister visits Kohat Jail F.P. Report

KOHAT: Provincial caretaker Minister for Prisons, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser on Monday visited District Jail Kohat. According to Regional Information Directorate, Superintendent of Kohat Jail Abdul Bari warmly welcomed the minister. Later, Abdul Bari gave a detailed briefing about the history and problems of the Kohat Jail. The Minister planted a sapling on the jail premises and visited the Tailoring and Art Center and appreciated the skill development program in the jail. Apart from this, the minister inspected the women's barracks and inquired about their problems. She appreciated the steps taken to transform the jail into a rehabilitation center and for the welfare of the inmates.

Removal of Director sought F.P. Report

BANNU: Retired District session Judge Abdul Rauf Khan, Member of Board of Governors Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) criticized Khalifa Gul Nawaz hospital's Director Gulzar Ahmad Khan on his ill deeds and appealed to resign and give back the facilities and salaries voluntarily otherwise will complaint against him to NAB and anti-corruption. As per details, the member of Board of Governor MTI Bannu retired District Session Judge Abdul Rauf Khan sent a letter to the Chairman board of Governor Doctor Saeed Khan against the corrupt practices of retired Colonel Gulzar Ahmad Khan and appealed him to remove him from his office and take back all the facilities given to him. The letter was also sent to the Secretary Health, Secretary to Governor, Secretary Policy Board MTI, Medical Director, Director Finance, Members of MTI Bannu.

Protest rally against Israel F.P. Report

BUNER: The District Bar Buner lawyers on Monday were jointly passed resolution staged protest walk and protest demo stration against the occupied Israel conversion against innocent Palestine. The lawyers were boycotted court proceedings gathered at bar room jointly passed resolution condemning Israel for brutal attacks on armless innocent Palestine. The resolution demanded Pak army intervention for protection the innocent Palestine. The resolution demanded OIC to play due role and demanded the UN security council to immediately stop the war. The lawyers staged walk from bar room to Daggar Chowk where they staged protest demonstration. The lawyers during walk and protest demo were carried play cards with slogans against Israel America France Europe and India. The lawyers also shouted full throat slogans against Israel and its allies in the attacking against Palestine. The bar president advocate Rafique Ahmed Khan and general secretary advocate Hazrat Husain Yousafzai addressed. They reminded Muslims the Pak government the OIC force and the UN due role they should play for protection the armless innocent Palestine who were under sever ariel strike from Israel and the innocent Palestine were helpless to bury dead treat injured feed live and to protect women and children while the Muslims the OIC the UN were taken mums over this day night brutality, the concluded.



KOHAT: KP Caretaker Minister for Prisons, Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser interacting with prisoners during his visit District Jail.

Councilors demand funds, power

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: The members of local councils held a protest demonstration at Babe-e-Khyber on Monday against the provincial government for not providing funds and other incentives to them. Score of members of local bodies from the across Khyber including chairman and general councilors from village and neighborhood councils attended the demonstration.

The marchers holding banners and placards engraved with slogans in favor of their demands. The participants marched from Bab-e-Khyber to Jamrud press club while chanting slogans for their rights.

Addressing on the occasion, speakers including Azizullah Afridi, Abdul Manan Mado Khel, Ikhtyar Badshah and others said that they were elected in December last year but the provincial government was using delay tactics to give them funds and powers.

Not providing funds to the representatives of local bodies (LBs) equilent to negate our constitutional status that added and said the provincial government should materialize its promise and at once release development funds to the councilors and stop schemes curtaining powers of LBs councilors. They went on that they were

unable to serve their voters in absence of funds and powers. It was the responsibility of the government to devolve powers to the grassroots level and the government was trying to deprive them of the powers they added and said councilors of merged districts are being deceived as development funds are not being supplied, which is injustice to the people residing in these backward areas.

They also criticized the Assistant Director local government, Khyber for not solving their problems. They threatened that if their miseries were not addressed then they would initiate the next protest in front of the governor house.

5 members gang in Swat arrested Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Police have arrested five members of an inter-provincial gang that used to loot businessmen and locals. Following a FIR lodged by Abdul Kareem, a flour dealer, who fell victim to an armed robbery on October 8, 2023. Abdul Kareem reported the incident at the Mingora police station, detailing how he was held at gunpoint and robbed of Rs. 1.7 million by unknown assailants on Gumbad Meira Pathane road. Promptly responding to the complaint, RPO Malakand Muhammad Ali Khan and DPO Swat Shafiullah Khan Gandapur took notice and assigned the task of investigation to SDPO City Amjad Khan, under his supervision, a specialized team was formed, consisting of SHO Mingora Police Station Mujeeb Alam Khan and other skilled officers.

Utilizing advanced technical methods, the police team successfully traced the inter-provincial dacoit group responsible for the robbery. The breakthrough in the case came on October 12 when a police source provided information about the whereabouts of the gang leader, Hayat alias Hayate, who had sought refuge in a relative's house in Tangi District Charsadda.

Executing a swift operation, the police team, led by SHO Mujeeb Alam Khan, raided the identified house in Tangi. The encounter that ensued was intense, with SHO Mujeeb Alam narrowly escaping harm due to his bulletproof jacket. In the exchange of fire, the leader of the dacoit group, Hayat alias Hayate, was fatally shot and killed on the spot.

DPO Swat Shafiullah Khan Gandapur revealed that Hayat alias Hayate was not only a wanted criminal in Swat but also faced charges in multiple cases across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab for incidents of snatching. The recovered loot, valued at Rs. 85 million included two motor cars and a significant cache of arms and ammunition.

Crackdown on beggars in Mardan: 11 detained

Anees Takar

MARDAN: District Social Welfare department cracked down against beggars in metropolitans of Mardan and detained 11 beggars including one weman. Acting on orders from Deputy Commissioner Mardan, Captain (R) Abdul Rehman, and under the guidance of Additional Deputy Commissioner Samiur Rehman, District Social Welfare Officer Jamal Shah Mohmand, the Superintendent of Darul Kafala Mardan, Muhammad Ismail Takar, conducted a focused operation to detain beggars in various parts of Mardan. This operation resulted in the apprehension of approximately a dozen beggars, all of whom have been duly processed and sent to Darul Kafala.

Muhammad Ismail Takar shared that Darul Kafala, which has been closed for five months, reopened today with this initiative. A total of 11 beggars were detained, encompassing one woman, four elders, and six young men. The primary objective is to clear the city's key highways and markets of beggars and this anti-begging campaign will persist until the beggar network is eradicated.

Takar emphasized that all captured beggars underwent a thorough medical examination and verification process at the city police station before being admitted to Darul Kafala. He pointed out that, due to a lack of proper facilities for women, the necessary information was obtained from the woman beggar, and she was released. Efforts are underway to establish suitable arrangements for women at Darul Kafala in the near future.

Ismail Takar also shed light on the comprehensive support provided to beggars during their stay at Darul Kafala. Beggars are cared for over a three-month period, receiving essential necessities such as food, clothing, medical care, and, where applicable, training in practical skills like tailoring and computer courses.

Takar encouraged citizens to promptly report the presence of professional beggars and peddlers to the local police or Darul Kafala. He emphasized that this is a critical step in ridding society of these issues, which lead to more significant problems.

Addressing this problem collectively will help cleanse our society of these ills.

One day workshop held: A one-day workshop on "Food Product Development & Commercialization" took place on Wednesday at the Department of Food Science & Technology, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan in collaboration with ORIC. Prof. Amjad Iqbal, Chairman Department of Food Science & Technology & Dr. Tariq Mehmood, Director ORIC welcomed the speaker and participants.

The speaker, Mr. Hamayun Haseeb Baig from English Food Manufacturers spoke about the aim and importance of the Food Product Development & Commercialization. He elaborated that food product development starts with idea generation, which is followed by market research, feasibility study, recipe/formulation development, prototype creation, production and manufacturing, quality assurance and testing, packaging design, regulatory compliance, marketing and branding, test market, full-scale production, product launch, post-launch evaluation, product expansion and innovation.

Prof. Amjad Iqbal has talked on the importance of Food in general and the role of Technology specifically. He said that food product development & commercialization is the process of creating new food products or improving existing ones to meet consumer demands and market trends. It involves a series of steps, from idea generation to commercialization, and often requires collaboration between various professionals, including food scientists, chefs, nutritionists, and marketing experts.

A large number of students from FST and other departments attended the workshop. The students have also displayed posters and products they have developed for competition. Miss Sumaya, Miss Nadia and Miss Hafsa have won first Prize in Poster Competition, whereas the product developed by Mr. Talha, Mr. Sadeeq Akber and Mr. Mian Yasin Ali Shah has won first prize. Dr. Sadiq Shah, Mr. Hisham Javed, Mr. Fawad Ahmad and Mr. Syed Umair Shah were also present at this occasion.

Mass wedding ceremony for 20 couples arranged

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Twenty couples tied the knot in a mass wedding ceremony held here in Kando Khel village of Landi Kotal district Khyber.

The welfare activity was organized under the auspices of Shinwari Welfare Organization. Beside office bearers of the organization, a large number of tribal elders, administration and police officials, political and welfare associations' workers, relatives of the bride grooms and brides and local tribesmen participated in the moot.

The main attraction of the collective wedding ceremony was 20 young bridegrooms wearing garlands on the occasion. Beside, cash, the couple was given dowry comprising commodities of daily usage including furniture and home appliances worth of Rs.0.2 million.

Haji Aslam Shinwari, the Central President of the welfare organization said that the aim of wellbeing activity was to assist the down-trodden families who could not afford to marry their children. Although keeping in view high demands, this year, they financed the expenses of marriages of 20 couples that were selected from Shinwari, Afridi and Shelmani tribes.

According to the organizers selection had been made on age and elderly bridegrooms were given priority.

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GILGIT: Tourists enjoying pleasant weather during visit to Babusar top.

All-weather friendship: The evolving Pakistan-China relationship

A.R Ansari

PAKISTAN and China's relationship is often referred to as an "all-weather friendship" owing to strong political, economic, and military ties. This friendship has evolved over several decades, based on mutual interests and cooperation in the fields of economic development, military and defense, and infrastructure projects, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts have also grown, with an increasing number of Pakistani students studying in China and a surge in Chinese expatriates living and working in Pakistan. Despite the strong ties, there have been challenges in the Pakistan-China relationship like concerns about the terms and conditions of Chinese loans and investments under CPEC, owing to Pakistan's growing debt burden and security concerns in the border region.

China has been a staunch ally

of Pakistan at international forums, particularly on issues related to Kashmir. China has supported Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir conflict and has shielded Pakistan from diplomatic isolation in the United Nations and other international organizations. China is holding its third Belt and Road forum in Beijing where representatives from over 130 countries are joining to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a massive infrastructure and economic development project initiated by China. It aims to create a network of roads, railways, ports, and other infrastructure that connects China to Europe, Africa, and other parts of Asia. CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI initiative- a collection of infrastructure projects that include the construction of highways, railways, pipelines, and the development of the strategic Gwadar Port. The world has witnessed in 1979, one of the world's high-

est and most spectacular international road connections Karakoram Highway as evidence of all-weather friendship, that connects Pakistan and China, making it one of the world's highest and most challenging engineering feats. The Karakoram Highway holds strategic significance, providing China with access to the Arabian Sea via Gwadar, very essential for China's energy and trade interests. The Karakoram Highway stretches for approximately 1,300 kilometers (810 miles) from Hasan Abdal near Islamabad to the Chinese city of Kashgar in Xinjiang. The Karakoram highway is subject to harsh weather conditions, especially in the winter, and has faced issues such as landslides and road closures due to natural disasters.

Pakistan's Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, visit to China sets the stage for a new era for CPEC projects, particularly in the acceleration of the Thakot-Raikot section- a critical segment of the Karakoram

Highway, known for its sharp bends and limitations. It is poised for an overhaul, of state-of-the-art tunnels, for reducing travel time and enhancing safety. The road classification will be advanced from Class 4 to Class 2, signaling an upgrade in its quality and the permitted speed limit will be increased, promising swifter and more efficient travel.

This development extends beyond mere travel enhancements. It holds the potential to revolutionize cargo transport, making it more efficient and cost-effective. The improved road network will support heavier cargo loads, streamlining the transportation of goods with greater ease and efficiency. The Karakoram Highway looms as a prominent highlight of this historic partnership. It signifies more than just a road; it's a symbol of friendship, cooperation, and a shared vision for a brighter, more interconnected future.

The Highway Research & Training Centre also stands as

one of the pivotal projects, prominently taking center stage as the primary highlight of Prime Minister Kakar's visit. A promising Joint Research Program is envisioned with the Government of China from 2023 to 2027, aiming to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering. A formal memorandum of joint research extension will be finalized and entered into during the PM's visit to China. This program aims to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering.

This extension is poised to be a cornerstone of the cooperation in the road infrastructure while the National Highway Authority is a vanguard of such cooperation. It is agreed to construct the Highway Research and Training Center spread over 530 acres by a Chinese Contractor/Consultant under a Chinese Grant of Rs.15 billion. It includes infrastructure, a Test track, and indoor and outdoor lab equipment which will be

handed over to NHA for operation after completion and required training. Various research Projects in Reclaimed Asphalt, Bridges and Tunnelling, training and degree courses in China, development of engineering design manuals and standards for Pakistan are some of the key target areas of this project.

Pakistan-China relationship is poised to continue evolving, adapting to the ever-changing global landscape. With a shared commitment to deepening ties and fostering enduring peace, this friendship remains a cornerstone of stability in a rapidly shifting world. Pakistan and China are not just strategic allies but genuine friends, encouraging a legacy of collaboration that continues to shape the future. The Pakistan-China relationship serves as a compelling case study of how nations can accomplish prosperity and progress through resolute partnership, surpassing borders and generating a conduit to a happier future for all.



6 killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine as Kyiv continues drone counterstrikes

KYIV (AP): Russian attacks on Ukraine over a 24-hour period killed six people, local officials reported. Two people were killed and three more injured in the Kherson area after more than 100 shells bombarded the region over the weekend, local governor Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on social media. Two guided bombs later hit key infrastructure in Kherson city, sparking a partial blackout and disruption to the area's water supply, reported the head of the city's military administration, Roman Mrochko.

Local officials said two more people died in the Donetsk area and that a 57-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman were killed by an airstrike that destroyed their home in the Kharkiv region. In a separate incident, a 14-year-old boy was killed by a mine in a field in Ukraine's Mykolaiv region, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. The explosion also injured another 12-year-old boy. Fighting remained fierce across eastern Ukraine over the weekend, with Russian forces repeatedly attempting to encircle the city of Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, military officials said. Illia Yevlash, spokesperson for the Ukrainian military's eastern forces, told journalists that forces defending the area had faced 10 separate attacks in the space of 24 hours.

"The enemy is trying to attack us in the direction of Kupiansk to encircle it and reach the banks of the Oskol River," Yevlash told Ukrainian television. He said that Ukrainian forces in the town of Lyman in the Donetsk region had also faced heavy attack. Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told a UN Security Council meeting that the intensified attacks in



the east amounted to a new stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine. "Russian troops have, for several days now, switched over to active combat action practically throughout the entire front line. ... The so-called Ukrainian counteroffensive can therefore be considered finished," he said. Meanwhile, the Russian defense ministry announced that Ukraine had launched 27 drones in an overnight attack on western Russia.

Officials said that 18 drones were shot down over the Kursk region, leading to speculation in the Russian press that the attack could have been targeting the nearby Khalino military airfield. Images on social media showed burning debris just 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) from the air base, which was previously attacked by Ukrainian forces at the end of September. Writing on social media, Kursk Gov. Roman Starovoit said that debris had fallen in the region's namesake capital and the nearby vil-

lage of Zorino. No casualties were reported. Officials also said that two more drones had been shot down over Russia's Belgorod region, but did not confirm the fate of the remaining seven drones. Ukrainian media outlets later said that Kyiv's forces had carried out a successful strike on Russia's Krasnaya Yaruga electrical substation, close to the Ukrainian border.

The reports cited an unnamed source from within Ukraine's security services and included a video that appeared to show an aerial strike against an unidentified target. The Associated Press could not independently verify the reports. Moscow also said that it had intercepted a Global Hawk drone close to Russia's Black Sea border. A Su-27 fighter was scrambled to intercept the drone, which turned away and ultimately did not cross into Russian airspace, the Russian defense ministry said in a statement on social media.

Families urged to house Ukrainian refugees

BERLIN (BBC): More families are needed to offer Ukrainian refugees a place to live in Guernsey, the States has said. A sponsorship scheme has been running over the past 12 months which has helped find accommodation on the island for 16 Ukraine nationals. It reopened and islanders who are willing and able are urged to sign up.

Deputy Rob Prow said he wanted to thank those "who have welcomed people into their homes". Sponsors receive a payment of £349 per month, per household, to assist with bills. The initial 12-month sponsorship period will shortly end. The States said contact was being made with the 16 Ukraine nationals to check on their circumstances and whether they are able to continue with the scheme. President of the Committee for Home Affairs, Deputy Prow, said: "We are again appealing to the people of Guernsey for anyone who feels they are able to offer appropriate accommodation to a Ukrainian national already in the island, to contact our team so that we can review your circumstances." He said the people of Ukraine had "been through so much" and the sponsorship scheme provided a "further opportunity for islanders to make a very tangible contribution".

Philippines accuses China

MANILA (Agencies): The Philippines has accused China of conducting "dangerous manoeuvres" in the disputed South China Sea after a Chinese navy ship shadowed a Philippine navy vessel and tried to cross its path. The Philippines said the incident took place on October 13 near Thitu Island, known as Pag-asa Island in the Philippines, after the BRP Benguet issued a radio warning to the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Ship 621.

The PLAN ship then shadowed the Benguet, which was on a resupply mission, before attempting to cross the ship's bow at a distance of 320 metres (350 yards), the Philippines Armed Forces said in a statement on Facebook. It also posted a video of the encounter. Thitu, part of the Spratly Islands chain, was occupied by the Philippines in the 1970s and is now home to as many as 400 people. "These [dangerous] manoeuvres pose significant risks to maritime safety, collision prevention, and danger to human lives at sea," Vice Admiral Alberto Carlos, the chief of Western Command, said in the statement. "China must immediately halt these unsafe actions and conduct themselves in a professional manner by adhering to international law." The Philippines and China, which claims almost the entire South China Sea, have had several encounters in recent months in areas within Manila's 200-nautical-mile (370km) exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Last month, divers from the Philippine Coast Guard removed a floating barrier installed at Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing seized from Manila after a months-long standoff in 2012.

General Romeo Brawner, the chief of staff of the Philippines Armed Forces, urged China to stop its "dangerous manoeuvres and aggressive actions towards Philippine vessels", which he said risked causing a collision and endangering "the lives of maritime personnel from both sides". Several incidents have also been reported at Second Thomas Shoal during resupply missions to the Sierra Madre, which the Philippines deliberately grounded on the reef in 1999 in an attempt to bolster its claim to the waters. The shoal lies about 195km (121 miles) northwest of the Philippine province of Palawan. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled in 2016 that China's claim to the South China Sea had no legal basis but Beijing has ignored the decision, expanding and developing military outposts in the disputed waters and deploying its fishing fleets, maritime militia and coast guard to assert its claim.

US Congress handcuffed by Republican feud

WASHINGTON (Reuters): As the flames of war burn in the Middle East and Ukraine, the US Congress is immobilized by a brawl among Republicans, a dysfunction that even some in Donald Trump's party worry is giving comfort to the nation's adversaries. The House of Representatives has drifted leaderless for 12 days since eight of its 221 Republicans ousted Speaker Kevin McCarthy. That has held up any legislative action, from debating further aid to Ukraine as it battles a Russian invasion to a statement of support for ally Israel in its war with Hamas.

Republicans nominated hardliner Jim Jordan for speaker, but it was not clear if the longtime antagonist of party leadership would have the support needed to win a floor vote this week. McCarthy's removal was the latest in a series of self-created crises Congress has faced in a year that saw lawmakers bring the federal government to the brink of defaulting on its \$31.4 trillion in debt and just two weeks ago narrowly avert the fourth partial US government shutdown in a decade. That latter move led to McCarthy's ouster by colleagues angry that the spending bill passed with more Democratic than Republican votes, even though any measure passed by the House needs to clear the Democratic-controlled Senate and be signed by Democratic President Joe Biden to become law. Some House Republicans voiced frustration and anger that they have gone so long without being able to choose a leader.

"The world is on fire. Our adversaries are watching what we do and ... quite frankly, they like it," said Republican House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul. Speaking to reporters as his colleagues huddled to discuss their next moves, McCaul added, "I see a lot of threats out there. One of the biggest threats I see is in that room because we can't unify as a conference." The dysfunction was undermining Americans' already weak confidence in Congress, with two-thirds of respondents to a Reuters/Ipsos survey this month saying they did not believe Washington politicians could set aside partisan differences for the good of the nation. Half said they did not believe lawmakers could carry out their most basic function of passing laws. Former President Trump, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican nomination, has at times been a cheerleader for the chaos. The logjam continued as fighting in the Middle East intensified with Israel launching an assault on the Gaza Strip following a surprise attack by Hamas

fighters. Lawmakers of both parties have voiced support for Israel, but a leaderless House has been unable to take any official action. Republican Representative Zach Nunn said the conflict hit home in his Iowa district. He said a local family struggled to fly out of Israel until a private airplane was arranged, a Des Moines family was "trapped" in Gaza and some military friends aboard US ships now in the Mediterranean would see their paychecks suspended if Congress does not avert a government shutdown next month. "Let's start passing budgets. Let's start moving forward with our national security. Let's stand with our strongest ally in the Middle East right now. And most importantly, let's have a government that is functioning," Nunn told reporters. House Democrats echoed that stance.

"We hope our Republican colleagues will put an end to the self-inflicted chaos so that we can begin to govern on behalf of the American people," Representative Pete Aguilar, a member of House Democratic leadership, told reporters. The troubles are not confined to the House. In the Democratic-controlled Senate, a Republican has since February single-handedly held up the confirmations of hundreds of military officers, including many top commanders. Senator Tommy Tuberville is protesting a Pentagon policy that reimburses service members for out-of-state travel to access abortions. After the attack on Israel, Tuberville said he will not drop his blockade of Biden's nominees. Meanwhile, 20 months into Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, many Republicans in Congress want to back away from additional military and economic aid to Kyiv, feeding uncertainty about the US commitment to stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "With the pressing needs we have right now for additional support for both Israel and Ukraine, the lack of a speaker ... is very problematic," said Elizabeth Hoffman, director of congressional and government affairs at the Center for Strategic & International Studies. "The needs are very urgent and are not getting less urgent," she said in a telephone interview. All year Congress has been locked in a bitter struggle as headline House Republicans demand profound government spending cuts as a way of starting to tame a budget deficit that reached about \$1.7 trillion in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. As a result, federal agencies face many of their operations ceasing on Nov. 17 unless a deal can be reached.

‘Six months of war in Sudan has killed 9,000’

CAIRO (AP): Six months of war between Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary group has killed up to 9,000 people and created "one of the worst humanitarian nightmares in recent history," the United Nations humanitarian chief said. Sudan has been engulfed in chaos since mid-April, when simmering tensions between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open warfare.

"For six months, civilians ... have known no respite from bloodshed and terror," U.N. Undersecretary-General Martin Griffiths said in a statement marking the six-month anniversary of the war. "Horrific reports of rape and sexual violence continue to emerge." The fighting initially centered in Khartoum, but quickly spread to other areas across

the east African nation, including the already conflict-wrecked western Darfur region. Griffiths said the fighting reportedly killed up to 9,000 and forced millions of people out of their homes, either to safer areas inside Sudan or in neighboring countries. He said the conflict led to "communities torn apart. Vulnerable people with no access to life-saving aid. Mounting humanitarian needs in the neighboring countries where millions have fled."

According to the U.N. migration agency, more than 4.5 million people were displaced inside Sudan, while over 1.2 million others sought refuge in neighboring countries. The fighting also left 25 million people - more than half of the country's population - in need of humanitarian aid, Griffiths said. Adding to the calamity, a cholera outbreak was reported in the capital and other areas in the coun-

try, with more than 1,000 suspected cases detected in Khartoum and the provinces of Kordofan and Qadafir, he said. Since the breakout of the war, the Greater Khartoum area - the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum North - has become a battleground, with airstrikes and shelling taking place in densely populated areas. There were reports of rape and gang rape in Khartoum and Darfur, mostly blamed on the Rapid Support Forces. The RSF and its allied Arab militias were also accused by the U.N. and international rights groups of atrocities in Darfur, which was the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s. The recent atrocities in Darfur prompted the International Criminal Court's prosecutor to declare in July that he was investigating alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the latest fighting in the region.

Putin to visit Beijing

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to meet this week with Chinese leaders in Beijing on a visit that underscores China's economic and diplomatic support for Moscow during its war in Ukraine. The two countries have forged an informal alliance against the United States and other democratic nations that's now complicated by the Israel-Hamas war. China has sought to balance its ties with Israel with its economic relations with Iran and Syria, which are strongly backed by Russia.

Putin's visit is also a show of support for Chinese leader Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road drive to build infrastructure and expand China's overseas influence. The Russian leader will be among the highest profile guests at a gathering marking the 10th anniversary of Xi's announcement of the policy, which has laden countries such as Zambia and Sri Lanka with heavy debt after they signed contracts with Chinese companies to build roads, airports and other public works they could not otherwise afford. Putin's visit has not been confirmed, but Chinese officials have sug-

gested he will be arriving late Monday. Asked by reporters about a visit to China, Putin said it would encompass talks on Belt and Road-related projects, which he said Moscow wants to link with efforts taken by an economic alliance of ex-Soviet Union nations mostly located in Central Asia to "achieve common development goals." He also downplayed the impact of China's economic influence in a region that Russia has long considered its backyard and where it has worked to maintain political and military clout. "We don't have any contradictions here, on the contrary, there is a certain synergy," Putin said. Putin noted that he and Xi will also discuss growing economic and financial ties between Moscow and Beijing. "One of the main areas is financial relations and creating further incentives for payments in national currencies," Putin said. "The volume is growing rapidly, there are good prospects in high-tech areas, in the energy sector."

Alexander Gabuev, director of Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, said that from China's view "Russia is a safe neighbor that is friend-

ly, that is a source of cheap raw materials, that's a support for Chinese initiatives on the global stage and that's also a source of military technologies, some of those that China doesn't have." "For Russia, China is its lifeline, economic lifeline in its brutal repression against Ukraine," Gabuev told The Associated Press. "It's the major market for Russian commodities, it's a country that provides its currency and payment system to settle Russia's trade with the outside world - with China itself, but also with many other countries, and is also the major source of sophisticated technological imports, including dual use goods that go into the Russian military machine." Gabuev said that while Moscow and Beijing will be unlikely to forge a full-fledged military alliance, their defense cooperation will grow. "I don't expect that Russia and China will create a military alliance," Gabuev said. "Both countries are self-sufficient in terms of security and they benefit from partnering, but neither really requires a security guarantee from the other. And they preach strategic autonomy."

Egypt looking to host int’l meeting on Palestine issue

CAIRO (Agencies): Egypt has sent invitations to host an international regional summit aimed at addressing the recent developments relating to the Palestinian issue, the Presidency said in a statement. The government is intensifying communication with regional and international relief organizations in order to deliver the aid needed in the Gaza Strip, according to the statement which included the resolutions reached after a meeting of the country's National Security Council.

The statement didn't provide further details on who was invited or when it could be held. Israel Latest: Foreigners Unable to Cross to Egypt From Gaza Egypt stands ready to make any effort to calm the current situation involving fighting between Israel and Hamas, it said while also noting that the country's national security is a "red line" and that there would be "no complacency" in protecting it. On the Palestinian side

of the Rafah border crossing, crowds of foreign or dual nationals are waiting for it to open so they can flee the Gaza Strip.

The crossing is the only passage in and out of the Gaza Strip not controlled by Israel, but it was forced to stop operating earlier this week following Israeli airstrikes. The crossing has since remained closed, as Egypt, Israel and Hamas have not reached an agreement to reopen it to let people out or to deliver medical supplies and other humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip. This is despite panelloads of international humanitarian aid arriving at airports in Egypt. The World Food Programme tweeted that it is waiting to truck high-energy biscuits into Gaza. Israel has now cut off the flow of food, medicine, water and electricity to Gaza, pounded neighbourhoods with airstrikes and told the estimated one million residents of the north to flee south ahead of

Israel's planned attack. The Gaza Health Ministry said more than 2,300 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting erupted last weekend. Relief groups have called for the protection of the over two million civilians in Gaza urging an emergency corridor be established to get the humanitarian aid in. As the humanitarian situation worsens in Gaza, Egypt is coming under more and more pressure from the international community to open the crossing. "My daughters have coordinated with the German Foreign Office for me to be able to leave, but I can't," Nadia Baraka, a German national of Palestinian origin, told Euronews. "We came and we saw everything closed. Why are they laughing at us? At least help us to leave. I just want to leave," she said. Ibrahim Al-Qarinawi, a Swiss national, was visiting his family in Gaza when the violence began. "The war started and

we were besieged here. This war is very cruel. There's no water, no electricity, no telephone, no internet, nothing but death and destruction," he told Euronews.

One American passport holder felt very fortunate just to have reached the border with Egypt, even though it remains closed. "After seeing the situation in Gaza, the houses being destroyed and people dying under rubble, I say that God has given me a new life because I managed to get here," Raghada Abu Shaaban said. "I want to leave and go back to America, but I will leave my heart here. Nothing is as valuable as a human being," she added. It is not however safe in Rafah. Five days earlier an Israeli bomb landed nearby. The conflict began after hundreds of fighters from the militant group Hamas entered Israel and killed around 1,300 people, most of them civilians, on 7 October.

Poland’s pro-EU opposition set for majority, exit poll shows

WARSAW (Agencies): Poland's opposition is on track for a majority in election, an exit poll showed, an upset that would deny the ruling nationalists a third term and steer the country back into the European mainstream. The Civic Platform under former European Council President Donald Tusk won 32% of the vote, according to the Ipsos survey for the country's main broadcasters. The Third Way alliance had 13%, with the Left party at 8.6%, giving the three groups 248 seats in the 460-strong lower house of parliament.

Turnout was an estimated 73%, an all-time record. A later poll due in the early hours was delayed amid scenes of long lines at polling stations well into the night. Victory for the opposition would end a tumultuous period in

Poland's relationship with the European Union, which has withheld more than 35 billion (\$37 billion) to punish Warsaw for curbing the independence of judges and the media during eight years of Law & Justice rule. The zloty gained after the result was announced. "This is the end of the bad times, the end of Law & Justice rule," Tusk told jubilant supporters in Warsaw after exit poll results were announced. "Poland won, democracy won."

The ruling Law & Justice party took the most votes with 37%, a result that would in theory give it the first shot at forming a coalition. But that will prove fruitless as long as Tusk's allies have a blocking majority. A potential Law & Justice ally, the far-right Confederation party, took just 6.2% of the vote.

Law & Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski called the result a "victory," though said a third term for the nationalists was in doubt. "This we don't know yet," he told supporters. When Law & Justice came to power in 2015, Poland was seen as a poster child for Europe's post-communist transformation, but since then it has stacked the top court with allies and used the state broadcaster to pump out government propaganda.

A win for Tusk would also mark a shift in the tide of populist forces in Europe. Slovakia's Robert Fico, a former premier and ally of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, is set to return to power this month after winning on a campaign to halt military aid to Ukraine and migration. Poland has been polarized by an election

campaign that featured vicious personal attacks traded between Tusk and Law & Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski. Tusk was accused by the ruling party of being too cozy with Moscow - and of taking orders from Berlin. In government, Tusk would face a challenge in unifying parties whose differences prevented them from running on a joint platform in the election. He would also contend with a head of state, Andrzej Duda, who is a former Law & Justice member able to veto legislation. Monetary policy would also likely be impacted, since the central bank governor, Adam Glapinski, has close ties to the ruling party and was accused last month of seeking to tilt the playing field with an outsized interest-rate cut ahead of the vote.

Brian Mwenda: Kenya’s ‘fake lawyer’ thanks his supporters

NAIROBI (Agencies): A man accused of practising law without qualifications has said he is innocent - and thanked people who have come out in support of him. Legal officials in Kenya urged police to arrest a man practicing under the name "Brian Mwenda". They said the man was a "masquerader" who had stolen the identity of a real lawyer, named Brian Mwenda Ntwiga.

Local media reported that a "fake lawyer" had won dozens of lawsuits despite not being trained. The case

has captivated the East African country over the past few days, eliciting reactions from outrage to amusement. Despite condemnation by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) and the country's Director of Public Prosecutions, the alleged imposter has garnered several supporters. He has been praised by Kenya's Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) as a "brilliant young mind" who has succeeded "without traditional qualifications". He has also been backed by

Mike Sonko, the controversial former governor of Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Mr Sonko posted a video on social media, in which he said the man standing next to him is the accused "fake lawyer". The man in the video, who appeared to be Mr Mwenda, said: "I would like to convey my gratitude to the people that are supporting me and praying for me... in the fullness of time I will be able to clear this misunderstanding."

"I will be also be able to provide my innocence and

provide the actual context."

He said he would go to a police station and provide officers with a statement "hopefully" on Monday or Tuesday. Mr Sonko, a divisive politician who has faced allegations of drug trafficking and money laundering, said those attacking the "fake lawyer" are "nincompoops". "He's never killed anyone, he's not a terrorist," Mr Sonko said. Despite this backing, Kenya's director of public prosecutions said "Mr Mwenda" faces prosecution.

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Unwarranted policies of Punjab interim rulers

THE Punjab interim government is currently ruling the province beyond its legal tenure and blatantly taking steps which do not come under the prerogative of an unelected government in any garb. Recently, Punjab interim rulers issued orders for the privatization of 1,000 public schools and brought important amendments in Teachers' pension regulations that prompted stern resistance from teachers and administrative staff of public schools resulting in a halt of educational activities and closure of thousands of public schools across the province. Presently, tens of thousands of teachers are on the streets in protest of the Punjab government's recent decision regarding the privatization of public schools.

After burning hard-earned taxpayers' money in the renovation of shrines, maintenance of graveyards, offering of religious rituals and service of family and friends, Mr Naqvi and his cabal of Ministers have now turned to auctioning of provincial assets in the garb of institutional reforms and privatization. The interim leaders whose sole worth or ability is no more than their relationship with the previous rulers or intimacy with the establishment are currently engaged in asset making and money grabbing. Constitutionally, framing new codes and adopting legislation relating to long-term national or provincial policies is the sole role of politically elected rulers while the caretaker setup only performs the urgent administrative functions, oversees the law and order situation and assists the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding timely and transparent elections.

According to the reports, the Naqvi government has decided to hand over 1000 government-run schools to the private sector and Muslim Hands Pakistan, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) as a pilot project while the rest of the public schools would be handed over to the private sector in the next phase. The reports suggest that the private sector and NGOs will charge Rs. 2000 per student and will run a lucrative education industry in the province. The Punjab Teachers Union (PTU) claims that the government is planning to privatise 10,000 schools and that it is targeting the schools with the best infrastructure, together with furniture, state-of-the-art laboratories and other equipment, doling them out to the private sector. The PTU further accused the government of transferring the teachers of the privatised schools to far-flung areas and offering them early retirement, which not only demoralises the teachers but affects their performance. Currently, thousands of teachers across Punjab are resisting the caretaker government's decision to privatise public schools and sabotage the pensions and other emoluments.

In the current scenario, the caretaker setups in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have completed their constitutional term and are dragging their role far beyond their official obligation. Instead of sticking to their narrow mandate, the interim rulers are muddling into important policy decisions and causing serious administrative and legal issues for the public as well as the future elected government in the province. Several previous governments had used this recipe by handing over some schools to NGOs but those projects failed and education standards were further eroded by such adventures in the past.

Realistically, the incumbent caretaker rulers in the centre as well as provinces are working well beyond their mandate in demonstration of self-assumed patriotism and fake nationalism. No caretaker leader who so ever is mandated with governance and policymaking like the democratically elected leaders who enjoyed public backing and the trust of the masses. Hence, the Punjab government must review its course and resist indulging in long-term policy matters that have long-lasting effects on the masses as well as the government system. In fact, there should be strict accountability of caretaker leaders for their actions and policies during their stay in public office so no self-claimed leader could ever abuse his authority and create problems for the masses in the future.

Pakistan's unparalleled hospitality

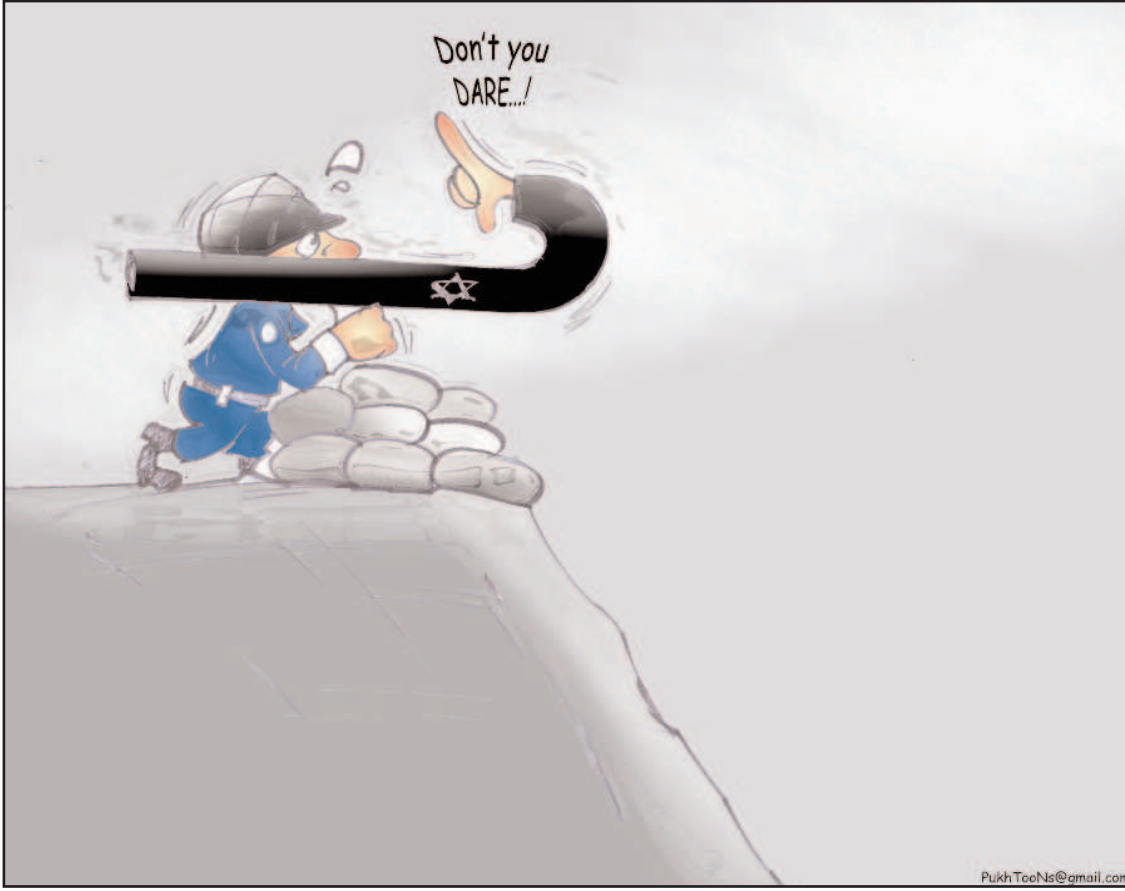
THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for the last more than 40 years without receiving any funds in return. The voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan to their home country is continuing after the Government of Pakistan ordered all illegal immigrants, including Afghan refugees to leave Pakistani soil. According to authorities at the Chaman border, more than 5,000 Afghans have already voluntarily repatriated to their country through the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing in the past few days.

Millions of Afghan refugees have been living in Pakistan over the past more than four decades in the aftermath of the 1978 Sour Revolution (Sour Inqilab) followed by the invasion of the former Soviet Union's Red Army in 1979, that forced millions of Afghans to migrate to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran. The majority of Afghan refugees did not return to their country after withdrawal of the former Soviet Union from their nation while thousands others came to Pakistan during the years-long civil war and in the backdrop of the US invasion of Afghanistan. Historically millions of refugees not only created serious law and order problems in the country but nose down the already fragile economy of their neighbouring. Meanwhile, the heroin and Kalashnikov culture, violent extremism and terrorism are other blessings those come into our society along with the Afghan Jihad. After the recent upsurge in terrorism and unceasing economic setback, the Security and Law Enforcement Agencies warned the government that the majority of foreign currency particularly the US dollars, and essential commodities including fertilisers, sugar, wheat flour, livestock, oil etc are being smuggled to neighbouring Afghanistan while the scores of illegal migrants had been involved in such heinous crimes over the past multiple years. Meanwhile, the European Union Agency of Asylum and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) have termed the presence of millions of illegal immigrants on Pakistani soil a threat to the country and recommended an early deportation to neutralised serious hazard to national security.

Historically, the government and the people of Pakistan had always acted out of their love for the well-being and safety of their Afghan brethren throughout in history. Amid such unmatched love and unparalleled hospitality over the past decades, Pakistan's nation has reached on the verge of economic collapse while Pakistan's territorial sovereignty is at stake on the hands of terrorist groups who attack Pakistan's western frontiers on a regular basis. The entire world and the UNHCR has categorically acknowledged Pakistan's sincere efforts and services for the people of Afghanistan. Hopefully, our Afghan brethren would consider the urgency of the situation and would render all possible assistance to Pakistan at this hour of need when this nation is struggling for its survival.

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.



Supporting the Palestinian cause is a moral imperative, not a crime

Baria Alamuddin

THROUGHOUT the liberal, democratic Western world, where freedom of expression and speaking out for human rights are fundamental articles of faith, Harvard graduates have been threatened with being placed on an employment blacklist for espousing pro-Palestine views.

France's Interior Minister banned pro-Palestinian demonstrations and ordered all foreign nationals who "commit antisemitic acts" to be deported. Similar measures have been introduced in Germany and elsewhere. Britain's loony interior minister Suella Braverman, a woman with an undistinguished record of voicing openly racist views, told senior police officers that waving a Palestinian flag or engaging in pro-Arab chants could be criminal acts.

Hamas's slaughter of children, pensioners and civilians was disgusting, wrong and damaging to the Palestine cause. However, there have been insidious efforts to attribute these horrors to the entire Palestinian nation. Western politicians and media voices rushed to adopt the most virulently conceivable pro-Israel language, while lacking the courage to speak out with comparable moral clarity about the mass murder of Gaza civilians which is already well under way. Western support for Israel is lauded as noble and sacred, while even equivocal support for Palestinians is suspicious, dangerous and possibly criminal. There is calculated amnesia that this is a conflict with a long, bloody history of atrocities by both sides. Every killing of Israelis to date has inevitably been avenged by disproportionate acts of collective punishment meted out by an infinitely more destructive military. Those who in recent days have uncritically embraced the Israeli political establishment are just as culpable as those who cheered Hamas's bloodletting in fueling the hatred and setting the stage for future carnage.

We must have the courage to even-handedly hold both sides to account. In the US, Britain and Europe, ascendant populist alt-right politicians and media outlets cynically and amorally exploit the

Palestine issue as an extension of their anti-liberal culture wars. Soaring tensions fuel militancy on both sides, provoking despicable attacks on both Jews and Muslims, and targeting schools and places of worship around the world. Daesh and Al-Qaeda recruitment materials exploitatively portray Western support for Israel as the continuation of a "crusader" war against the Muslim world.

outlets unquestioningly hosted a deluge of unsubstantiated rumors, misinformation and fake footage, often with the systematic goal of demonizing Palestinians as "animals" and "sub-humans" who deserve extermination. Social media messages falsely claimed that Arab-Israeli "traitors" helped breach the Gaza fence, setting the stage for further anti-Arab violence. In recent days, militant set-

Among the genuine testimonies of what occurred on October 7, media and social media outlets unquestioningly hosted a deluge of unsubstantiated rumors, misinformation and fake footage, often with the systematic goal of demonizing Palestinians as "animals" and "sub-humans" who deserve extermination. Social media messages falsely claimed that Arab-Israeli "traitors" helped breach the Gaza fence, setting the stage for further anti-Arab violence.

Communities are increasingly divided, with large rival pro-Palestine and pro-Israel demonstrations in cities such as New York, Paris and London. Moderate Jews have been among the most outspoken voices in raising concerns about the bombardment of Gaza, while blaming Netanyahu and his far-right extremist cabinet colleagues for driving communal tensions to boiling point, amid glaring lapses in security. Actual antisemitism must be condemned, particularly as Arabs and Jews are close cousins sharing the same Semitic origins and intimately related languages. But there have been perpetual efforts to stigmatize and cancel all pro-Palestinian sympathies as antisemitism, when in reality support for the Palestinian plight is an inevitable consequence of the universal championing of human rights and international justice. Among the genuine testimonies of what occurred on October 7, media and social media

ters staged fatal revenge attacks against West Bank Palestinians.

A viral report alleging that Hamas had beheaded babies was widely disseminated through the media and the atrocity denounced by President Joe Biden, before the Israeli government and White House were forced to deny that this had ever happened, and CNN issued an apology for peddling such falsehoods. The BBC was savaged for not calling Hamas terrorists, while its studios were sprayed with red paint by pro-Palestine activists for "manufacturing consent for Israel's war crimes." Within every historical rights movement, moderates coexisted alongside radical militants. That included anti-apartheid activists, US civil rights, the suffragettes, Irish republicans and indeed the Zionist movement - a cause for which numerous future Israeli leaders perpetrated terrorist attacks: including Menachem Begin's involvement in the 1946 attack on the King David

Hotel in Jerusalem and Ariel Sharon's oversight of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres, the latter manifesting brutality far exceeding that of recent days. Current extreme-right ministers glorified Baruch Goldstein's 1994 massacre of 29 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque, an act celebrated by the Zionist extreme right as a model for how all Palestinians should be expunged from the land.

Testimonies of Israeli mothers who didn't know whether their children were alive, dead or taken hostage brought me to tears because of a personal memory from Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The school bus had been supposed to bring my two daughters home, but amid the chaos the driver conveyed them to a safe location near a hospital. For an entire day I frantically believed they could be dead, or lost for ever. Those hours of near insanity prompted us to flee Lebanon as refugees. I wonder how many Israelis who fled volatile border areas will likewise choose to never return, or depart Israel altogether. Counterproductive attempts to carpet bomb Gaza until there are no militants left standing merely undermine Israel's security by cultivating new embittered generations who cherish fantasies of indiscriminate revenge, thus empowering hateful factions such as Hezbollah and Hamas. Violence breeds only abhorrent, perpetual violence. Israel's right to self-defense, statehood and security has been loudly trumpeted in recent days, and indeed growing numbers of Arab states have already subscribed to these principles. All Palestinians modestly seek are some of these same rights accorded to them, including governing territories which according to legally binding UN resolutions belong to them. Those around the world who peacefully champion humanitarian causes such as Palestine, including moderate Jews who share the vision of two coexisting sovereign states, must be respected and heeded. For the sake of appeasing a vengeful extreme-right Zionist lobby, the West must not overnight jettison hundreds of years of hard-won political rights, freedoms and human rights advocacy.

Arab News

BRI consolidates Mongolia-China ties

Ukhnaa Khurelsuk

ON the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), put forth by President Xi Jinping, I express my best wishes and warm greetings to the readers of China Daily and, indeed, to the friendly people of China. Mongolia is pleased that over the past decade the BRI has turned into an important regional platform for development demonstrating the fundamental principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits based on the concept of ensuring shared development opportunities, mutual learning, mutual benefits and equitable cooperation.

The pandemic and the global geopolitical instability have brought to light the necessity of sharing development opportunities through complementarity between neighboring countries and other regional partners in overcoming the unprecedented challenges we face today. Mongolians have a beautiful saying that neighbors, similar to a family, see eye to eye. We, as a neighbor, are pleased with the significant role that the BRI plays in overcoming the difficulties associated with the environmental and geographical specificities and development gaps among countries in the region in enhancing their economic cooperation.

The Mongolia-China-Russia economic corridor is one of the six land corridors under the BRI. For Mongolia, a country located between its two eternal neighbors - China and Russia, the BRI and its Mongolia-China-Russia economic corridor are of paramount importance as it would provide the necessary infrastructure to access the world's major markets via our two neighbors and other countries in the region. The Mongolia-China-Russia economic corridor is a comprehensive programme designed to integrate Mongolia's Steppe Road, Russia's Eurasian Economic Union and China's Silk Road Economic Belt initiatives. It has been instrumental in the enhancement of cooperation between the three countries, especially in economy, trade, customs control, transportation, logistics, infrastructure, energy, tourism, environment and humanitarian areas. Taking advantage of our geographical location connecting Asia and Europe we are keen to become "Transit Mongolia" - a hub for transportation, logistics, production and services. In this respect, we plan to develop the infrastructure that connects Russia, Mongolia and China through the construction of roads, gas pipelines and the vertical axes of railway in western and eastern Mongolia.

Such infrastructural projects shall not only strengthen the cooperation between the three countries but also enhance the regional connectivity. The promotion of green development, an integral component of the BRI, goes along with our policy and "Billion Trees" national movement aimed at contributing to the global efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. To this end, the leaders of the two countries agreed to set up the Mongolia-China Anti-Desertification Center, that would play an important role in our joint efforts to protect the environment and fight against desertification. The preparations for Mongolia to host the 17th Conference of

the Parties (COP17) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2026 are well underway and I wish to invite countries to actively participate in the conference and join our efforts in its lead-up. Mongolia and China are close neighbors, close friends and close partners that share a land border of 4709.6 kilometers. Both countries consider the long-term and sustainable development of good neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation as priorities in their foreign policies.

Mongolia welcomes President Xi Jinping's policy to develop good neighborly and friendly relations that ensures development benefits for both sides grounded on the principle of a "closer, sincere, mutually beneficial and accessible" cooperation. Next year we will commemorate the historic 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. Based upon the principle of mutual respect, the development paths chosen by each other, the relations and cooperation between Mongolia and China have enhanced over the past period in all areas, including political, economy, culture, education, science, health, infrastructure and environment, thus reaching today the level of comprehensive strategic partnership. During my state visit to China last November, we held officials talks with President Xi Jinping and agreed to coordinate the two countries' long and medium-term development policies. It was welcomed by both sides as an important agreement which serves as a road map defining future prospects of our bilateral relations. Mongolia's "Vision 2050" - the long-term development policy - encompasses our goal to develop a value-added economy based on know-how and advanced technology. I appreciate the strong support expressed by the leadership of the People's Republic of China in the successful realization of Mongolia's "Vision 2050" and its readiness to actively cooperate under the BRI and the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Cooperation among the public and private sectors, and entrepreneurs of the two countries are key to the all-round enhancement of trade and economic ties with China, our eternal neighbor, and the creation of countless new business opportunities by utilizing the strengths and resources of both countries, in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

Our two countries are forever connected by nature, mountains and rivers and we share historical ties that date back to ancient times. I am fully confident that the mutual trust and friendship between our people and our cooperation towards development will continue to grow. On a final note, I wish the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, initiated by President Xi Jinping, a success. I have no doubt that the forum will make a significant contribution for the good of Mother Earth and humanity by advancing the sustainable development goals, promoting green development, and enhancing the mutual understanding and development between countries around the world. On behalf of the Mongolian people, I convey my best wishes for happiness and prosperity to the friendly people of China.

The China Daily

How moneyed interests spawned and sustained US opioid crisis

Xu Ying

THE opioid epidemic ravaging communities across America represents a profound public health crisis and moral failing decades in the making. This unfolding tragedy spotlights how profit motives and regulatory lapses incubated a contagion of addiction that enriched drug makers while extracting a ghastly human toll. Behind the statistics lie broken lives and betrayed trust.

The sheer scale of opioid mortality remains shocking despite growing awareness and mitigation efforts. With over 100,000 deaths in 2021 alone, opioid overdoses claimed more American lives yearly than car crashes or gun violence. And the crisis is worsening, with synthetic opioids like fentanyl causing record spikes in fatalities by permeating illicit drug supplies. This exponential loss of life now exceeds the darkest years of the AIDS epidemic.

Rather than a public health disaster happening organical-

ly, the opioid crisis was manufactured through calculated choices to drive addiction for profit. The relentless promotion of OxyContin as a low-risk analgesic directly seeded today's landscape littered with fatalities. Despite knowing the enormous dependency risks, the Sackler family deployed false marketing to push their blockbuster pill, raking in over \$35 billion from Oxy sales since the 1990s.

The medical establishment shares culpability for becoming complicit conduits enabling mass over-prescription. Professional associations funded by opioid makers popularized the myth that doctors were under-treating chronic pain, abandoning caution about addictive risks. Misleading assertions that dependency was rare if opioids were properly prescribed for pain became common, despite contrary evidence. With incentives skewed, restraint was abandoned as doctors followed loosened guidelines.

Lax oversight from captured regulators like the FDA and DEA also facilitated the pharmaceutical free-for-all. Despite clear warnings about addiction and diversion, agencies succumbed to fierce industry lobbying to permit aggressive opioid marketing and distribution. Their regulatory surrender allowed and even abetted the ensuing epidemic rather than blocking it. This abdication of duty left Americans unprotected.

With profit seeking unconstrained and oversight neutered, conditions ripened for catastrophe on a national scale. The result after two decades was a historic public health crisis claiming over one million American lives, exceeding Vietnam War casualties. This colossal policy failure has rightly been labelled a "national disgrace" by reform advocates across the political spectrum.

Revelations of calculated choices sparking this crisis spotlight the corrosive influ-

ence of moneyed interests on governing institutions. The opioid epidemic illustrates how profit motives can capture regulators and corrupt policy to enrich a privileged few at monstrous public expense. The outsized lobbying power of opioid makers won them effective impunity while stifling reforms, allowing intended consequences to unfold. Industry players secured enablers at the highest levels through strategic donations to politicians, advocacy groups, and regulators seeking influence. Opiate makers like Purdue lavished millions on contributions and lobbying funds to shape policy responses amenable to their bottom lines. Many lawmakers pursuing opioid deregulation were themselves among the biggest recipients of pharma cash, raising conflict of interest questions.

The notorious "revolving door" between regulators and regulated further entwined

public agencies with opioid corporate interests. Several senior DEA officials involved in drug policy oversight have since joined opioid makers they once regulated, or defend them as lobbyists. Such relationships inevitably raise doubts over whose interests the governing institutions truly serve under the capture of moneyed influences. Does the inordinate access and power of corporate lobbies undermine regulatory missions by corrupting public servants into servants of industry? Have democratic ideals of responsive leadership devolved into a system rigged by elite influence networks and tycoons? The tragic arc of the opioid crisis lends credence to critiques of America as a plutocracy masquerading as a republic.

The merciless human toll of America's opioid plague spotlights endemic corruption of governing systems by moneyed special interests. This ongoing public health disaster was spawned by the callous pursuit of profit,

enabled by regulatory surrender in the face of lobbying might. The scheme engorged the coffers of opioid makers while crushing families, communities, and faith in leaders. Its immense costs lay bare the moral bankruptcy of institutions serving the privileged few at such grievous public expense. Redeeming civic promise requires truth, justice and change. The powerful must be held to account, balance restored to governance, and public interest reinstalled over private enrichment. For generations, the opioid crisis will be remembered as either the nadir spurring renewal, or another chapter of eroding trust as elites escape consequences. Its lessons must shape the necessary reckoning ahead to reclaim democracy from moneyed interests and reaffirm that all lives matter over lobbyists. In such a colossal crisis and tragedy, any attempt to shift blame onto others is an unforgivable crime of deceiving the American people.

Poland's elections will have consequences for EU's unity against Russia

The Moscow Times

The Los Angeles Times

The Washington Post

VOA



Pakistan Stock Exchange holds Gong ceremony

— announce building of In-House manufacturing facility

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to announce the building of an in-house manufacturing facility for the Panadol portfolio by Haleon Pakistan Limited, a world-leading Consumer Healthcare Company and a listed company on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

The gong ceremony was attended by British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, as the Chief Guest, said a press release on Monday.

The team from the British High Commission and Haleon Pakistan Limited were received at the Stock Exchange by the MD & CEO PSX, Farrukh H. Khan and Board member(s) PSX along with the Exchange's senior management.

The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, Jane Marriott, and the CEO of

Haleon Pakistan Limited, Farhan M. Haroon, in the presence of MD and CEO PSX, Farrukh Khan, Board member(s) PSX, the team from the British High Commission and senior management of both Haleon Pakistan and PSX.

Speaking on the occasion, the MD & CEO PSX, Farrukh Khan stated, "I warmly welcome the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, her team, the CEO of Haleon Pakistan, Farhan Haroon, and the Haleon Pakistan management team, to PSX. Your visit to PSX will serve as a confidence-building measure for the UK-based companies in Pakistan and will send a positive message to the PSX-listed companies to enhance business and trade with companies in the UK."

"I would also like to congratulate Haleon

Pakistan on the launch of their Panadol Expansion project. Multinationals operating in Pakistan have historically enjoyed excellent profitability. Haleon's further investment reinforces their commitment to Pakistan and highlights the opportunities presented by Pakistan's economy".

The CEO & General Manager of Haleon Pakistan Limited, Farhan Muhammad Haroon, added, "Under the project, Haleon Pakistan Limited will be investing ~ USD 10 million in its manufacturing facility at Jamshoro to bring the latest technology to Pakistan and enhance the production of Panadol to 8 billion tablets.

This will help ensure smooth supplies of Pakistan's largest pharmaceutical/Over-the-Counter medicine to needy patients.

This is in addition to the investment of ~ USD 2 million being spent on enhancing the manufacturing facility of CaC1000 Plus to cater to the local needs and export opportunities that the Company is currently working on.

As a leading Consumer Healthcare Company, this investment is a testament to our commitment towards improving self-care in Pakistan".

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, stated: "This investment will expand production capabilities and develop product lines to meet the growing healthcare demands of the Pakistani people. If Pakistan can continue improving its business environment, we will undoubtedly see more new investments from existing UK investors."



HYFERABAD: Workers busy in preparing wooden boxes at their workplace.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where five ships namely, MSC Gina, Maersk Chesapeake, Hafnia Prestige, Jal Kalpavriksh and Horin Trader carrying Containers, Gas oil, Coal and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Onyx-1, Gambella, Xin An Ping and Al-Zubarah scheduled to load/offload Cement, Containers, LNG and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containers ship, Maersk Chesapeake left the port on today morning, while two more ships, MSC Gina and Livarden are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 116,892 tonnes, comprising 79,628 tonnes imports cargo and 37,264 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,324 Containers (134 TEUs Imports and 2,192 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them five ships, Gambella, Chem Harvest, Xin An Ping, Al-Zubarah and Onyx-1 & two more ships, Kyparissia and MSC Shanghai-V scheduled to load/offload Cement, Palm oil, Coal, LNG and Containers are expected to take berths at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Engro Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on Monday, while four more ships, MSC Elaine, MSC Maria Elena, Maersk Sentosa and Al-Deebel carrying Container and LNG are due to arrive at Port Qasim on 17th October, 2023.

Motorbikes, 3-wheelers sale drops 9%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country witnessed a decrease of 9.85 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to sales of the corresponding months of the last year.

During the months under review, as many as 268,990 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 298,405 units in July-September (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

The sale of Honda motorcycles dipped by 7.19 per cent from 250,132 units to 232,139 units whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed a decrease of 62.27 per cent from 10,007 units to 3,775 units during the months under review.

Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes also went down from 3,726 units to 2,555 units witnessing a decline of 31.42 per cent while the sale of Road Prince motorbikes witnessed a sharp decline of 55.59 per cent from 9,273 units to 4,118 units.

However, the sales of United Auto motorcycles witnessed an increase of 7.04 per cent from 20,369 units to 21,803 units.

Crackdown against gas theft continued

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 70 connections while imposing fine of Rs.2.78 million and 123 under billing cases processed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 07 connections on illegal use of gas, another 03 connections on the use of compressor.

In Bahawalpur, the regional team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas, another 03 connections on the use of compressor and 27 under billing cases processed. Rs. 6,000 Booked against under billing cases.

The company disconnected 18 connections on illegal use of gas and 07 under billing cases have been processed in Multan and amount of Rs 0.064 Million have been booked against gas theft and under billing cases.

In Sheikhupura, 09 connections were disconnected by the region and 42 under billing cases processed, the team also booked Rs.2.558 million against gas theft and under billing cases.

SNGPL's team in Mardan disconnected 04 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal connections, the team also booked Rs.0.0475 million against gas theft.

The regional team in Gujranwala, 03 meters were disconnected on the

use of compressor while another 01 on illegal use of gas and 31 under billing cases processed. The region also imposed fine of Rs.0.1122 million on under billing cases.

The company disconnected 09 connections on illegal use of gas in Islamabad.

In Sahiwal, 02 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas, another 01 connection on the use of compressor.

The regional team in Faisalabad disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas, another 02 connections on the use of compressor and 16 under billing cases have been processed.

In Gujrat, the company disconnected 06 connections on illegal use of gas.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 237 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Monday and gained 237.88 points, a positive change of 0.48 per cent, closing at 49,731.35 points against 49,493.47 points the previous day.

A total of 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14,119 billion were traded during the day as compared to 556,389,862 shares valuing Rs 15.450 billion the previous day.

As many as 359 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 218 of them recorded gains and 129 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 12 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 98,168,338 shares at Rs 3.15 per share, PTCL with 22,603,000 shares at Rs 6.95 per share and Pak Int. Bulk with 22,073,500 shares at Rs 4.59 per share.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 102.00 per share price, closing at Rs 7,300.00, whereas the runner-up was Philip Morris

Pak with a Rs 40.50 rise in its per share price to Rs 580.50.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 178.11 per share closing at Rs 8,200.00, followed by Pak Hotels with a Rs 38.30 decline to close at Rs 484.71.

Rupee gains 79 paise against Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed the 28th consecutive recovery session as it gained 79 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.83 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.62.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 276 and Rs 278 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.47 to close at Rs 291.61 against the last day's closing of Rs 293.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.85, whereas a decrease of Rs 2.16 was witnessed in the exchange

rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 337.03 as compared to the last closing of Rs 339.19.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 22 and 21 paise to close at Rs 75.36 and Rs 73.80 respectively.

Gold rates decrease by Rs.1,900 to Rs.200,100 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,900 and was sold at Rs. 200,100 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 202,000 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,629 to Rs.171,553 from Rs.173,182 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.157,257 from Rs.158,750, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,500 and Rs.2,143.34 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$15 to \$1,923 from \$1,938, the Association reported.

Lucky Cement awarded for Best Corporate Report - 2022

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited has won the Best Corporate Report Award in the Cement Sector Category at the "Best Corporate & Sustainability Report Awards Ceremony - 2022". The recognition was jointly announced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

At this occasion, Mr. Atif Kaludi, Chief Financial Officer of Lucky Cement Limited said, "At Lucky Cement Limited, we consider governance, com-

pliance, ethics, and transparency as the foundational principles of our business model. This recognition further reaffirms our unwavering dedication to upholding transparency and accountability in all aspects of our operations."

He further added, "The adoption of the International Integrated Reporting Framework in our report is a testament of our commitment to keeping our stakeholders well informed with all of our business operations and their performance. This recognition underscores our ongoing efforts to enhance transparency for

all our stakeholders through our reporting."

The award represent the Company's commitment to having the best corporate practices and governance, reflected by the stringent policies for IT, whistleblowing, social responsibility, investor grievances, and safety record at the Company. Furthermore, the comprehensive disclosure of the Company's operational environment, strategic objectives, risk management, and governance processes provided firm grounds for securing this recognition.

ICAP and ICMAP have been organizing the Best

Corporate & Sustainability Report (BCSRA) Awards Ceremony since 2000. This recognition has been instrumental in encouraging entities to follow transparency in preparing their annual reports according to the international best practices.

The objective of the award is to encourage the publication of timely, accurate, informative, and well-presented annual reports for investors, regulators and other stakeholders and to recognize as well as honor such organizations for the exemplary achievement in producing such high-quality reports.

KCCI welcomes cut in POL prices, hopes to see cut in power tariff

KARACHI (PPI): The Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, while appreciating the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar's government for announcing substantial reduction in petroleum

price by Rs40 per liter, said on Monday that this was the right decision taken due to decline in international market and improvement in rupee value against dollar which would provide some relief to common man and the business community in the ongoing era of inflation, besides having a positive impact on the economy.

In a joint statement issued, Chairman BMG and President KCCI said that this was the second consecutive cut in petroleum prices which would certainly help in bringing down the inflation to some extent but effective price control mechanism and strict implementation of government rates of various household products must be ensured with a view to provide relief to inflation-stricken poor masses.

Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala expressed hope that the Care Taker Prime Minister would also take measures to reduce the power tariffs and devise effective strategies for dealing with the ongoing gas load shedding and low gas pressure being suffered by the industries situated in all seven industrial town zones of Karachi. "Gas supply situation is worsening day by

day and it has become impossible for the industrialists to smoothly carry out production activities and meet the export targets. Steps have to be taken on war footing basis so that the wheels of industries keep on spinning", he said but feared that the situation may worsen further during forthcoming winter season if the lawmakers do not pay prompt attention to this pressing issue.

Zubair Motiwala pointed out that KE's sales to industries have dropped by 9.5 percent in the last three months since electricity tariff started increasing. "The concerned ministries and the bureaucracy are adopting the easiest way to abide by the IMF commitment to control circular debt. In this regard, they go for raising the energy rates which is not a wise move as there are several other possibilities like reducing thefts, pilferages and technical line losses etc. along with review of agreements with IPPs with regards to idle capacity charges in light of appreciating dollar which was hovering around Rs100 at the time of these agreements but was now at around Rs280, indicating a huge difference of about 200 per-

cent. These and several other measures should be taken before penalizing the consumers", he stressed, adding that cross-subsidization was one of the highest factors which enhances gas and electricity tariffs.

"Increase in gas price for local industries would be last nail in the coffin. The recent drop in energy consumption clearly indicates that industries are not functioning and closing down, hence, in order to stop this nosedive of deindustrialization, it is necessary that practical and pragmatic steps are taken", Zubair Motiwala added while appreciating the government passing on the benefits of reduced oil rates in the international market to the people of Pakistan.

President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh said that the reduction in petroleum prices would reduce the cost of production which would ultimately extend a direct benefit to the people. "The industrial sector would definitely benefit from the reduction in POL prices mainly as fuel and electricity are regarded as the lifeline of any economy and play a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of a country."

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 97/1, Institution. 8/3/2022. Date of hearing. 1/11/2023. Zarnosh VS Aurangzeb. Notice. 5. Bakht Zamen s/o Shamen resident of Peshoghut in the limit Daggar Kalay tehsel Daggar Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 1/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Afghanistan's upset win

HYDERABAD (INP): Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott hopes Sunday's ICC World Cup 2023 upset win over England will "encourage boys and girls" to take up cricket even though the country's Taliban rulers ban women from playing sport. The 69-run victory will be regarded as one of the biggest shocks in the history of the tournament as Afghanistan ended a 14-match World Cup losing streak. "It's not just cricket that the guys are playing for," said Trott, who recognised the significance of a win for a nation reeling from recent earthquakes and the Taliban's fractious international relations. "The guys are very knowledgeable of the things and the hardship that some people are going through because of the natural disaster and for various other reasons. "And so, if this can give a smile to people's faces but also encourage boys and girls to pick up a cricket bat or a cricket ball and get playing cricket wherever they are in Afghanistan, then that's the sort of the goal that's been achieved." Before Sunday, Afghanistan had only won one match at the World Cup when they defeated Scotland in their 2015 debut. They lost all nine matches they played at the 2019 tournament in England, including a 150-run rout at the hands of the hosts. But having scored 284 on Sunday thanks to dashing opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz's blistering 80 and Ikram Alikhil's 58, Afghanistan's bowlers set to work.

Shakib fighting thigh injury

DHAKA (INP): Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan suffered a thigh injury and is under observation ahead of their World Cup match against India next week, the country's cricket board said. Veteran all-rounder Shakib injured himself during Friday's eight-wicket loss against New Zealand in Chennai when he scored 40 with the bat and completed his bowling quota of 10 overs to pick up one wicket for 54 runs before hobbling off the field. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said in a statement that he had an MRI scan but did not reveal the extent of the problem. "He had an MRI scan done after the game, and we will continue to observe his fitness for the coming matches," team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan said in a BCB statement. "We will clinically assess his day-to-day progress and take measures accordingly." Bangladesh will play hosts India in their next match in Pune on Thursday. Bangladesh started their World Cup campaign with a victory against Afghanistan on Oct 7 but lost their next two matches against England and New Zealand.

Zverev exits Japan Open

TOKYO (AFP): Number three seed Alexander Zverev said he "played horrible" after crashing out in the first round of the Japan Open on Monday, losing to world number 60 Jordan Thompson. Germany's Zverev, ranked ninth in the world, lost 6-3, 6-4 in Tokyo, one week after falling at the first hurdle at the Shanghai Masters. Zverev, who won the Chengdu Open in China last month, said there was "nothing that I did well" after having his serve broken three times by Thompson.



LUCKNOW: Glenn Maxwell took no time to take the attack to Sri Lanka.

World Cup 2023

Australia beat Sri Lanka in Lucknow for first win

LUCKNOW (Agencies): Australia finally secured their first win of the World Cup, but only after surviving some nervy moments against Sri Lanka.

The five-time champions, who lost to India and South Africa in their opening two matches, were in another difficult situation when Sri Lanka reached 125-0. But Sri Lanka fell apart, losing all 10 wickets for 84 runs to be bundled out for 209.

Even when faced with a modest target, Australia were 24-2, and had to be guided from trouble by maiden World Cup half-centuries from Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis, who made 52 and 58 respectively. Pyrotechnics were added by Glenn Maxwell's 31 not out from 21 balls, and Marcus Stoinis' unbeaten 20 from just 10, sealing Australia's victory with five wickets and almost 15 overs in hand.

The fluctuations of the contest were matched by drama off the field in Lucknow, where high winds dislodged signs from the roof. Falling debris dropped on to the pitch and seats, forcing spectators to the sheltered area at the back of the stands. The International Cricket Council said no one was hurt and the sparse crowd was able to move back closer to the field when the wind calmed.

Australia are now only two points

off the top four places in the group table and next meet Pakistan in Bangalore on Friday.

That match, along with contests against New Zealand and England, will go a long way to deciding their progress. Sri Lanka, so far the only team in the competition to have suffered three defeats, play the Netherlands at the same ground on Saturday, knowing that another loss would probably send them out.

Australia finally up and running Australia's only World Cup defeat by Sri Lanka came in the famous 1996 final and there were periods in this game when a repeat was possible.

Following disappointing performances in their opening two matches, Australia were off the pace after losing the toss in Lucknow. Kusal Perera and Pathum Nissanka added 125 for the first Sri Lanka wicket, taking advantage of some tame bowling and errors in the field.

Nissanka survived half-chances to wicketkeeper Inglis and the flying Marnus Labuschagne at mid-wicket. Perera could have been lbw to Maxwell's off-spin but Australia did not review, perhaps reluctant after Mitchell Starc burned an awful review on Nissanka from the first ball of the match. It took an excellent

catch from David Warner on the leg-side boundary to remove Nissanka and get Australia firing. It was the first of two smart catches by Warner, who even helped the groundstaff with the covers when it rained.

Sri Lanka's collapse was inexplicable. Nine wickets for 52 and six for 31. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa improved as the day went on to claim four wickets, captain Pat Cummins two and a direct-hit run-out. The wind brought a dust storm at the end of the Sri Lanka innings, and the start of the Australia chase was hit by left-armers Dilshan Madushanka, who had a livid Warner and scoreless Steve Smith lbw in the same over. For Smith, it was a first duck in a World Cup match.

But Marsh, possibly playing for his place as Travis Head returns to fitness after a broken hand, was superb in powering the ball through the off side. He was cruising before coming back for a needless second and was run out by Dimuth Karunaratne's accurate throw from the deep. With 129 still needed, Inglis' uncertain start did little to calm Australian jitters, but the gloveman born in Leeds grew into a stand of 77 with Labuschagne. Labuschagne was on 40 when he miscued to mid-wicket to give Madushanka his third wicket.

Waqar tells Shaheen to copy Bumrah World Cup blueprint

BENGALURU (AFP): Pakistan legend Waqar Younis on Monday advised misfiring strike bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to learn from India seamer Jasprit Bumrah if he wants to make an impact at the World Cup.

Shaheen is struggling with his pace and fitness and has been unimpressive in all three games at the World Cup where his four wickets have come at a cost of 139 runs.

"I don't know if there is a problem with his fitness," Waqar, who is India as a commentator, told AFP.

"The missing link in his bowling is discipline and he is over trying to get wickets."

"When you do the same thing again and again, like Shaheen is bowling to get his yorker going, then batsmen know that and they are ready for it." Waqar suggested Shaheen should follow the example set by Bumrah who he described as a "top bowler." The Indian spearhead is joint top wicket-taker in the World Cup with eight wickets at just 11.52.

New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner and fast bowler Matt Henry also have eight victims each.

India thumped Pakistan by seven wickets in Ahmedabad on Saturday, with Shaheen unable to help Pakistan defend a meagre 192-run target.

In contrast, Bumrah dismissed Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan with two well executed deliveries to finish with 2-19 in seven overs. "Bumrah is creating pressure and his line is top of the off stump. He bowled so well against Pakistan and created pressure to get wickets," said Waqar.

Shaheen, 23, has been leading Pakistan's new-ball attack since taking 16 wickets in five World Cup games in the United Kingdom four years ago. He has been likened to former great Wasim Akram who with 414 Test and 502 ODI wickets was regarded as one of the best left-arm pacers to have played cricket.

3 KP stars leaves for China to participate in Asian Paralympic Games

PESHAWAR (APP): Three special players of KP here on Monday left for China to participate in the forthcoming Asian Para Games, which were postponed due to COVID-19 will now be held from October 22 to 28 in Hangzhou under Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) and Hangzhou Asian Para Games Organising Committee (HAPGOC).

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa three international Table Tennis players Muhammad Ibrahim (with standing disability), World Islamic Games bronze medalist Altaf Ur Rehman in wheelchair Table Tennis and Ziaur Rahman (with standing disability) from Swat will participate in bad-

minton competitions.

Three special players from Peshawar will represent Pakistan in the Asian Paralympic Games, which is certainly an honor for the province. Muhammad Ibrahim also represented Pakistan in the Para Asian Games held in Incheon, Asian Games held in Korea in 2015 and Para Games in Turkey.

The three players left Islamabad for Hangzhou, China. Ibrahim Table Tennis, Altaf wheelchairs Table Tennis while Ziaur Rehman (Badminton) will participate in their respective competitions. Before the departure of the players to China, after meeting with the media,

Muhammad Ibrahim and Altaf Ur Rehman expressed the hope that they would show good results. He said Zia Ullah, hailing from Swat, has worked hard for the competitions and we hope that our athletes will definitely succeed in winning medals.

Ibrahim has won the gold medal in the Asian Paralympic competitions held in South Korea and he is expected to win the gold medal again, while Altafur Rehman (Bronze) medalist) who represented Pakistan in Turkey in World Islamic Games, also got bronze medal in the wheelchair table tennis category for Pakistan's 76-year history.

2nd Bank of Khyber Junior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton C'ship begins

PESHAWAR (APP): The 2nd edition of the Bank of Khyber Junior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Championship got underway here at Tariq Wadood Indoor Hall, Peshawar Sports Complex on Monday.

Head of HR the Bank of Khyber Muhammad Asif formally inaugurated the Championship in which a total of 150 players, both male and female, in U15, U17, U19 Boys singles and Girls Singles and Doubles (Open category) are taking part.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association Secretary Muhammad Amjad Khan, Tournament Organizing Secretary Mian Sadaqat Shah, Directorate of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Female Badminton Coach Bushra, National Coaches Nadeem Khan, Hayat Ullah, Malik Faraz and other important personalities were also present.

The Championship would continue up till October 19, 2023. All the players participating in the Championship were scrutinized in the first stage after which they were allowed to play in the Championship according to their specific age group categories including U15, U17 and U19 while the girls were competing in the open categories in both singles and doubles events.

Tanzeela Zaman and Uzair Khan, hailing from Charsadda and Peshawar, will be defending their titles who in the first edition recorded victories in the Girls open category and Boys singles. Earlier the first edition was successfully held at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsadda, the Championship will also select the players for the National Junior C'ship.

On the opening day, in the U19 category, Muhammad Zaid of Peshawar defeated Haris Ahmad of Kohat by 3-0,

the score was 21-19, 23-21 and 21-18. Umar Khan of Peshawar defeated Daniyal of Haripur 3-1, the score was 19-21, 23-21, 21-17 and 21-18 while Mazhar Hayat of Charsadda defeated Mohammad Umar of Swat by 3-0, the score was 21-19, 21-15 and 21-17.

Talking to the media, HR Head, the Bank of Khyber Muhammad Asif said that Bank of Khyber is playing its role for the promotion of sports in the province. He said along with Badminton, the Bank of Khyber also extended sports to various games in the province besides supporting leading ranking players on an individual basis.

"Our efforts will be that the bank organize the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Junior Badminton Championship on a regular basis and like in the past, it has extended all financial and moral support to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association.

Nasrullah Khan wins senior amateur golf title at 30th COAS championship

LAHORE (APP): Brig. Nasrullah Khan Warraich of the Rawalpindi Golf Club (RGC) won senior amateur net category with a score of 142 at the 30th Chief of Army Staff (COAS) championship played at the iconic RGC.

Corps Commander Rawalpindi Lt Gen Intiaz Shahid (HI M) was the chief guest at the closing ceremony and distributed prizes among the winners.

Scheduled from the 10th to the 15th of October 2023, the 30th COAS Open Golf Championship saw over 700 talented male and female golfers from across the country in action.

They compete in various categories, including professionals, seniors, amateurs, veterans, and women.

The other winners included Brig Shoaib Kiyani, Muhammad Aslam, Sumair Ashraf, Naseer Raja, Colonel Asif Mehdi, and Shahid Warraich. In the Ladies Category Ramsha Ijaz, Barkha Ijaz and Hamna Amjad were the winners.

In the amateur category, Mohammad Shoaib and Amir Farooq were successful while Senior Professional category was won by Muhammad Tariq.

Junior professional category bagged by Muda Khan while Shabbir Iqbal and Muhammad Munir won first and second position respectively in the professional category.

The President RGC hailed the services of ground staff, national scorer Faiz Rasool and RGC Secretary Brig Zahid Hussain.

IOC approves cricket for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

MUMBAI (INP): Cricket will feature as one of five new sports at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, organisers announced Monday.

A vote of the International Olympic Committee's session in Mumbai approved cricket, together with baseball/softball, flag football, squash and lacrosse.

The IOC's executive board last week accepted a proposal by LA organisers for Twenty20 cricket, the sport's shortest format, to be included along with the four other new events.

But the final choice still had to be voted on Monday at the IOC session in Mumbai, one of the global centres for cricket, as India hosts the men's 50-over Cricket World Cup. Los Angeles chiefs have proposed a six-team event, in both men's and women's T20 cricket.

The United States is set to field sides as the host nation, but no firm decision has been made on the number of teams, or how they will qualify. Cricket last featured at the 1900 Paris Olympics, when a team from Britain beat a side representing France. Adding cricket to the Olympic programme is an obvious move, financially speaking.

It would tap into the lucrative South Asian market, attracting fans in countries such as India and Pakistan. The Indian Premier League, featuring cricket's global stars, has helped India become the unquestioned economic driving force of the sport, thanks to legions of fans and lucrative broadcasting deals in a nation where the game is almost a religion.

KP Inter-Division Open Archery Championship begins

PESHAWAR (APP): The first edition of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inter-Division Open Archery Championship organized by Provincial Archery Association got under way here at Hayatabad Sports Complex on Monday.

A large number of male and female players turned up participating in the Championship in different categories including Men's single, Women's single and Max-Double competitions. Founder of the Archery in Pakistan Wisal Muhammad Khan was the special guest who officially inaugurated the Championship.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archery Association Secretary Sarfaraz Khan, Coach Nawab Ali and a large number of players and spectators were also present on this occasion. Male players from Peshawar, Mardan, Bannu, Kohat, Malakand, Dera Ismail Khan and Hazara Divisions, as well as female archers are also actively participating in these competitions. In the women's event, Kainat Nisar and Sakina performed well, while in the Men's event, Waqar from Mardan and Archers from Kohat took the lead.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Wisal Muhammad Khan said that he has always been trying to promote archery throughout the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said, when the game of archery was introduced in Pakistan, this sport was completely new to the people, but with a lot of hard work and continuous efforts, it got a boost and today archery is one of the most popular sports in Pakistan. He said that due to the efforts of coaches like Sarfaraz Khan, Nawab Khan, more young talented archery players are coming to the national and international levels. He said Archery equipment has been provided to various district associations, which will surely give further development to the sport of archery.

Indian lawyer calls for 'strict action' against Pakistan's Rizwan for praying during match, supporting Palestine

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): An Indian lawyer has called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to take "strict action" against Pakistani batter Muhammad Rizwan for offering prayers during a World Cup match in Hyderabad earlier this month and dedicating last week's victory against Sri Lanka to the people of Palestine.

Rizwan, widely regarded as one of the best wicket-keeper batters in limited overs cricket around the world, offered prayers during Pakistan's opening match against the Netherlands on Oct. 6. He scored a century during Pakistan's next match against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad, helping his team complete a record chase against the island nation, a victory he dedicated to "my brothers and sisters" in Palestine, currently facing unprecedented Israeli bombardment.

"The act of Muhammad Rizwan when he read namaz

on the cricket field amid many Indians is symbolic of the intentional depiction of his religion which stands against the spirit of the sports," Indian lawyer Vineet Jindal said in a written complaint addressed to ICC Chair Greg Barclay on Oct. 14.

"The act of representation of his religion by Muhammad Rizwan in the field and further followed by his statement in his press conference regarding the dedication of his victory to the people of Gaza further attests to his religious and political ideology," Jindal said he had sent a copy of the complaint to the cricket boards of Pakistan and India as well.

"International sports are conducted with the essence of developing an amiable relationship with countries worldwide irrespective of caste, creed, race, and religion and not to create or provoke enmity between communities," Jindal wrote, saying Rizwan's actions were against the ideology of India.

"Therefore, it is requested to take strict action against Muhammad Rizwan, Wicket keeper and batsman of the Pakistan Cricket team."

Jindal is the same lawyer who filed a complaint against Pakistani presenter Zainab Abbas earlier this month over "derogatory" tweets about Hinduism that the journalist had posted in 2014. Following the complaint, Abbas, who was in India as part of the ICC's panel of presenters for the ongoing Cricket World Cup 2023, returned to Pakistan. She has since apologized for her posts and said she left India after feeling "intimidated and scared" due to the online reaction.

Meanwhile, Israel's foreign ministry on Sunday celebrated India's win against Pakistan in Saturday's World Cup fixture, saying on X that the loss had kept Islamabad from possibly dedicating its victory to the "terrorists of Hamas."

Constantine optimistic for Pakistan to do well in home leg

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan football team coach Stephen Constantine was optimistic that Pakistan would perform better against Cambodia in the home league of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier on Tuesday.

It may be mentioned that FIFA World Cup Qualifier away match between Pakistan and Cambodia ended in a goalless draw at Cambodia last week.

"Hope for a better game against Cambodia. After eight years, a big match is going to take place in Pakistan. Our focus is on winning against the Cambodian team," he said in a press conference here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Monday.

"Pakistan has not had an international game for a long time. The players are work-

ing very hard for the game. A professional football league is expected to be hosted by Pakistan. If there is no professional league then there will be no good future of football in the country. India has improved in the game due to the professional football league," he said and added that the absence of a professional league in Pakistan is need of the hour.

To a question, he said footballers with dual citizenship were not allowed to represent the team in India.

"The Pakistan Football Federation has allowed the players of dual citizenship in the team. However, FIFA has not yet decided about Otis Khan's citizenship and he will be part of the team if the decision is made," he said.

Pakistan Football team Goalkeeper Yusuf Butt's

was overjoyed to play at home ground for the first time. "After eleven years, we will be playing at our home ground," he said.

In another presser, Head coach Cambodian team Felix Agustin Gonzalez Dalmas thanked Pakistani people and PFF for the warm welcome.

"They have been very kind and as a guest I'm very happy. PFF has put in a lot of money in football and the first leg at Cambodia was a tough one," he said.

"Pakistan is the favorite to win at home. Football is played on the ground. The sports facilities are very good here and will improve further," he said. Cambodian goalkeeper Kim Huy who also accompanied Dalmas in the presser was full of hope for the match against Pakistan on Tuesday.



In brief

Sabiha Khanam remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leading lady of the Pakistani cineworld of 1950s and 1960s Sabiha Khanam was remembered on Monday on her birth anniversary. Born on October 16, 1935 in Gujrat, her real name was Mukhtar Begum. She ruled the Pakistani cinema with superhit movies, including Kaneez, Mukhra, Anokha, Tehzeeb, and many others. She gave award-winning performances in films during the 1980s and 1990s as well. Overall she performed in over 130 films. Some excellent television dramas were also on her credit. In most of her movies, Sabiha played the lead roles along with her husband, late Santosh Kumar (Syed Musa Raza). The government of Pakistan conferred upon her the Pride of Performance award in 1986. She passed away on June 13, 2020 at the age of 85 in Virginia, United States.

Police arrest 14 gamblers

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district Police arrested nine gamblers and recovered Rs 17,770 stake money, 13 mobile phones and other items from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Monday. He informed that Waris Khan police conducted a raid and arrested nine gamblers namely Tariq, Akash, Bilal, Asif, Aqib, Umair, Imran, Zubair, and Kashif and recovered Rs 10,570, seven mobile phones and other items from their possession. In other raid, Pirwadhvi police arrested five accused namely Waleed, Salman, Babar, Ghulam Ali and Zahoor Ali and recovered Rs 7200, six mobile phones and other items from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against them while further investigations are under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Faisal Saleem said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession.

IESCO recovers over Rs 401 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has so far recovered over Rs 401 million from 26,399 defaulters during the ongoing drive against power theft and recovery across all the circles of the company. According to an IESCO official, the Company teams on Monday recovered over Rs 1.4 million from 130 running defaulters and Rs 1.9 million from dead defaulters, besides removing meters and transformers of defaulters. The official said the drive would continue vigorously till complete elimination of power theft and recovery from the defaulters. He urged the consumers to pay their bills timely.

Umrah draw held at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Employees Welfare Association (EWA) of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organised an Umrah draw in the university's auditorium the other day. Six members from grade 2 to 16 including Irfan Ahmed, Farman Ali, Iram Nazli, Mumtaz Alam, Riasat Hussain and Muhammad Ansar, while 5 members from grade 17 to 21 including Shah Farrukh, Zahida Parveen, Shafique Ahmed, Aftab Ahmed and Naveed Sultana were among the lucky members whose name was balloted and they will perform umrah this year. The ceremony was presided over by Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while Registrar, Raja Umar Younis, Chairman, Umrah Committee, Syed Zia Hussain Naqvi, President EWA Yasir Mehmoed and other representatives participated in the event.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at Parliament House.

Sanjran, Indonesian Ambassador unite for stronger bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio, met with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at the Parliament House and discussed matters of mutual interest, culminating in a commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

Chairman Senate expressed his steadfast determination to deepen relations with Indonesia, emphasizing the historical support both nations have provided each other during challenging times. Acknowledging the intrinsic value of the Pakistan-Indonesia relationship, Chairman Senate highlighted the need to augment economic cooperation, focusing on trade, culture, and tourism.

During the meeting, the favorable investment climate in Pakistan was underscored, with Chairman Senate encouraging Indonesian businessmen to explore investment opportunities.

Stressing the necessity to boost the trade volume between the two countries, he also emphasized the importance of reinforcing parliamentary ties and fostering economic diplomacy. The parties delved into the intricate situation in Palestine, advocating a resolution aligned with UN resolutions. Chairman Senate urged world powers to exert pressure on Israel, emphasizing the need to halt the suffering

of innocent Palestinians. In addressing the global challenge of Islamophobia, the Chairman Senate emphasized the significance of unity and consensus among Muslim nations. Expressing mutual admiration, Ambassador Adam M. Tugio described Indonesia's view of Pakistan as crucial. He commended Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and expressed Indonesia's keen interest in advancing bilateral relations across various domains.

In closing, both sides affirmed their commitment to further strengthen ties, recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing regional and global challenges. Drugs concealed for the purpose of smuggling were recovered in Chagai and Kach districts. 25 kg hashish, 8 kg heroin, 1 kg opium, 30 grams ice drug and 20 kg prohibited materials were recovered.

ANF seizes 108 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 108 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 24.8 kg hashish was recovered from an accused, resident of Kohat arrested on Super Highway Karachi. On the pointation of the accused, a co-accused, resident of Karachi was also arrested.

In another operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi Courier Office, ANF recovered 180 grams Ice drug from a parcel booked for Dubai.

30 kg hashish concealed in doors of a vehicle was recovered on Sibi Road Quetta. During the operation, an accused, resident of Naseerabad was arrested.

The perpetrator, identi-

Ashrafi, Erbas urge immediate halt to Gaza bombardment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Monday held a meeting with the President of Religious Affairs of Turkey, Dr. Ali Erbas. Both the leaders vehemently condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestinian territories, including Gaza, and called upon the United Nations and the international community to play a more active role in immediately halting the brutal bombardment, said a statement.

They emphasized that Israel's actions constitute the worst war crimes, with inhumane atrocities inflicted upon the people of Gaza, including attacks on schools, hospitals, and relief teams.

Both the leaders stressed that the Palestinian issue must be resolved in accordance with the United Nations' resolutions. They advocated for restoring the pre-1967 status of Palestine.

Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi and Dr. Ali Erbas also expressed deep concern over the dire situation in Gaza, especially the shortage of essential supplies like food and water, arising from the consequences of Israel's encirclement.

"This situation is a clear violation of international agreements and the United

Nations Security Council's resolutions," they added.

They called for an immediate halt to the bombardment of Gaza and the end of the unjust blockade, allowing international aid to reach the affected people. Both the leaders stated that the issues of Palestine and Kashmir were long-standing concerns of the Muslim Ummah, which should be resolved in the light of the United Nations' resolutions. They condemned the bloodshed and oppressive occupation in Kashmir and Palestine by India and Israel, respectively.

The resilience and sacrifices of the ashmiris and Palestinians in their struggle for freedom were acknowledged, they added. Both leaders emphasized the need for Pakistan Ulama Council and the Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs to enhance cooperation to address the issues facing the Muslim Ummah and work collectively toward their resolution.

Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi also thanked the Turkish government for its steadfast stance against Israeli aggression and expressed gratitude for their timely condemnation of the recent Israeli hostilities.

Tackling land-grabbing mafias remains top priority: ICCPO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police's Tarnol unit recently apprehended a notorious land grabber, confiscating weapons and ammunition during the operation, police said. Under the directive of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), a vigorous crackdown on land grabbers in the federal capital has been initiated to eradicate this menace.

Employing advanced technology and manpower, the Tarnol police successfully arrested an individual involved in the illegal seizure of citizens' properties and other related transgressions.

The perpetrator, identi-

fied as Wali Khan, was found in possession of weapons and ammunition, leading to his immediate detention. Cases have been filed against the apprehended individual, and investigations are underway.

Expressing zero tolerance for land grabbing, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized the continuation of stringent measures against those unlawfully occupying others' properties. He instructed all zonal police officers to escalate the crackdown until the complete eradication of land grabbing within the federal capital. Citizens are urged to promptly report any such activities to the police helpline, Pucar-15.

'World Food Safety Day' observed

RAWALPINDI (APP): A seminar here on Monday was organized by the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on the occasion of World Food Safety Day at the National University of Medical Sciences.

The event witnessed the participation of various officials and students, including Director of Operations North, Amina Rafique, Dean of Nutrition, Dr. Ayesha Mahiuddin, and Head of the Department, Dr. Omar Farooq, Punjab Food Authority and the Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition collaborated to hold the seminar which focused on the theme "Water is Life" and discussed the use of water, conservation, and the risks posed by environmental changes.

Prominent persons call on Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent arts and academia figures here on Monday met with Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah at the Culture Division to discuss cultural preservation and peace, exploring academic partnerships to empower youth creatively, concluding with a friendly gathering.

Conversations also revolved around plans to establish academic connections with periphery universities to empower youth creatively, said a press release issued here.

The meeting included attendees such as film director Sajjad Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Kundi, who previously served as the VC of both

Gomal University and Bahauddin Zakariya University, Former ED HEC, Islamabad, and Sarfaraz Ali Korejo, who holds the position of Executive Director of Students Advancement Fund Endowment (SAFE) at Shah Abdul Latif University, and is the Founder of the Pak-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) Sukkur Chapter, among others who met with the minister.

In the meeting, they conveyed their best wishes to the minister.

During meeting, they talked about common areas of interest and matters concerning the promotion and preservation of the country's artistic and cultural heritage.

Furthermore, they had a

detailed discussion about establishing academic and institutional connections with universities in Pakistan's periphery, including Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. The aim is to empower and involve our dynamic youth in creative endeavors.

The minister emphasized that promoting the national heritage and culture among the people is key to preventing societal issues such as hatred and intolerance, leading to peace and stability.

In addition, Korejo, representing the Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, presented a traditional gift of handcrafted organic Khais/Lungi from Khairpur to the minister.

HEC explores opportunities for students, faculty in WBAF Financial Inclusion Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan held here Monday a meeting with Executive Chairman World Business Angel Forum (WBAF), Mr. Babarys Altuntas to explore opportunities for students and faculty under the WBAF Financial Inclusion Programme. Chaired by Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors/Pro-Vice Chancellors of leading public sector universities including MNS University of Agriculture Multan, National Textile University Faisalabad, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, National University of Modern Languages Islamabad, Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, DOW University of Health Sciences Karachi, National University of Science & Technology Islamabad.

CEO IGNITE Mr. Asim Hussain, Director General R&I HEC Hazrat Bilal, Director R&I HEC Ms. Noshaba Awais, and representatives of universities' Business Incubation Centres, also attended the meeting. The meeting held in continuation of the recent collaboration established between HEC and WBAF, in March 2023 on the sidelines of the 5th Vice Chancellors Forum. WBAF, an international organization, aims to ease

access to finance for start-ups for generating jobs in the world economy.

Through the collaboration, the capabilities of entrepreneurs, start-ups, students, and faculty members of Pakistani universities will be strengthened via network-building with global investors and providing them with quality knowledge. WBAF under its, Financial Inclusion Programme, provides angel investment courses for students, accrediting entrepreneurship clubs, supporting incubation centres, access to Financial Inclusion Centre to all students and faculty, etc.

In his opening remarks, Chairman HEC stated that HEC is committed to strengthening collaboration with international partners to open new avenues and opportunities for students and faculty. He added that HEC is putting efforts to play its part for development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country facilitating startups to contribute to wealth creation and to generate more job opportunities.

Ms. Noshaba Awais shed light on the HEC-WBAF collaboration and the Financial Inclusion Programme.

Apprising the university representatives of the objectives of LoI, she said that the agreed program of activities under the LoI pertains to the inclusion of Pakistani universities in the Financial Inclusion Programme being

offered by WBAF and 15 universities have already given their consent for the programme.

She briefed that the programme is divided into two phases, the Phase-I includes providing access to students and faculty to the Financial Inclusion Centre, while the Phase II includes angel investor course for BICs, academic support, assessment of BICs, and formation of university Business Angels Network, etc.

Mr. Babarys Altuntas underlined that WBAF is an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), adding that it is collaborating globally to empowering the economic development of the world.

He briefed in detail the Financial Inclusion Programme to the Vice Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors who attended the meeting and having consented for the programme.

He noted that governments around the world have understood the importance of angel investment for boosting their economies.

The participating Vice Chancellors appreciated the efforts of HEC and acknowledged the need for working together to uplift the economy of Pakistan through entrepreneurship development and incubation opportunities for young and promising startups.

FJWU organizes 3-day capacity building training program

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a commendable stride towards promoting academic excellence and fostering a culture of quality assurance, the Quality Enhancement Cell for Affiliated Colleges (QEC-AC) at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) has organized a comprehensive three-day Capacity Building Training Program.

This event was conducted under the aegis of the Higher Education Development Program (HEDP) and brought together prominent stakeholders in the education sector.

Distinguished guests at the opening ceremony were Asad Khan, Head/Program Specialist of the Post-secondary Education Reforms Unit (PERU), HEDP, HEC, and Dr. Arshad Bashir, Consultant Academics, PERU, HEDP, HEC, Islamabad. Both luminaries addressed the significance of the HEDP project's Component-2, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in affiliated colleges (ACs). They acknowledged and commended the establishment of a dedicated QEC-AC unit within FJWU's QEC, designed to facilitate ACs in their ongoing journey of academic enhancement.

The opening ceremony was graced by Dr. Saima Hamid, Former Vice Chancellor of FJWU, who shared the remarkable progress achieved during her four-year tenure, positioning FJWU as a leading institution in women's education.

Dr. Hamid expressed deep appreciation for HEDP, HEC, in catalyzing the establishment of the QEC-AC unit at FJWU, instrumental in implementing a holistic approach to a culture of academic quality.

The program featured a series of technical sessions led by distinguished professionals in the field.

Dr. Khushbakht Hina, Director of QEC at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, illuminated the challenges of Self-Assessment Report (SAR) preparation and the HEC Revised Policy on Anti-Plagiarism for 2023. Dr. Shaheryar Naveed, Additional Director of the Centre for Learning Excellence at FJWU, expertly guided the participants in Integrating High Impact Teaching Practices in the Classroom. Waqas Ahmed Malik, Additional Director of QEC at the Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad, introduced participants to the philosophy of Outcome-Based Education. This was followed by a session led by Ms. Nosheen Naz, Deputy Director of QEC at FJWU, who highlighted the Usage of Turnitin Software and emphasized the paramount importance of academic integrity in alignment with the HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2.

Dr. Huma Ayub, Additional Director of QEC at FJWU spoke on Quality Assurance Practices, the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism, and the Implementation of HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy for 2023 at FJWU.

A group discussion involving representatives from FJWU's Registrar, Admission, and Examination office, as well as academic figures, deliberated on the challenges and future prospects for quality assurance in affiliated colleges. The event reached its zenith in a closing ceremony graced by Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafique, Vice Chancellor of FJWU, who distributed certificates among the participants. Dr. Huma Ayub extended her heartfelt gratitude in a closing address, marking the culmination of this enlightening Capacity Building Program.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan presenting a shield to UNFPA Country Director Dr. Luay Shabaneh at All Pakistan Women Convention on Family Planning and Population Management.

UAE building hospital in Herat

KABUL (Pajhwok): UAE is building a hospital in the earthquake-hit Herat province. To treat quake-wounded individuals, the hospital would be constructed within eight hours. The plan for building the medical facility was announced by a UAE team that visited the province. The delegation, including health workers, has also brought equipment. Herat Governor Sheikh Noor Ahmad Islamjar commended the UAE gesture promising support for the hospital's construction.

Quake relief supplies arrived

HERAT (Agencies): The first batch of earthquake relief supplies donated by the Chinese government arrived at Afghanistan's Herat International Airport and was handed over to the Afghan side. Relief materials, including tents and rollaway beds, were unloaded from two Chinese cargo planes at the airport, Xinhua reported. The Chinese government has pledged emergency humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to help the country with earthquake relief work.

Protests held in Logar over Israel's attacks on Gaza



LOGAR (TOLONews): Residents of Kharwar district of Logar province held protests in response to Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip and they want the international community to put pressure on Israel to stop its attacks on the Gaza Strip.

“With the oppression of the Palestinian people, God willing, our Mujahideen will go and save them,”

said Khan Mohammad, a protester. “Stop killing Muslims, stop your cruelty, terror, and barbarism against Muslims, we are ready to cooperate with them in any way,” said Subhanullah, a protester. Some protestors said that if Israel continues these attacks, they are ready to unite with Hamas and stand

against Israel. “We ask the superpower countries of the world to try to stop the bombing and the war that is going on in Gaza right now,” said Sahil, a protester. “Where are human rights and those who claim to defend Muslim rights now?” said Ahmad Jan, a protester. The second Deputy Prime Minister condemned

Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip and called on Islamic countries and the international community to stop these attacks. “In the 21st century, making 1.2 million people mass immigrants from their country has no place in any law. All the countries of the world should raise their voices,” said Abdul Salam Hanafi.

Kazakh rescuers return home

KABUL (Agencies): A team of rescue workers from Kazakhstan returned home on Monday after assisting in the search and rescue mission in Herat province in Afghanistan following the string of earthquakes last week.

The team, sent by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to assist in Afghanistan involved a team of 45 people; this included rescue workers, canine units from Kazakhstan's national operational rescue team, doctors and paramedics from the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The ministry's press service reported families and friends of the rescue workers were at the airport to welcome them home.

According to the ministry, the Kazakh rescuers provided medical care to 83 earthquake victims, helped clear debris around 211 damaged houses, and examined 700 destroyed houses in the Naib Rafi village. The team also found and recovered the body of a deceased child.

In addition, the team assisted and inspected a number of tent cities affected by a severe dust storm.

According to Kazakh news agencies, Afghan authorities thanked Kazakhstani for their assistance in helping the earthquake victims.

“We will remember the invaluable assistance that Kazakhstan has provided to us in difficult times,” Mohajer Sahib, from the Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan said while addressing the rescuers before their departure.

Centre in need of female physiotherapist

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): Patients visiting the Orthopedic and Physiotherapy Centre in southwestern Khost province resent the shortage of female staff.

This centre was established several years ago under the umbrella of the Public Health Department by an NGO working for the rehabilitation of the physically-challenged people.

Around 1,000 patients, half of them women, visit the facility every month. But visitors often grumble about the shortage of women medics

Wahid, who approached the medical facility, commended its services. However, he called the lack of female staff a major problem.

He said the people of Khost adhered to traditional and did not like to send their women to male doctors. “This issue must be addressed by appointing women physiotherapists.”

Mujeeb, who visited hospital, claimed seeing several people returning without showing their female patients to male doctors.

He said the people take their patients to other health centres due to lack of female doctors in this hospital.

“While coming here, we hope they will help us, they will address my leg pain complaint. One shortcoming is that the limb plastic quality is inferior and should be improved.”

Haya, another visitor, said it was difficult for women explaining their issues to a male doctor.

Haqqani: IEA made no ‘secret deal’

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister of Interior Sirajuddin Haqqani has said that the freedom of Afghanistan was achieved as a result of the struggle of the Islamic Emirate and the people of the country and that no deal was made with anyone in this regard.

“We are not beholden to anybody. We have not made a deal. If you have noticed, on the day of conquest, there were no Mujahideen (IEA fighters) in many places where conquests were achieved. We called on local people and madrasa students to go and protect it,” Haqqani said during a speech in Ziruk



district of Paktika province. He also emphasized the need to strengthen national unity and rebuild the country.

“We are tired of hostilities, we didn't see any benefit, we didn't feel life, we

missed development,” Haqqani said. According to him, religious and national values of Afghanistan have been damaged as a result of oppression by the former rulers of the country.

Okada urges IEA to allow girls in schools, varsities

KABUL (TOLONews): The outgoing ambassador of Japan in Kabul, Takashi Okada, stressed that education for all is a key to peace and stability in Afghanistan, saying that Japan hoped that girls can return to their schools “soon.”

He made the remarks in an interview with TOLONews.

“Japan is supporting the country with the educational sector. Together with UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) we are going to build 165 primary schools all over the country. We hope that the boys and girls have a better opportunity to access education,” he said.

Okada also stressed the fulfilment of the demands of the international community by the Islamic Emirate to be recognized.

“We are engaging with the de facto authority. We have dialogues and our hope is that the de facto



authority will improve their governance in the interest of the Afghan people. Then if that happens, there will be more extended possibilities for cooperation between the de facto authority and the international community,” he said.

The outgoing Japanese ambassador voiced concerns over terrorist activities in Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, the country is safer, and the stability is better but still those terrorist active in some

parts of the country, so I hope that the authority will be able to prevent those terrorists,” Okada said.

This comes as on Saturday Okada met with acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to bid him goodbye, Abdul Qahar Balkhi a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign said on X.

Okada said that his mission in Afghanistan has ended and now Takayoshi Kormaya will be Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan, according to Balkhi.

Helmand's Binader residents decry limited access to schools

L A S H K A R G A H (Pajhwok): Residents of Binader area in Garmsar district of southern Helmand province say their children lack full access to education facilities and urge the government to resolve this issue.

Officials admit the complaint of Binader residents, but say schools in all areas of Helmand are operating according to people's needs.

Abdul Wasi, a teacher at a private school and a resident of Binader area, told Pajhwok Afghan News: “Binader area is divided into Binader Ulia and

Binader Sufla areas and 15,000 families live in these areas and only a primary school exists in Binader Sufla and a middle school in Binader Ulia.”

The middle school in Binader Sufla is 18 kilometers away from the school in Binader Ulia.

Children of these two areas are deprived of high school education because there is no high school.

The teacher asked the government to provide education facilities for the children of these areas.

Juma Gul, another resi-

dent of Binader area, told Pajhwok the foundation stones or two schools were laid near Binader bazaar during the previous government, but their construction could not be completed.

Maulavi Mohammad Ewaz Ansari, provincial education department head, confirmed the complaints of Binader residents and said efforts were underway to solve such problems in Binader area and other districts.

Ansari said: “It is a common problem in all districts of Helmand province, 45

school buildings are half completed, these buildings are supposed to be completed under Egra program, but its budget is currently frozen in World Bank.”

He said they had shared the issue with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and some primary and middle schools will be upgraded to middle and high schools.

He further added that there was also a shortage of teachers and the MoE had approved 105 more teachers who would be hired through a transparent process.

Visually impaired complain about lack of educ and job opportunities

KABUL (Khaama Press): Individuals with disabilities in Afghanistan face challenges such as poverty, limited access to education, unemployment, healthcare issues, and social insecurity.

The United Nations designated October 15th as ‘International White Cane Safety Day’ in 1969 to address the issues faced by the visually impaired. Since then, every year, this day has been commemorated worldwide to raise awareness and support for individuals with visual impairments.

People with disabilities in Afghanistan also commemorate this day through separate ceremonies. Before the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, there were limited opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and they were engaged in various sectors.

However, Afghanistan has been experiencing a crisis over the past two years, affecting all segments of society, especially vulnerable groups. Two years after the Taliban administration



took control, the visually impaired are complaining about the lack of job opportunities, limited access to education, and the promotion of cultural stereotypes.

Nargis Kazemi, a 25-year-old woman, has lived with her blind husband in a rented house in one corner of Kabul for three years. She used to work as a weaver alongside her studies in the past, selling her products to contribute to the family income. But, as she puts it, “Conditions have changed, and it has become tough for everyone.”

Nargis, who successfully graduated in law and criminology from Kabul University, initially faced family resistance and the Taliban's ban on girls' education. She was unable to continue her studies.

Nargis emphasizes that the government has allocated a meagre allowance for the visually impaired, and job opportunities for blind people in the country are scarce.

This visually impaired woman, who dreams of having a child, adds, “Before, my nephews used

to accompany me, but now that my husband and I live together, we want to have a child to help us leave the house.”

She adds, “This is Afghanistan. One moment it's good, the next moment it's bad,” and she is bothered by using the word “blind.”

According to the United Nations Human Rights Watch, more than four million people in Afghanistan have disabilities, and many of them, including the visually impaired, face various forms of discrimination.

Farmers blame reduced rice yield

TALOQAN (Pajhwok): Farmers in northern Takhar province are unhappy with this year's rice yield despite many efforts.

Rice is one of important crops in Takhar.

Pajhwok Afghan News reporter talked to several farmers on how and when the rice is cultivated and what steps they need to take?

Mohammad Zarif, a farmer who cultivates rice every year, said: “In June, first the rice is planted and about 40 days, it turns into seedlings. In the month of July, the process of planting seedlings begins and

last for four to five months, 24-hour efforts are made so that the paddy does not remain without water, and during this period, it is irrigated until it reaches maturity in the month of October.

He said then the harvesting process begins and after the harvest, farmers start separating it from the paddy by threshing, the paddy is thrown into special wells again after two to three weeks and is separated and goes to the boiler.

Another farmer Khodadad, who has cultivated rice on more than

two acres of land, says rice cultivation starts in June and is harvested in October.

He added lack of agricultural machines to cultivate and harvest rice and no cooperation of the Agriculture Department like distributing chemical fertilizers to farmers were their major concerns.

Abdul Qadir, another farmer, said white rice and red rice were mostly cultivated in Takhar and have satisfactory yields.

Besides lack of cooperation from the government, he blamed monsoon rains for this year's

reduced yields compared to previous years.

Meanwhile, Qiamuddin Ahmadi, an agricultural affairs expert in Takhar, told Pajhwok that rice yield dramatically decreased in Takhar this year due to lack of government's attention, educational seminars on how to grow rice and more attention to mechanization of wheat.

Abdul Aala Radmard, director of agriculture promotion and development, said that last year rice was cultivated on 46,000 hectares of land, but this year due to lack of water,

its cultivation decreased to 41,000 hectares.

According to him, Takhar province produced 124,000 tons of rice last year, but this year the yield decreased to 100,000 tons.

The price of domestically produced rice increased after the government halted import of rice from regional countries. The price of 7-kilogram of rice in Takhar hovered between 350afis and 700afis depending on taste and quality.

Radmard said the local government had tried to address farmers' concerns.

Council, has revealed extensive destruction of Afghan homes. He highlights that not only are houses being demolished, but Afghan refugees' personal belongings are being seized, illustrating the distressing challenges they face at the hands of the government. Previously, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations of the Taliban had reported the return of 820 Afghan migrant families, both forcibly and voluntarily. It's worth noting that the neighbor country's Interior Ministry has warned that all foreign nationals, including Afghan migrants, without proper legal documentation, must leave the country by the end of October; otherwise, they will face expulsion.

Neighbor country's decision to expel Afghan migrants has drawn international reactions. Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Taliban administration, also commented decision to expel Afghan migrants, stating that “their hardship and imprisonment do not benefit any country. Meanwhile, Afghan authorities thanked Kazakhstan for their assistance in helping the earthquake victims. “We will remember the invaluable assistance that Kazakhstan has provided to us in difficult times,” Mohajer Sahib, from the Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan said while addressing the rescuers before their departure.



ISLAMABAD: KP Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kaka Khel called on Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi.

Pak-China partnership: Bridging nations, building communities

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

THE tale of Pakistan-China relations is not an ordinary one. It is an account of brotherhood, friendship and trust whose foundations were laid more than seventy years ago. The vision of the leadership of our two countries at the time laid a solid basis for a relationship, which has subsequently been carefully nurtured into a robust, vibrant, time-tested, all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Pakistan and its people, I can say with absolute confidence, value the relationship greatly, and proudly call China our 'Best Friend'. It is heart-warming that in China, the term 'Ba Tie' (Iron Brother), is reserved only for Pakistan.

The timeless Pakistan-China partnership and deep-rooted friendship serves the interest of both countries, being the historic choice of our people. Pakistan's relations with China remain the cornerstone of our foreign policy. The close time-tested friendship with China enjoys the abiding support of the people of Pakistan.

With a time-honored history of brotherhood, our two countries have stood together in rain or shine, building an exemplary 'iron-clad' friendship. Despite the vicissitudes of times and changes in international landscape, the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership has grown into a towering tree with its deep roots of love in the hearts of the two peoples. The bond of love and affection, that the peoples of the two countries have for each other, indeed remains "higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey".

Zhou Enlai, China's first Premier, once said, that the friendly interactions between the peoples of China and Pakistan date back to the dawn of history. Certainly, Pakistan-China relations are the continuation of ancient civilizational bonds that had existed between our two nations since ancient times. The flow of trade through the ancient Silk Road and geographical proximity brought the two great Asian civilizations together. Monks and thinkers from China made their historical journeys to Taxila and other Buddhist places in Pakistan, painting a beautiful picture of Gandhara civilization and bringing Buddhist wisdom to China, thus binding the two nations together in an everlasting bond.

The historical evolution of Pakistan-China relationship, and its growing importance in the wake of evolving regional and global developments, remains an exemplary model of inter-state relationship. The unique relationship of seven decades, underpinned by the rationale of strong political support, mutual trust and all-round practical cooperation, has matured into a strong strategic partnership.

I would soon be traveling to

Beijing, on my first visit after assuming office, to participate in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation - the event which will mark the completion of a decade of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the iconic and visionary project of President Xi Jinping.

We pay tribute to the vision and statesmanship of President Xi Jinping who, ten years ago, propounded the Vision of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, introducing a novel concept for international development partnership, a new idea for global governance and cooperation, and a fresh approach towards international exchanges, thus drawing up a new blueprint for a better inter-connected world.

The core of the visionary concept is built on socio-economic development; with focus on the elements of inclusivity, common prosperity and win-win cooperation. It embodies the ideals of an open, inter-connected, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace and sustainable security.

As we delve more into this concept, it becomes clear that it draws upon the ancient Chinese philosophy and wisdom. The concept of ti'nxihie, translating as "harmony under heaven", refers to the whole world and promotes diversity, while emphasizing harmonious and mutual interdependence as the means to enduring peace.

As noted by the recent white paper released by the Chinese State Council, BRI is a 'key pillar' of the Global Community of Shared Future. The subsequent unveiling of the concepts - including Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) - have further refined the concept of "Shared Community."

Pakistan was amongst the first countries to join BRI. As the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations; by placing economic cooperation and connectivity at the very center of bilateral agenda, making the two countries more inter-connected than ever before. CPEC remains a shining example of the BRI's promise of economic prosperity and connectivity. It has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity, ensuring energy security and creating jobs.

This year Pakistan hosted a series of events and activities marking the successful first decade of CPEC. We were also pleased to welcome Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, as Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, in Pakistan to attend ten-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Pakistan remains committed to the high-quality implementation and completion of the second phase of CPEC. We fully endorse China's proposal of developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation,

livelihood, green economy, openness and inclusiveness - representing our two countries' preference for human-centric approach, inclusivity and green development.

Pakistan is also a pioneering member of GDI Group of Friends and has played an active role in giving it a more concrete shape. As the first priority partner under GDI, and the first one to ink an MoU on GDI, Pakistan stands ready to benefit from this cooperation in areas of education, health, climate change and poverty reduction, thus making meaningful contributions to achieving the SDGs in a timely manner.

Pakistan has also supported the GSI and its adherence to the UN Charter and principles of multilateralism and non-interference in internal affairs. Having suffered for long due to unresolved disputes, conflicts and terrorism, we also advocate dialogue and constructive engagement based on mutual respect, for ensuring regional peace in South Asia.

The GCI is yet another landmark and timely initiative of President Xi, promoting respect for diversity, peaceful co-existence, mutual learning and inclusiveness. In a world marred with discord and divisiveness, dialogue between civilizations can be a means to peace and reconciliation. Pakistan's foreign policy objectives have always been those of "peace within and peace without", as outlined by our founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It was, therefore, all but natural for Pakistan to endorse these key initiatives put forth by President Xi Jinping.

In a world marred by multiple challenges like conflicts, economic recessions, food insecurity, social inequalities and climate change, the salience of Pakistan-China strategic partnership assumes great importance. It is a source of pride and comfort for our two peoples and a factor of peace and stability in the region and beyond. Ours is a relationship of the past, present and the future; and nothing can alter this reality.

As per our long-standing tradition, we support each other on our core issues. We are grateful to China for its support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic security and its principled support on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. We reaffirm our commitment to One-China Policy and our support to China on its core issues including Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang and the South China Sea.

As close friends, strategic partners and iron brothers, Pakistan and China are moving forward towards a destiny of shared future. I remain confident and convinced that our friendship will further strengthen in the coming days and attain even greater heights in the years to come.

Long live Pakistan-China Friendship!

The writer is the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Lawyers prepare draft of Nawaz's plea for bail

LAHORE (PPI): Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's bail petition will be filed by the legal team within 48 hours, according to a report on Monday.

"Initial draft of the petition has been prepared by lawyers," sources said. Former prime minister's petition will be filed for protective bail in Avenfield and Al-Azizia references, sources said. He was convicted by accountability courts in these cases. Accountability court had awarded 10 years jail term with eight million Pounds fine to Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield case and 07 years sentence in Al-Azizia reference. The court had also disqualified Nawaz Sharif for holding public office for 10 years.

The IHC had dismissed Nawaz Sharif's appeals against sentences on June 23, 2021 over failing to appear in the high court. The party sources earlier stated that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's supreme leader's protective bail petition will be filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) by Oct 16 or 17. Party sources said that the petition will be filed in the light of the Islamabad High Court's decision. The petitioner while seeking protective bail will plead to appear in the court, sources said.

On September 29 last year, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) while granting appeals had acquitted Maryam Nawaz and Captain Safdar by nullifying the sentence awarded by an accountability court in the Avenfield reference. The verdict stated that the sentencing of Maryam Nawaz and Capt Retd Safdar was unfair, and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) failed to prove its case. Divisional Bench of the IHC comprising Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani announced the verdict reserved after hearing arguments from both the sides.

Oman Army Commander calls on COAS

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Major General Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi, Commander Royal Army of Oman called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS at General Headquarters, today.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest were discussed. The visiting dignitary lauded Pakistan Army's achievements in fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier on arrival at GHQ, Commander Royal Army of Oman laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary.

Gas tariff likely to be increased

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan caretaker government is likely to jack up gas tariff by 100pc on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand, sources said Monday. According to sources knowing the matter, the IMF demanded an increase in gas tariff from up to 100pc before the next economic review to curtail circular debt in the gas sector.

Sources said the shortfall of Rs185 billion will be added to the circular debt of the gas sector if the gas tariff is not increased. The current circular debt of the gas sector is touching Rs2,700 billion. They further said from July-September, 2023, the gas companies have added Rs46 billion more to their overall losses. The summary for the hike has been 'prepared' and is likely to be presented before the next meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). Prior to this, it emerged that the government would increase the gas tariff for the fertilizer-producing sector. Under the new pricing model, the fertilizer sector is expected to experience an increase in gas tariffs to approximately Rs580 per MMBtu for feedstock purposes. The gas would be made costlier for fertilizer fertilizer-producing sector by Rs278 per MMBtu, the sources said and added that the new rate of gas would be Rs1,580 MMBtu.

Police fail to curb rising crime rates in Peshawar

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: Inhabitants of Peshawar find themselves living in fear as the city grapples with a surge in street crimes, including mobile snatching and car thefts, highlighting a distressing failure of Peshawar Police. Despite promises from the Peshawar Police to address the rising crime rates, the situation continues to worsen, leaving citizens concerned for their safety and security.

Last week, the city was shaken by a tragic incident when a student from Edwardes College fell victim to mobile snatchers, losing his life in the process. Despite assurances from the police that the culprits would be swiftly brought to justice, the perpetrators remain at large. This unfortunate event has not only devastated the victim's family but has also sparked outrage among the residents, who demand immediate action and accountability from the law enforcement authorities.

Mobile snatching has become rampant, rendering the citizens unable to leave

their homes without the constant fear of falling victim to these criminals. The rising instances of street crimes have created an atmosphere of insecurity, forcing people to confine themselves indoors, affecting their daily lives and routines.

Furthermore, car thefts have reached an alarming rate, leaving the citizens at the mercy of thieves. The increasing incidents of car lifting have not only resulted in financial losses for the victims but have also raised concerns about the effectiveness of the existing security measures in the city. The inability of the police to curb these thefts has shaken the confidence of the public in the law enforcement system.

One of the major concerns raised by the residents is the apparent lack of clear plans or policies by the Peshawar Police to tackle these pressing issues. The absence of a comprehensive strategy to address the rising crime rates has left citizens feeling unprotected and frustrated. There is a growing demand for the police department to out-

line concrete steps and initiatives to enhance security measures, restore public trust, and bring the criminals to justice.

As the city grapples with this crisis, there is an urgent need for the Peshawar Police to take immediate and decisive action. The citizens of Peshawar deserve to live in a safe and secure environment, free from the constant threat of crime. It is imperative for the law enforcement authorities to restore public confidence through effective strategies, swift investigations, and transparent communication with the community.

The failure of the Peshawar Police to control the rising crime rates has not only jeopardized the safety of the citizens but has also highlighted the need for urgent reforms within the law enforcement agencies.

The residents of Peshawar hope that the authorities will respond promptly, ensuring the safety and well-being of the people, and taking necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

SC nullifies LHC verdict on fuel price adjustment

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Supreme Court on Monday overturned the judgement passed by the Lahore High Court (LHC) which had declared the collection of fuel price adjustment (FCA) applied to the monthly bills of electricity consumers illegal.

In its order, the country's top court said the LHC verdict was impractical both constitutionally and legally and noted that the Appellate Tribunal of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) was the appropriate forum to decide the matter. The three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, asked the petitioners to file an appeal before the Nepra's Appellate Tribunal within 10 days, which should fix matter for hearing and make a decision in 10 days.

Consumer companies should file appeals against the fuel price adjustment within 15 days with the Nepra appellate tribunal, the SC stated in its decision, directing the appellate tribunal to fix the appeals for hearing within 10 days and decide on them within a legal timeframe as soon as possible. In February this

year, a single bench of the Lahore High Court had declared the collection of the fuel price adjustment in electricity bills as illegal. The decision was subsequently challenged by the power transmission companies in the Supreme Court.

Earlier, Advocate Salman Akram Raja, appearing before the court, argued that the formation of Nepra was unconstitutional at the time the fuel price adjustment had been imposed in May 2022. Upon this, CJP Faez Isa remarked that if the formation of the Nepra was unconstitutional, then the LHC judge should have given a decision on it, observing that the single bench had given the decision beyond its authority that could not be maintained.

The CJP observed that judges of the high courts forgot to read the Article 199 of the Constitution, questioning that how a high court judge could tell the bill for the consumption of 500 units of electricity. Expressing similar observation, Justice Athar Minallah added that no court, including the Supreme Court, could look after the technical matters of the Nepra.

CJP Isa remarked that the Lahore High Court had given a decision that had been not requested in the petitions, adding that it would be better to raise the technical issues with the Nepra. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan informed the bench that the Nepra and Discos (power distribution companies) had no objection to challenging the case in the tribunal.

The Supreme Court ordered the power transmission companies to collect the fuel price adjustments, subject to the decision of the Nepra appellate tribunal after the Lahore High Court's decision. Later, the three-judge bench disposed of the 1,090 petitions.

The Supreme Court had summoned arguments today (Monday) on the 1,090 petitions against the fuel price adjustment in electricity bills. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had started hearing the appeal filed by the power distribution companies (Discos) against the LHC single-member bench's decision to declare the FCA illegal after a number of petitioners moved the provincial top court.

Any move by Israel

(Continued from Page 1)

or packed onto three-wheeled motorbikes, battered cars, vans and even donkey carts have become a common sight. Fleeing the bombardment and following an Israeli order to move to the south of the Gaza Strip, people have had to find shelter wherever they can, including on the streets and in UN-run schools. "No electricity, no water, no internet. I feel like I'm losing my humanity," said Mona Abdel Hamid, 55, who fled Gaza City to Rafah in the south of the enclave, and is having to stay with strangers.

A bereaved and infuriated Israel has massed forces outside the long-blockaded enclave of 2.4 million in preparation for what the army has said would be a land, air and sea attack involving a "significant ground operation". Hamas backed Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah, which is also supported by Tehran, have warned that an invasion would be met with a response.

"No one can guarantee the control of the situation and the non-expansion of the conflicts" if Israel sends its soldiers into Gaza, said Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Fire along the Israeli-Lebanese border has intensified in the last week, prompting Israel to shutter the area to civilians. On Sunday, a rocket hit the UN peacekeeping base in southern Lebanon, while Hezbollah attacks killed one person in Israel, the Israeli military said.

More than 10 people have been killed in Lebanon and at least two in Israel in the past week. Among those killed in Lebanon was a Reuters journalist, Issam Abdallah.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due back in Israel on Monday after a crisis tour of Middle Eastern countries in a frantic attempt to avert a wider crisis in the volatile region. But as Israel seeks to avenge the worst attack in its history, the Arab League and African Union warned the invasion could lead to "a genocide of unprecedented proportions". UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned that the entire region was "on the verge of the abyss".

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said his country had "no interest in a war in the north, we don't want to escalate the situation". The United States, which has given unequivocal backing to Israel, has sent two aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean as a deterrent. The United States has also appealed to China to use its influence in the region to ease tensions. On Sunday Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Israel's response had "gone beyond the scope of self-defence", and demanded that it "cease its collective punishment of the people of Gaza".

In Gaza, hospitals are becoming overwhelmed with increasing numbers of dead and injured. The UN has warned that fuel reserves at Gaza hospitals are expected to last about 24 more hours. "The shutdown of backup generators would place the lives of thousands of patients at risk," the UN humanitarian office said on its website. "In terms of medical supplies, we consume a month or a month-and-a-half of medical supplies every day in this emergency," he told the BBC. Health officials on Sunday said some 9,600 people have been wounded.

Court extends Bushra Bibi's bail

ISLAMABAD (INP): A District and Sessions Court in Islamabad on Monday extended the interim bail of former first lady Bushra Bibi in the case of Toshakhana fake receipts case till October 31.

The court also adjourned the hearing of six cases against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan till October 24. Bushra Bibi appeared in the court along with her lawyer Salman Safdar. Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the cases "I have appeared before the court for seven cases, six against the PTI chairman and one against Bushra Bibi," Salman Safdar told the court. "It was unfortunate that I had to appear before the duty judge at the last hearing," he said. "We had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on nine bail pleas.

Sardar Latif Khosa had read out the prime minister's oath before the court according to which the prime minister has the authority to put, whatever information he thinks is suitable, before the public," he argued.

Ex-minister Farrukh Habib quits PTI, joins IPP

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Another key politician of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former minister Farrukh Habib announced to quit the party on Monday. According to details, Farrukh Habib who was considered one of the close aides of PTI Chairman Imran Khan during the last regime also announced to join the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP).

Talking to media persons, Farrukh Habib said for the last five months, there was a thought in his mind about parting away to the PTI and Chairman Imran Khan. The former minister also said that after the events of May 9, they were away from home. He accepted that the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan was constitutionally presented and instead of political struggle, they adopted the ways of anarchy.

He said the incident of May 9 was tragic, adding that people came out of their houses due to the

brainwashing of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. He said a few people had special instructions that day from PTI Chairman Imran Khan which he was not aware of. He said Imran Khan wants people to fight for him on the streets.

After distrust, we were not allowed to sit with China. He said PTI Chairman Imran Khan used the Cypher as a political narrative.

He also said that they strongly criticized Nawaz Sharif and Zardari a lot in the matter of Toshakhana but were not aware that PTI Chairman Imran Khan himself was taking advantage of it. He said they were asked to defend the indefensible issue of Toshakhona on the media while they had no idea that Imran Khan was involved in taking watches from Toshakhana himself.

About the Al-Qadir University issue, he said the project of the university was passed in a sealed envelope. He said former Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar could have not defended himself and they [PTI leaders] contin-

ued to defend him in the masses for three and a half years as the wife of the Chairman, Bushra Bibi, passed his name. Farrukh said if anyone disagrees with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, then he or she doesn't know whether he or she can enter Zaman Park or not in future. Announcing joining the IPP, Farrukh Habib said IPP leader Aun Chaudhary is his brother and if they can work for PTI together then they can also work for IPP.

Answering different queries, he said he got the information about PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest from the family. He confirmed that people went out to fight with their own forces on the brainwashing of Imran Khan. He added that the peaceful sleep of Pakistanis in their beds at night is a fruit of Pak forces' role at the border. He said all the ministers who were present in the cypher meeting in which US diplomats were to be demarched had left the party [PTI] as the PTI Chairman always used people like tissue paper.