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4 polio officials abducted
F.P. Report

TANK: At least four officials of the polio monitoring team including a female were abducted here on Tuesday from Kiri Omar Khan area, confirmed DPO Ifthikhar Ali Shah. DPO said that a heavy contingent of police has been dispatched to the area to conduct a search operation and safely recover the abducted officials, adding that unknown men kidnapped all the officials including the driver and a female worker.

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CPEC to alleviate poverty: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a manifestation of strategic relationship said the project has proved as a "catalyst of growth, poverty alleviation and job creation".

"The CPEC is a beacon of progress and prosperity. It is not just an economic corridor, but a symbol of Pak-China strategic trust," he said in an interaction with representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks and scholars. PM Kakar, who is in China on an official visit to attend the Belt and Road Forum, said the CPEC had transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and ensuring energy security.

He mentioned that since the launch of CPEC during the landmark visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, the project resulted in addition of 800 kilometres of roads, and creation of 8,000 mega watt electricity, and 0.2 million job opportunities. He expressed confidence that as a project of socio-economic prosperity and sustainable development, CPEC would usher in a new era of development and regional prosperity.

The prime minister recalled that the Chinese vice president during his visit to Pakistan this August outlined five corridors of comprehensive development including growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness. He proposed that the next phase of CPEC should be deeper integration of economy so as to tap the potential of development for the mutual benefit of two countries. Kakar said being the native of Balochistan, he was cognizant of the potential of the area and added that "in collaboration with China, we are poised to unlock opportunities of progress and regional connectivity in Gwadar."

As part of green technology, he invited the Chinese companies to invest in solar energy sector and called for strengthening energy linkages between Gilgit and Xingjiang region. He said during his upcoming visit to Urumqi in China, he would discuss with stakeholders the opportunities to bring closer collaboration with the Chinese in diverse fields.

PM, Kenyan president discuss Arshad Sharif's murder

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday sought facilitation from Kenyan President Dr William Ruto over the finalization of the investigation into the murder of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif.

Journalist and news anchor Arshad Sharif was shot dead last year on October 23 during his stay in Kenya. "The prime minister requested the Kenyan President for facilitation and finalization of the report of Special Joint Investigation Team in the murder case of late Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif," the PM Office said in a statement following the meeting of the two leaders in China.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation being held in Beijing, China. PM Kakar and the Kenyan president discussed bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations in areas of trade, investment, education and people-to-people contacts. Both leaders emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and agreed to enhance engagement to realize the true potential of bilateral trade. PM Kakar said as a fellow member of the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan would like to enhance collaboration with other BRI member countries including Kenya to identify and develop new projects and initiatives.

Kakar, Putin discuss ways to enhance cooperation

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday met with Russian President Vladimir Putin here wherein the two leaders emphasized exploring the ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple spheres including trade and defence. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum, the two sides stressed the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields besides discussing matters related to regional peace and security.

Russian President Putin received Prime Minister Kakar before they held a meeting that encompassed bilateral, regional, and international affairs. In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Kakar said Pakistan and Russia had a convergence of interests on the issue of terrorism and called for enhanced cooperation and a common approach among the neighboring countries of Afghanistan. He said the neighboring countries should be the foremost to take the initiative and cooperate in the fields of intelligence, defence and counter-terrorism.

Coming to bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar calling Pakistan an energy-deficient country, invited the Russian investment in the sector. Pakistan's energy minister had recently attended an Energy Week event in Russia where he had "fruitful and constructive engagement with the Russian team. He said the Russian team had come up with concrete proposals for enhancing energy cooperation, he added. Citing his previous visit to Russia as senator, the prime minister said he was "mesmerized" by the Russian architecture particularly representing Christianity and churches. He said both countries were also close in terms of cultural and ethical values which were not popular beyond that region.

In his remarks, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Pakistan and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. Citing friendly bilateral relations, he said there existed a huge potential for cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. The Russian president said stability was inevitable for ensuring economic progress.

Kakar said Pakistan's huge youth bulge could contribute to the country's economy provided they are given opportunities besides learning from the Chinese experience. He said Pakistan enjoyed close and valuable ties with China and would not allow any-

thing to undermine this unique relationship.

Noting the progress of CPEC over the last 10 years, the prime minister underlined the importance of reflecting on the journey of reflecting on the journey

of thus far, identifying the

(Continued on Back Page)

Army top brass backs deporting foreigners

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 260th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, on Tuesday.

Participants offered Fateha for the Shuhadas of Mastung, Hangu and Zhob incidents during the Holy month of Rabi' al-Awwal. Forum also paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices being continuously offered by the Security Forces & LEAs in defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism. Participants resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan will be dealt with unflinching resolve of the state.

Forum was briefed on prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to the national security and own strategy in response to evolving threat. Forum reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

Forum viewed with concern the developments taking place in Gaza-Israel War and the enormous human cost being imposed on the innocent civilians due to the disproportionate use of force by Israel. COAS said "the Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue and end to the unlawful occupation of their territories and Muslims' Sacred places".

The participants vowed to fully support the strategic initiatives planned by the Government of Pakistan for the revival of the economy by providing all possible support for the overall wellbeing of the people of Pakistan. Forum also took holistic review of the ongoing actions being taken against illegal economic activities. COAS emphasised "Pakistan Army will continue to provide all out support to the government and LEAs in taking strict lawful actions against illegal economic activities across the country. Actions against hoarding and smuggling mafias and cartels in different domains will be further strengthened in coming days to rid the country from negative impact of such ill practices". Forum resolved to fully support the Federal Government's decision to repatriate and deport all illegal foreigners from 1st November 2023 onwards. COAS directed all concerned to support and facilitate smooth, respectable and safe repatriation / deportation of all illegal foreigners.



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan welcomed Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Great Hall of the People.

Biden to visit Israel today

WASHINGTON (AFP): US President Joe Biden will make a high-stakes visit to Israel in a significant show of US support for its top Middle East ally. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded hours of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv early on Tuesday by saying that Biden would visit Israel.

"The president will hear from Israel what it needs to defend its people as we continue to work with Congress to meet those needs," Blinken told reporters. Biden would meet with Netanyahu, reaffirm Washington's commitment to Israel's security, and receive a comprehensive brief on its war aims and strategy, Blinken said. "(The) president will hear from Israel how it will conduct its operations in a way that minimises civilian casualties and enables humanitarian assistance to flow to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not benefit Hamas," Blinken added.

Humanitarian crisis worsens

Death toll in Gaza climbs to 3,000

GAZA (AFP): Around 3,000 people, mostly children, have been killed in Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7, the Palestinian health ministry said on Monday as the humanitarian crisis in the enclave continues to worsen.

More than 12,500 others have been wounded since Israel started bombarding Gaza in retaliation for Hamas attacks in Israel which killed more than 1,400 people. The ministry added that 61 Palestinians were also killed while 1,250 were wounded in the occupied West Bank during the same period. Israel has vowed to annihilate the Hamas group after its fighters killed 1,300 people — the deadliest single day in Israel's 75-year history. It now prepares to escalate a ground offensive in response to the Hamas blitz.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for broad international support in the country's war against Hamas. "The savagery that we witnessed perpetrated by the Hamas murderers coming out of Gaza were the worst crimes committed against Jews since the Holocaust," Netanyahu said, referring to the extermination of more than six million Jews by the Nazis.

Israel has tightened its blockade on Gaza, including by restricting the entry of food, water and fuel and bombarding the area with air strikes that have killed thousands of Palestinians, displaced hundreds of thousands more and resulted in severe shortages of food, water and medical supplies. According to the United Nations' World Food Programme, the food situation in the besieged Gaza Strip is running "really short".

"Inside the shops, the stocks are getting close to less than a few days, maybe four or five days of food stocks left," WFP's Middle East spokeswoman Abeer Etefa, told reporters in Geneva via video link from Cairo. She said that out of five flour mills in the Gaza Strip, only one was operating due to security concerns and the unavailability of fuel. "So the bread supply is running low and people are lining up for hours to

Khamenei warns Israel

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has warned Israel that it must pull back from its attacks on Gaza or face the possibility of an expanded conflict. Speaking on Tuesday, Khamenei accused Israel of committing "genocide" in its assault on the besieged Gaza Strip, adding that Iran-backed forces across the region would not sit on the sidelines indefinitely. "If the crimes of the Zionist [Israeli] regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them," Khamenei said. "Regarding the situation in Gaza, we all have a responsibility to react; we must react," he said. The comments are the latest out of Tehran warning Israel and the United States that Iran-backed groups across the region, sometimes referred to as the "axis of resistance", could join the current war between Israel and Hamas. Iran's Fars News Agency also reported that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander-in-Chief Ali Fadavi had issued similar warnings. "The resistance front's shocks against the Zionist regime will continue," he said. The question of potential expansion of the fighting to include not just Hamas, the Palestinian group that governs Gaza and receives some support from Iran, but more formidable Iran-backed groups such as Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, has loomed over the 11-day war. — Fars News

get bread," she said.

Only five bakeries out of 23 in Gaza contracted by WFP were still in operation, she added. "Our food supplies within Gaza are running really short," said Etefa. The spokeswoman said there has been no looting of WFP warehouses, and "anyway, whatever we have left in the warehouses is so little". "Hospitals are at a breaking point and are overflowing and with people desperately seeking a safe shelter," the WHO has said. "Crowding is getting worse. Over 30,000 people are sheltering at Shifa Hospital alone," the UN agency told AFP, quoting Hamas health ministry figures. "We are extremely concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation among people who are already in a dire situation."

The hospitals are attractive because they have been relatively spared from the Israeli bombing raids that have hit Gaza every day since the October 7 attacks. But the WHO says that 111 medical buildings have been hit, 12 medical workers have been killed and 60 ambulances targeted. About one million people from northern Gaza have moved to Khan Yunis and other southern districts to avoid the looming Israeli ground offensive. About 100,000 people are left in the

northern district around Gaza City that Israel says is a Hamas stronghold and has warned will be the target of its assault. Conditions across the tiny territory are worsening every day for the 2.4 million population, according to aid agencies. Unicef, the UN children's agency, has said that unless water and fuel are sent "immediately", Gaza inhabitants are in "imminent danger" of epidemics and death.

Aid agencies have been flying supplies into El Arish airport in Egypt — around 20 kilometres away from the Rafah border crossing and the only one into the Gaza Strip not controlled by Israel. So far Egypt has kept the crossing closed to aid going in or foreign nationals trying to flee, as Israel has repeatedly struck the Palestinian side of the crossing. Ahmed Salem of the Sinai Foundation said that the trucks heading for the border contained Egyptian aid and that the international aid remained in warehouses.

Salem and another security source said Egypt had repaired the roads within the crossing that had been damaged by Israeli strikes. Etefa said the WFP had mobilised over 300 metric tonnes of food that was either at or on its way to the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into the Gaza Strip — enough food to feed around 250,000 people for one week.

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Bhutto - You Can't Murder a Legacy

Murtaza Rafiq Bhutto

The title refers to a documentary that I would like our youth to view in order to educate themselves before making accusations against anyone. When we talk about martyrs, we mean those who are prepared to battle against tyranny for justice at any costs, without regard to their own lives, families, or cultures. Sadly, in this Islamic Republic of Pakistan, we have seen middle-class and lower-class people give up their lives and families for political leaders and political parties. When we compare our country to any other democratic and developed nation, we typically see martyrs in the military and armed forces.

The PPP is the organisation that produces the majority of the slain political leaders and activists. The PPP is the only political party with a history of sacrifices. I will begin with the party's founding and its leader, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who rose to prominence as the voice of the middle class and lower classes, advocating for "food, cloth, and shelter." The leader fulfilled his commitments to the Pakistani people and did so with success. His stunning family was referred to as the Kennedy family of Pakistan at the time. There is no denying that he served the people of this nation; in fact, some of the PPP's most well-known opponent politicians now serve as examples of

this kind of individual.

Nobody knows why he was hung during a military rule, and the issue is still pending in the relevant court. Our family's selfless sacrifice of their lives for the citizens of our nation is a true example. The daughter Benazir Bhutto was imprisoned in solitary confinement, a facility reserved for the most wanted offenders; her two sons, Shah Nawaz and Mir Murtaza Bhutto, were suspected of being involved in plane hijacking and anti-state or terrorist activities. I have no idea what the young people of today think or why they follow leaders who have connections in real politics.

Future generations can always look up to the leaders as role models. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, in my opinion, also established a precedent by refusing to get personnel in the face of any circumstance.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's name always comes to mind when we discuss martyrs. She was Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's eldest child, and despite everything that she had to overcome, she made the decision to rise above it all and continue on. Regarding the events of the martial law regulations, I am at a loss for words, but definitely! She stood and confronted everything in a democratic manner following all that transpired with the family that was slain under Zia's reign.

Following the assassination of his great-father, she rose to prominence as the face of the

Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Years of victimisation later, she was appointed Pakistan's first female prime minister when democratic elections were finally declared. This historic campaign is known as the "Movement for the restoration of democracy." Following the assassination of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, 3000 PPP activists and supporters were detained, many of whom stayed in prison for the following ten years. The road to becoming the first female leader in history was not an easy one. As we were leaving the home after taking the oath, former President Zardari told us in one of the interviews that she said, "Today, I have avenged my father." I wish I could put my sentiments into words, but sadly, the world we live in has made us extremely tough, making it difficult for us to express our feelings.

Moving ahead, even if you are in authority, dealing with the propaganda apparatus in the halls of power is not simple. Things began to negatively portray President Zardari and to split the family in some way. Even though her father was killed, her brother was poisoned, and her husband was targeted in an attempt to stop her, she persisted in her efforts. Moving forward, she persisted in her fight and developed into a far harder or stronger woman. The struggle with the corridors of power is still ongoing. She becomes the Prime Minister of this country once more. I won't

go into detail about her accomplishments for the people of this country; there is a list of them, particularly from her second term in office, and this time the conflict had to do with someone within the family. As I mentioned before, the power of corridors doesn't shatter you the same way that plans exist and are carried out differently from weapon-based warfare.

Regretfully, the heir to the Bhutto dynasty was martyred in his sister's government, and from what I've heard, the incident with Mir broke Mohtarma from the inside out. Afterwards, President Zardari was detained and accused in multiple cases; however, after more than ten years of incarceration and victimisation, they found no evidence against him in a single case, and he was allowed to be freed with dignity. Mohtarma was left with no choice but to leave the country and she went into exile with the approval of the honourable courts. In an interview, president Zardari sobbed as he described how the mohtarma and children's meeting used to take place at the superintendent's office. Asifa Bhutto, her younger daughter, took his hands and said, "This time, you are going with us," leaving him speechless. Naturally, we can all relate to his feelings at that moment because we are all fathers.

Mohtarma refused to give up even when her family was martyred, or imprisoned. Now, when Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto announces her return to Pakistan on October 18, 2007, the movement similar to the MRD is about to get underway. When we met with Senator Nisar Khuhro, who is currently the PPP's President Sindh and was the chapter president at the time, he gave us some behind-the-scenes looks at October 18. He said that we had insisted that Mohtarma should return and struggle to bring democracy back. People came together on October 18th from all across the nation to greet their beloved leader. The administration granted permission for the demonstration, which we were given until 12 PM. The majority of the PPP leaders were riding in a motorcade with her when it became congested, so Mohtarma asked some of the leaders to make room, and some people got out. Nisar Khuhro was riding in the car directly behind the motorcade when, at precisely 12 PM, we arrived at the Karsaz road. Suddenly, the street lights behind us went off, and we heard the explosion in an instant.

The Janisar-e-Benazir squad had formed in a circle to guard the mohtarma when the second bomb occurred, and the bloodshed of those janisars was all over his face and clothes. He stopped the car and opened the door to investigate what had happened. He discovered that his feet were on human flesh. Thankfully, Mohtarma was safe, and the leaders hurried to Bilawal House with her. He also

informed us that Mohtarma had instructed us to file a police report, writing it by hand. However, when we went to the police station, they declined to file our complaint, and the administration cleaned the roads in a matter of hours. We had faced such circumstances previously, first during the martial law era and then on May 12 in Karachi, so it was very sad for all of us to be unable to identify the dead individuals. To stand up to the oppression of the power corridors, our people had sacrificed their lives. Our leaders constantly lead us ahead and we find them in the forefront of the conflict; they taught us how to fight from Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to Bilawal Bhutto, and they always had our back.

Unfortunately, this is what's happening to us right now. We want the elections to be announced as soon as possible, but the authorities are already using delaying tactics to push back the dates, so we still don't know if they will take place early or later. He went on to say that we would continue to fight until justice is served, just like we have been doing.

Furthermore, even though they had done everything, either directly or indirectly, our leadership and we would not give up until the very end. We still have faith in the legal system and know that one day the honourable courts of justice would uphold justice. During the political conflict, Mohtarma knew she wouldn't survive, but she

made the decision to continue on. Her daughter Bakhtawar Bhutto said in an interview that Mohtarma had wished her birthday in advance and had the gift wrapped and in her drawer before she left for Karachi. My experience with political leaders is limited, but as a parent, I can see that children are a person's most valuable asset and that fulfilling your responsibilities comes before engaging in combat. To be honest, I did not see these kinds of things firsthand, and I do not enjoy politics much since I am aware that it not only costs you loved ones but also your integrity and dignity. Ultimately, I would advise our nation's citizens to honor their vote, and I would advise political leaders to honor their mandate. Select the candidate you believe in, vote sensibly, and don't base your decision only on your cultural or religious beliefs or mother language. The only viable solution in these economic times is democracy. As for my vote, let me say that I have always liked dictators and that when I was younger, I believed that I knew more than my father or my ancestors. However, as I got older, I realised that I knew nothing and that the idea that a dictator is always good was a myth. After learning more about PPP's background, I decided to vote for them because on a lighter note I enjoyed the song "Dila Teer Bija- Dushmana Te." I hope that the party's leadership will continue to serve the people of this nation.

Police & PSCA launch anti-smog initiative

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Police and Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) on Tuesday launched a collaborative anti-smog crackdown and stern action will be taken against smoky vehicles in the provincial capital.

According to a spokesman for the PSCA, the operation is being monitored by SSP Operations Ali Raza via Safe City cameras with the field force impounding smoke-emitting vehicles upon detection. This crackdown, under the direct guidance of the Punjab chief minister, extends to vehicles dispersing dust, mud, and sand, ensuring that pollution-causing sources are held accountable.

KU Academic Council approves new BS degree program

KARACHI (APP): The Academic Council of the University of Karachi on Tuesday approved a new four-year degree program which will be offered from the next academic year.

The BS Sports Business Management degree program would be offered under the faculty of management and administrative sciences. The meeting of the Academic Council was chaired by the KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and it was held at the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium. The participants of the academic council meeting were informed that the BS Sports Business Management degree program is the first-degree program of its kind in Pakistan. The KU Academic Council also offered admissions for the year 2024.

Places named after prominent personalities not to be allowed to change: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that the buildings, roads and places named after prominent personalities will not be allowed to be changed under any circumstances.

He expressed these views while inspecting the ongoing development works and carpeting in the Johar Underpass.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that it was not appropriate to change the names of buildings and institutions named after important personalities.

Naming requires legislation and this authority is vested in the respective local bodies. He said that the paving of the roads around the Johar underpass should be completed soon as timely completion of the work will help to control the traffic jam problems.

He said that if there is a flyover or underpass in the name of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Begum Nusrat Bhutto or Zia Mohiuddin, then these personalities have services for the country and nation. If someone wants to change these

names, it will be their misadventure.

The Mayor Karachi said, "The development works of the city are our first priority and we consider it our duty to carry out the development works equally in the city." He said that the construction work of Johar underpass should be completed as soon as possible so that it provides convenience to the people of the area. He said that mega projects are being started in the city and construction work is being accelerated.

PCRWR joins hands with UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), in collaboration with development partners and different government stakeholders marked Global Handwashing Day, with the theme "Clean Hands are Within Our Reach" here on Tuesday. The occasion served as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of hand hygiene and its long-term effects on the health and living standards of children and the community. PCRWR in collaboration with its key partners is celebrating Global Hand washing Day, 2023 in the schools adopted under the "Clean Green Pakistan project", in the 23 districts of Punjab, KP, Sindh, AJK and Quetta.

Global Hand Washing Day is a global advocacy day dedicated to raising awareness about the significance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable means to prevent diseases and save lives. The event commenced with an enlightening introduction to global handwashing and hand hygiene, setting the tone for the day's discussions and activities. Former Chairman PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf in his welcome remarks emphasized the collective responsibility to promote hand hygiene and the pivotal role played by organizations like PCRWR, UNICEF, the Education Department, the Health Department and their partners in creat-

ing a healthier and more hygienic Pakistan. Ms Lubna Javed, Director of Programs at IRC, presented the role of IRC and its efforts in promoting handwashing in Pakistan to combat infections. Arif Jabbar Khan elaborated on the monitoring and evaluation of hand hygiene interventions and the role of Wateraid Pakistan in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Kamran Naeem, WASH-CED specialist from UNICEF, delved into hand hygiene practices in Pakistan and the critical role of UNICEF in child health and infection prevention. Ms Susana Lardies Zabala, Senior Program Manager at UNOPS Pakistan, discussed the key determinants of change in promoting hand hygiene.

Dr Rabail Javed, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health, Islamabad, and Dr. Farah Sabih from the World Health Organization (WHO) Pakistan, emphasized the collaborative efforts of health departments, WHO, UNICEF, and various partner organizations in promoting handwashing in local contexts. Dr M. Ayub Rose from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)/RAYN Group Islamabad provided a sobering statistic, highlighting that around 53,000 Pakistani children under the age of five succumb to diarrhea annually due to poor hygiene and sanitation.

10 drug dealers arrested, 12 kg drugs recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): In its ongoing crackdown against drug dealers, Rawalpindi police have arrested 10 drug dealers including 02 lady drug dealers and recovered more than 12 kg drugs from their possession here on Tuesday.

According to police spokesman, Saddar Wah police held two lady drug dealers Iqra, Khatija and recovered more than 2 kg drugs from their possession. The same police nabbed Nawazish and recovered 1.6 kg drugs and same quantity was recovered from Farsat.

Similarly, Murree police arrested Ashraf and recovered 1.5 kg drugs from his possession and 1.3 kg drugs was recovered from Abrar.

Qul of Haji Ziauddin today



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Qul of Haji Ziauddin, a long-time activist and former councilor of Pakistan People's Party, who passed away on Monday, will be performed in his native village Kakkar on today (Wednesday). He was the father of Haji Abdul Rasheed Khan (Former Superintendent Police Department, Muhammad Qasim Superintendent Police Department, Muhammad Kabir ASI Peshawar, Muhammad Naeem Police Station Hashtnagri) and grandfather of Shahid Rashid, Amjad Rashid, Sajid Rashid.

LESCO charges Rs 1.697b detection bill to 18,523 power pilferers in 40 days

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 18,523 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts- Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara- during 40 days of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has so far submitted FIR applications against 18,364 electricity thieves, out of which 17,348 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 5,902 accused have been arrested. The spokesman said that all the electricity thieves have been charged so far 37,724,334 detection units amounting to Rs 1,697,974,495.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until a complete end to electricity theft. Electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice. On the 40th consecutive day (October

17) of anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, LESCO found 367 connections involved in electricity theft in all its circles and also submitted FIR application against 367 electricity thieves in the respective police stations, out of which 206 FIRs have been registered while 38 accused have been arrested.

During the operation, he said, large agricultural and commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections, one industrial, four commercial, as many agricultural and 358 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged a total of 610,767 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 30,285,422.

On the 40th day of the anti-power theft operation, the LESCO charged 38,157 detection units worth Rs 1.2 million to a connection in Depalpur; Rs 920,000 to another connection in Mandi Usman Wala area of Kasur; 4,510 detection units worth Rs 360,594 to a power pilferer in the area of Darbar Sabir Shah Khuddiyan; and 5,606 units worth Rs 309,786 to a customer stealing electricity directly from transmission line in Daoke area of Mandi Usman Wala.

DCs tasked to bring down rates of eatables, transport fares

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government on Tuesday issued directions to all administrative officers to bring down the rates of essential commodities and transport fares for passing the benefit of a reduction in petroleum products' prices directly to the people.

These instructions were issued by Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman during a video link meeting of all deputy commissioners held at the Civil

Secretariat. The meeting reviewed the prices of food items in detail and decided to establish a fruit and vegetable market in Rawalpindi.


The Chief Secretary ordered that the direct benefit of the drop in the oil prices should be passed on to the masses. He said that the reduction in fuel prices would reduce the cost of transportation, adding that officers must ensure a significant cut in the rates of eatables and transport fares in

proportion to the decrease in POL prices.

The Chief Secretary also asked the deputy commissioners to notify the new slashed rates of food items and transport fares after consulting all the stakeholders. He said that the administrative officers have to work in a dynamic manner to control profiteering and hoarding. He mentioned that the Special Branch and Urban Unit would continue performing duties of monitoring price control.



LAHORE: Labourers carrying vegetables on hand cart and deliver to Vegetable Market in the city.



پاکستان سول ایوی ایشن اتھارٹی

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF PCAA'S PROFESSIONAL TEAM

SITUATION VACANT NOTICE NO. 29/2023

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority requires services of qualified individuals to fill the following vacant posts on contract basis for three (03) years (extendable) where selection will be made purely on suitability and merit:-

Sr. #	Post	No. of Vacancies	Prescribed Qualification / Experience	Quota & Pay	Age Limit
1	General Services – SG-01 (Cook)	01	■ Minimum Matric	■ Merit	Maximum 45 years
2	General Services – SG-01 Driver(License Holder)	01	■ Local Residents of Hunza (Domicile Holders).		
3	General Services – SG-01 (Watchman)	01	■ Preference shall be given to Legal Heirs of EVHF Station Land Affecteds at Garehlt Hunza		
4	General Services – SG-01 (Cleaner)	01			
5	Sanitary Attendant – SG-01 (Gilgit Airport)	03	■ Minimum Matric ■ Local Residents of Gilgit (Domicile Holders). ■ Preference shall be given to the applicants with prior experience at Gilgit Airport	■ (Negotiable as per policy)	

Application Procedure:

(a) Interested candidates are required to fill & submit Online Job Application Form available at www.caapakistan.com.pk within fifteen (15) days from the date of this advertisement.

(b) Candidates will be required to upload scanned copies of certificate / degree of the required qualification only of the concerned post as mentioned above and CNIC while applying for the job.

(c) In case a candidate does not upload the above documents with the online application form, his/her application will be rejected.

(d) All the interested candidates must read the Terms of Reference (TOR) mentioned in the vacancy notice available at CAA's website before applying for the post.

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PID(K)# 1164/23

Allocated quota in varsities:

Governor orders to appoint visually impaired persons

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday directed universities to employ visually impaired and disable persons on their quota and announced to provide them free education in universities.

He said this as a Chief Guest in a ceremony organized by Pakistan Blind Association in connection with World White Cane Day.

He said that visually impaired persons are part of our society and people must play a role for their empowerment and facilitation.

He said that visually impaired persons are being

confronted with many difficulties and social welfare department should take steps to provide them needed assistance and financial help.

Governor also sought a comprehensive report from concerned department and welfare organizations about problems of visually impaired people and said that we must identify flaws in our system that is impacting these people.

He also underscored the need of establishing schools for visually impaired children at district level and stressed people to play role for making them a useful part of society.

He also urged affluent

and welfare organization to provide maximum support and help to visually impaired people that are part of our society.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing a ceremony organized by Pakistan Blind Association in connection with World White Cane Day.

Four criminals held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Police had arrested four alleged members of land mafia and vacated a plot while they are trying to grab the property at Kohat Road, on Tuesday.

According to details, Station House Officer Badabhir Nasir Farid Khattak along with police party responded on the

complaint of Sahibzada Safy Ullah regarding grabbing of his plot on gun point at Kohat Road.

The alleged land mafia members identified as Ghulam Ishaq, Waqar, Sardar and Badshah residents of Badabhir. Police had recovered three Kalashnikovs and a pistol with several bullets while registered a case against them.

Public benefit to be ensured: CS

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has urged relevant authorities to ensure that the recent reductions in petroleum prices directly benefit the public. The Chief Secretary has specifically instructed the transportation department to collaborate closely with transporters to calculate and subsequently decrease fares on all routes. Regional transport authorities have been tasked with implementing these revised fare schedules throughout the province.

In addition, commissioners and deputy commissioners have been directed to engage with traders' associations to efficiently manage and reduce the prices of essential goods and non-food items. The Chief Secretary emphasized the provincial government's commitment to alleviating the financial burdens on citizens and providing them with substantial relief.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary has mandated all deputy commissioners to intensify monitoring efforts to regulate the prices of all items in accordance with directives from the Prime Minister. To facilitate these efforts, the Performance Management and Reforms Unit (PMRU) has been assigned to create new tasks related to these directives and submit daily reports.

Govt wants speedy, equal uplift: Aamir

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah on Tuesday, presided over the first high-level steering committee meeting, constituted by the provincial government for the Newly Merged Districts Affairs, in the committee room of Home and Tribal Affairs department here at Peshawar.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department Muhammad Abid Majeed, representative members included in committee of other relevant departments, 11 corps and police officers.

In the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary gave a detailed briefing to the caretaker minister as the chairman of the steering committee, regarding the aims and objectives of the forum, its responsibilities and objectives.

Falling oil prices:

12-13% fare cut planned: Minister

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Culture, and Tourism, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel has expressed commitment to the principles of good governance with a primary focus on the welfare of the people during a press conference held at Itlaa Cell Civil Secretariat in Peshawar on Tuesday. Following a significant decline in oil prices nationwide, the provincial government is swiftly implementing measures to pass on the benefits to the people, he said.

"As part of these efforts, transport fares are set to undergo a substantial reduction of 12 to 13%. This initiative, which commences in Peshawar, extends across other districts with directives issued to Deputy Commissioners and the formation of inspection committees to ensure effective implementation. It is expected that a noticeable reduction in transport fares and other items will become apparent within a short timeframe", Minister said.

He said that the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa is actively leading all efforts in this matter, with instructions relayed to administrative officers by the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel emphasized during the press conference that good leadership and transparent governance play a pivotal role in ensuring that the benefits of such measures reach the citizens. He also highlighted the positive effects of an increase in rupee's value and its potential contribution to debt repayment.

He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government maintains a stringent policy of zero tolerance against smuggling and other criminal activities, which has yielded positive results and continues to be closely monitored. The Caretaker Information and Public Relations Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to the continuation of these measures.

In response to a query during the press conference, the Caretaker Provincial Information Minister informed that the Government of Pakistan has provided an opportunity



ty for undocumented individuals residing in the country to return to their home countries with dignity and ease. He underlined that it is essential for people living in a foreign land to possess legal documentation. After October 31, appropriate legal action will be taken against those without proper documentation, irrespective of their country of origin.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel emphasized that the objective is not to single out any particular nation but to encourage undocumented individuals to return to their home countries and subsequently come back to Pakistan through legal channels. The government's stance on this matter remains open and welcoming to those who adhere to legal procedures he said.

SBBWU arranges awareness session

PESHAWAR (APP): Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWU) in collaboration with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), on Tuesday held an awareness session in connection with international day for natural disasters risk reduction here at Government Frontier College for Women (GFCW).

The title of the session was "From Knowledge to Faith; women leading way in disaster risk reduction".

The event was organised with an aim to raise awareness about the link between faith, climate change, and disaster risk reduction among female students and to foster cooperation between different faith-based communities in climate change mitigations and adaptations.

Program Officer, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), Peshawar Fazle Ghafoor motivated students to take practical

steps towards climate-friendly behaviors and encouraged them to adopt and promote climate-friendly behavior for disasters risk reduction.

Lecturer GFCW Khadija Rehman, selected for DNGFE Cohort-2 by the competent Authority of SBBBWU Peshawar to visit University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), United States to present poster presentation related to natural disaster management.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali addressing during a meeting regarding problems of traders. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Mobile snatching incidents: SSP Operations launches helpline to ensure FIR registration

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In a significant move towards enhancing public safety and ensuring swift justice, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Peshawar, has introduced a dedicated helpline for citizens encountering difficulties in registering First Information Reports (FIR) related to mobile snatching incidents. This proactive step aims to address the concerns of residents who have faced challenges in reporting crimes to local police stations.

The helpline, operational via the number 0332-9582793, serves as a direct channel for citizens to report instances where police stations or posts

have failed to register FIRs concerning mobile snatching. This initiative empowers the community, enabling them to actively participate in the process of ensuring law and order within the city.

Often, victims of mobile snatching have encountered obstacles when attempting to file FIRs, hindering the investigative process and delaying justice. With the introduction of this helpline, citizens now have a reliable means to escalate such cases directly to SSP Operations, who can take necessary action against police stations or posts that have not appropriately registered FIRs.

This initiative has been met with widespread approval from the residents of

Peshawar, who view it as a positive step towards improving the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies. By providing a direct communication channel to address grievances related to FIR registration, SSP Operations aims to instill confidence among the public and strengthen their faith in the justice system.

The launch of this helpline reflects the commitment of SSP Operations and the Peshawar Police to ensuring a safer environment for all citizens. The initiative not only facilitates the process of reporting crimes but also signifies a significant stride towards promoting transparency and accountability within the law enforcement apparatus.

Citizens are encouraged

to utilize the helpline responsibly, providing accurate information to facilitate swift action against any police station or post found neglecting their duty to register FIRs. SSP Operations urges the public to actively participate in creating a secure community by reporting incidents of mobile snatching promptly.

This commendable initiative underscores the collaborative efforts between law enforcement and the community, emphasizing the shared responsibility in maintaining law and order. The Peshawar Police express gratitude for the ongoing support of the citizens and reaffirm their dedication to ensuring a safer and more secure environment for everyone.

Inauguration of Early Childhood Education Centers in KP



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR, UNICEF and Hashoo Foundation, in col-

laboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED), are

proud to announce the inauguration of 500 Early Childhood Education (ECE) classrooms across

twenty-three districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). This transformative initiative is made possible through funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

Aligned with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Plan 2020-2025, the E&SED underscores the critical role of ECE in a child's development and learning, making it a top priority for the region. To actualize this commitment, the existing 13,000 Katchi classrooms in primary schools will be converted into modern ECE classrooms.

In pursuit of the goal to refurbish 13,000 classrooms into quality ECE centers, UNICEF has partnered with Hashoo Foundation in a ground-

breaking project titled "Transformation of ECE Classrooms in 23 Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." The ECE Centers being inaugurated recently are among the 500 centers to be established by Hashoo Foundation, in collaboration with the E&SED and the Implementation Support Unit of the E&SE Directorate, spanning 23 districts in KP.

The funding for these projects is provided by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), supporting 1,600 centers and 100 centers, respectively. This initiative is set to benefit over 96,000 children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UNICEF has a long-standing partnership with the E&SED, offering technical and financial assis-

tance to enhance educational opportunities, particularly for girls, and to improve education service delivery through evidence-based planning.

Their collaboration focuses on multiple areas, including access, equity, inclusion, quality, governance, and management of education.

The primary objective of this endeavor is to create a nurturing environment for early childhood education and expand educational opportunities, especially in underserved communities, with a strong emphasis on advancing female education.

Hashoo Foundation, with a rich history of promoting education, has reached 550,278 children since launching the Hashoo Schools initiative in 2002. Notably, the Child

Education Support Program (CESP), benefiting 25,500 girls and 24,500 boys, and the 2022 Quality Education Program (EQuIP) exemplify the foundation's dedication to enhancing the educational landscape.

The inauguration ceremony united key stakeholders, including representatives from UNICEF, the Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED), Hashoo Foundation, the KP government, and the local community. Their significant support and contributions were greatly appreciated.

Abdul Waheed, Acting Country Director of Hashoo Foundation, expressed his heartfelt satisfaction at witnessing the inception of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) project, a promise of a brighter future for Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa's children. The UNICEF Education Specialist reiterated their unwavering commitment to supporting partners like Hashoo Foundation, highlighting the profound impact of establishing 500 ECE schools on children's lives across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Secretary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department lauded the tireless efforts of GPE, UNICEF, and Hashoo Foundation, reaffirming a strong commitment to provide full support. Recognizing that the project's success will empower children with education while strengthening communities and contributing to the overall development of the region, he emphasized the department's dedication to this transformative journey.



In brief

Safety kits distributed
F.P. Report

BUNER: The tehsel municipal administration Gadezai Salarzai on Tuesday distributed safety kit among the sanitation workers that includes long shoes and gloves. The tehsel Nazi Sher Alam Khan the TMO Anwar Shamim Khan the TOI Waqas Khan and other office staff members were present on the occasion. The TMO Anwar Shamim Khan made it clear the aim behind safety kit for the sanitation workers to make sure safety of the workers and to make sure maximum cleanliness. The TMO warned those workers found without wearing safety tools would be dealt sternly so as the safety of the workers from injuries and germs during work.

Four killed in road accident

DERA GHAZI KHAN (INP): A passenger bus overturned while saving a Ching Chi rickshaw near Kot Chatha on the Indus Highway in Dera Ghazi Khan on Tuesday, killing four people and injuring 25 others. Rescue officials said that the bus was traveling from Rajanpur to DG Khan when it overturned while trying to avoid hitting a Ching Chi rickshaw that had come to a sudden stop. Four people, including two women and two children, were killed on the spot. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals, where the condition of six people is said to be critical. Rescue operations are underway at the scene, and the highway has been closed to traffic.

Action against transporters
F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The district administration Tank and traffic police on Tuesday conducted a joint operation against transporters for violating the officially prescribed fare list. During the operation, Assistant Commissioner Tank Amin Ullah Khan and traffic warden Saduddin paid a visit to various bus terminals and inspected basic facilities for passengers and inquired about the fares. The inspection team imposed fines on several drivers for overcharging passengers despite the significant reduction in fuel prices. They returned the extra fare to passengers and directed transporters to ensure compliance with the officially prescribed fare list. The passengers expressed gratitude to the district administration for extending them.

Two women injured in firing
F.P. Report

MARDAN: Two women sustained injuries during firing inside of their house in Mardan district on Tuesday. Police said the incident occurred at Landay Shah village where two ladies received bullets wounds apparently over domestic dispute. Police and Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and shifted the victims to the hospital.

SMEDA's new technology
F.P. Report

HAFAZABAD: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is introducing new businesses having latest technology for small and medium traders so the economic condition could be improved. These views were expressed by the Regional Business Manager Rukhsar Warraich while addressing a seminar held at Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hafizabad. He said that SMEDA and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hafizabad desired to make small and medium businessmen successful as like the big chambers providing business opportunities to big investors.

UET organizes one-day workshop in Swat

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: The Center of Intelligent Systems and Network Research (CISNR), University of Engineering & Technology (UET) organized a one-day workshop in Swat. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) under its project REEE: SCALE, the workshop highlighted the crucial role of the Internet of Things (IoT) in Municipal Energy Management. Its primary goal was to raise awareness and share case studies illustrating how the integration of automated technology in municipal services can lead to reduced energy consumption and improved service delivery.

Designed to empower municipal administrative staff, the workshop aimed to encourage the adoption of technological advancements such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems for water supply management, streetlight control, and fleet management. CISNR emphasized that the implementation of SCADA systems in municipalities is expected to deliver energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote decarbonization. This, in turn, contributes to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, entitled "Affordable and Clean Energy," and Sustainable Development Goal 13, which focuses on Climate Action.

Representatives from the Water Sanitation and Services Company Swat commended the workshop, expressing appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) in funding and CISNR in organizing the event.

They also highlighted the need for similar workshops tailored for senior management and the formulation of government-level policies to drive the adoption of Municipal Energy Management Systems. The workshop facilitated the transition from IoT theory to practice, emphasizing the role of technology in improving services and energy efficiency.

Custom support exporters to enhance trade

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Director transit trade Arbab Qaiser has said that the customs department extends every possible assistance to the businessmen to boost trade at Torkham border. Custom clearing agents play their due role to discourage the black sheep who suffer trade at the crossing.

He expressed the views while addressing a gathering, organized in connection with the oath taking ceremony of the new cabinet of clearing agent association, Torkham held at jirga hall on Tuesday. Beside Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi, ex-parliamentarian Shafiq Sher Afridi, Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Irshad Mohmand, Jawad Kazmi of Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid large number of traders, custom agent, tribal elders and officials were among the participants.

Arbab Qaiser said that Pak-Afghan signed a transit treaty in 1965 and since then the customs agents and customs were necessary for

one another. He maintained that through improvement of business would not only earn foreign exchange for the country but would also advance ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

With adaptation of effective initiatives, problems being faced by the custom agent overcame he added and urged the trade community to disregard all those malpractices that suffered the trade. He called upon the newly cabinet of the association to play their positive role to increase legal and fair business at the crossing.

Earlier, director of transit trade Arbab Qaiser administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet of clearing agent association, Torkham. Newly elected President of the association Aimal Shinwari, Taj Muhammad Afridi, the association chairman Mirajuddin Shinwari and others also spoke on the occasion.

Khudai Khedmatgar distributes school bags among students: Free school bags were given away to the deserving poor students of government high school Pased Khel, Landi Kotal last day. The

welfare activity was organized under the auspices of Khudai Khedmatgar organization of Khyber.

In this connection a simple gathering was set up in the government-run school that was attended by Khudai Khedmatgar district Salaar, Haji Fazal Rehman Afridi as a chief guest, teachers, students and volunteers of the organization.

Speaking on the occasion Haji Fazal Rehman Afridi said that it was the motto of the organization to serve the poor and neglected ones therefore they started a scheme of supplying free school bags from the remote area. In the first phase hundreds of school bags would be granted to the poor and deserving students of Landi Kotal that would be followed by provision of free uniform to them, he remarked.

He vowed that the organization would facilitate the poor segment of the society. The school staff and parents thanked the organization for its generous support to the students. At the end dozens of school bags were distributed among the students.



QUETTA: BNP leader Malik Naseer Ahmed addressing a press conference.

Two killed in different incident

FAISALABAD (INP): Two persons were killed in different incidents in the city and its whereabouts during the last 12 hours.

A police report said here on Tuesday that a speeding van hit a motorcycle near Tawar stop, Tandlianwala. Consequently, Ahmad Ali (45) died on the spot. He was a resident of Chak No 426-JB, Tandlianwala. Police shifted the body to the mortuary for autopsy and started legal action against the van driver. A youth was killed by rivals over enmity in the area of Saddar police.

According to a spokesperson, two accused named Hassan Dastgir and

Mustafa along with accomplices abducted one Abbas of Chak No 237-GB and subject him to torture. He was rushed to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The body was removed to the mortuary. Police have registered a case and started an investigation.

Farmers advised: Farmers have been instructed to start barley cultivation in rain fed areas from the end of October and in the plains from the beginning of November.

According to Research Information Unit Ari Faisalabad on Tuesday, farmers can get the best

yield by planting barley crop along with wheat crop. Barley is also a good source of nutrients and is considered to be the most useful diet for human health. The agriculture department, government of Punjab, has approved modern varieties of barley for cultivation, including Sultan 17, Jo 17, Talbiz 21, Pearl 21 and Jo 21. Farmers are advised to use high quality seeds and give priority to the cultivation of modern varieties. Clean and healthy seeds of 30 to 35 kg per acre with a growth rate of not less than 80 to 85 percent should be used for barley cultivation to obtain a bumper crop.

Middle-aged man held for marrying 12-year-old girl

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A middle-aged man has to face jail for solemnizing marriage with an underage girl in Larkana.

Reportedly, a police party gatecrashed a marriage function in Nazar

Mohallah in Larkana. Police were informed that 35-year-old Ashraf Kalhoro was solemnizing marriage with 12-year-old Naseem Kalhoro.

They arrested the groom and bride's father Zaheer Kolhro for arranging a mar-

riage prohibited under the country's law. The Nikkah reciter, Maulvi Abdullah, fled the scene at the time of police raid. SHO Rehmat Abbasi said that a case will be registered against the accused under the Child Act.



QUETTA: Former provincial minister Mir Sikandar Ali Imrani called on Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

Minister visits Social Welfare Department
F.P. Report

KOHAT: Caretaker Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Irshad Qaiser on Tuesday paid a detailed visit to the Social Welfare Department Kohat here.

On arrival she was welcomed by District Social Welfare Officer, Amjad Afridi and Superintendent Welfare Home Kohat Rizwanullah. The minister visited Darul Aman, Nishtar Special Education Center and Welfare Home Kohat.

District Social Welfare Officer Amjad Afridi gave a detailed presentation regarding the activities and mandate of the department. The caretaker provincial minister appreciated the efforts of the administration and staff of the department and assured her complete cooperation to further boost the performance of the institution. At the end, the supervising provincial minister awarded cash prizes to the special education students for their performance.

Doctor shot dead in Nowshera

Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Unknown assailants on Tuesday shot dead a doctor of Mardan Medical Complex (MMC) in Nowshera Kalan area near River Kabul.

Police said Dr Izzat Ullah was on way to Mardan Medical Complex from Peshawar when unknown assailants, chasing his car, shot him dead on main GT Road in Nowshera district near River Kabul.

Police said Dr Izzat Ullah who was driving his car, died on the scene while the car fell into a nearby drain. The assailants managed to flee the scene after committing the gruesome crime. Police in its initial statement said the incident seemed to be the result of a family feud. Police have started investigation after registering a case while the district doctors staged a strong protest in Mardan over the killing of their fellow doctor.

Police issue performance report

SIALKOT (INP): Sialkot Police on Tuesday has issued a performance report of effective operations against criminal elements for the running month of October.

According to the report, police seized 108,601 grams of hashish, 8,290 grams of ice, and 120 grams of heroin from the possession of 80 accused. They also recovered 219 liters of alcohol and 85 pistols and 6 rifles from the possession of 89 accused for air firing and display of weapons.

In addition, police registered cases against one-wheeling and arrested 9 one-wheelers. They also closed 24 unnumbered motorcycles and registered 59 cases against the kite mafia. Police recovered 467 kites and 7 chemical strings from the possession of these accused. District Police Officer (DPO) Sialkot Muhammad Hasan Iqbal praised the police force for their efforts in combating crime and maintaining law and order in the district.

Wooden bridge in Dir inaugurated

F.P. Report

LOWER

Disappointed from the government and local lawmakers, the local youths from the Sangi Para village in Jandol built a wooden bridge on their own. The volunteers of the Falahi Tanzeem Naujawan e Agherly started work on the bridge and built a wooden bridge within 19 days. The bridge with a total cost of Rs 40 millions, had been incomplete for the last 9 years and the motorists and residents faced difficulties while passing the Sangi Para stream.

The wooden bridge constructed by the local youths was formally inaugurated during a function held at the Sangi Para here on Tuesday. Former tehsil naib nazim Bashirul Haq, retired SDO education Nazirul Haq, Falahi Tanzeem chief Iftikharul Haq, Ayub Gujjar, village council chairman Asghar Gujjar and area elders were in

attendance. The elders inaugurated the wooden bridge that was approved in 2014 with a total cost of Rs 40 millions and was opened for vehicular traffic. The residents expressed pleasure and they appreciated the local youths for building the bridge on their own.

Addressing the function, Bashirul Haq said the residents had been disappointed as the contractor had left work on the bridge incomplete.

He alleged the contractor had used sub standard materials and demanded an inquiry against the concerned contractor. He lauded the efforts of the local youth and said the villagers would fully cooperate with them in their welfare and development works.

SSC annual II exam: The board of intermediate and secondary education (BISE) Malakand's controller of examinations Muhammad Nasim Khan has said the board had set up 144 examination cen-

ters; 125 for boys and 19 for girls, for the SSC annual II examinations commencing from Oct. 25th. Talking to local journalists at Timergara here on Tuesday the controller said that a total of 40 thousands candidates were appearing in the examination. He said that roll number slips had been dispatched to the candidates on their postal addresses.

Registration of NCP vehicles: The excise and taxation department Lower Dir on Tuesday launched its registration of non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles in the district. The focal person of the department Muhammad Nadeem told local journalists that computerized data of the vehicles registered by the Pakistan army and police in 2016-17 was available and they did not need registration again. He said the owners of unregistered NCP vehicles had been directed to get their cars registered with the excise and taxation department.

Employees demand release of salaries

F.P. Report

WANA: South Waziristan Forest Department's mega Project Ten billion Tsunami Tree started a few years ago, the salaries of the employees have been stopped for the last one and a half years. Employees said, due to which the stoves in their houses have become cold. The employees threaten they will start endless protests if the salaries are not paid.

According to the information received, the salaries of the forest department employees of the two tribal districts of South

Waziristan, Lower Waziristan, including FR Tank and Dera Ismail Khan, have been stopped for the last one and a half years. The employees said that they have played an important role in forest conservation and plantation campaign, but they are not getting their wages.

The employees said that they have not been getting salaries for the last one and a half years, shopkeepers have stopped giving loans to feed their children. The employees say that their stoves have gone cold due to the stoppage of salaries. They said that if the salaries

are not paid in a few days, we will forcibly leave our work and start a strong protest.

On the other hand, Divisional Forest Officer Wahdat Zeeshan says that I understand the difficulties of my employees. I have repeatedly informed my project director and chief conservator through letters regarding the release fund of employee salaries. However, the salaries will be released as soon as conditions are favorable. He said that I have intensified my efforts to release the withheld salaries of the employees soon.

Abducted cops recovered from katcha area

SHIKARPUR (PPI): All five police personnel, including the Station Head Officer (SHO), who were abducted in the Shikarpur katcha area by bandits, were recovered on Tuesday.

On October 11, five policemen including SHO Mehboob Broi, Head Muharr, Naseem, Constable, Jan Muhammad, Constable, Ayaz and Muhammad Ali, the son of SHO, were abducted along with weapons by bandits in

the Kot Shahu area. The abductees were recovered in a joint operation of police and Rangers in Abdul Haq Badani village located in Khanpur Tehsil of Shikarpur. The DIG Larkana further said the operation was underway for the arrest of the bandits who fled the area.

Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar also took serious note of the kidnapping of six policemen,

including the SHO of Kot Shahu police. The caretaker CM had directed the DIG Larkana to immediately recover the abductees. It is to be noted that the Caretaker government of Sindh is carrying out an operation against the dacoits in katcha area to restore law and order situation. Earlier to this, five cops were reportedly abducted along with the weapons by the dacoits in katcha area of Kandhkot.

Foreign goods worth Rs650 million seized

QUETTA (PPI): Customs Intelligence claimed to have seized foreign goods worth Rs 650 million in two raids conducted in warehouses at Sariat Road area of Quetta on Tuesday.

Following the directions of Director General, Regional Directorate of Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Islamabad, staff of Regional Directorate, Customs Intelligence, Quetta raided two warehouses at Sariat Road, Quetta. Large quantity of foreign goods, including cigarettes, supari, whips and Indian Gutka, were seized. Value of the seized goods was reported to be Rs. 650 million.

Separately, ten children sustained injuries on

Tuesday after bomb they were playing with exploded in Killi Fateh Muhammad Zircheen area of Wadh in district Khuzdar of Balochistan province.

According to rescue sources, ten children sustained injuries while playing with an unexploded bomb in Killi Fateh Muhammad Zircheen area of Wadh in district Khuzdar. The injured were rushed to Wadh Hospital where after providing initial treatment, four critical injured namely Nasir son of Pasund, Faisal son of Sanaullah, Mehraj son of Jan Muhammad and Younas son of Din Muhammad were referred to Khuzdar for further treatment.

Four die as bus overturned

KOT CHATTHA (PPI): Four people including two women and a two-year-old child died and 21 others injured when a bus trying to avoid a collision with a rickshaw overturned on Indus Highway in Kot Chattha on Tuesday.

Rickshaw driver was among the fatalities while ten of the injured were stated to be in serious condition. Rescue personnel said 11 of the wounded were provided on-the-spot treatment. Police shifted the injured and the bodies to a local hospital.



‘Israeli forces killed Abu Akleh without justification’

NEW YORK (Agencies): Israeli forces used "lethal force without justification" when they shot and killed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in the occupied West Bank, violating her "right to life", according to a new report by a UN-mandated investigative body.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel "concluded on reasonable grounds that Israeli forces used lethal force without justification under international human rights law", it said in a report released. Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American and acclaimed correspondent for the Doha-based media network, was shot in the head while covering an Israeli military raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank in May 2022.

"The killing of Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin is a direct result of Israel's militarisation of law enforcement operations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem," said Navi Pillay, Chair of the Commission. "Shireen Abu Akleh is another victim of the excessive and disproportionate force used by Israeli security forces in these operations. This was also an attack against journalists, who were all clearly identifiable, which is a recurring pattern identified by the Commission." The UN body recommended that the Israeli government cooperate fully with the United States investigation into the killing of Abu Akleh. It said it would provide the evidence it collected to the International Criminal Court for its investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine. The report, which covered the period between May 2021 and August 2023, also found that civilians are paying the highest price amid soaring violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that neither Israeli forces nor armed Palestinian groups are working to avoid civilian casualties. The report was finished before the current round of fighting between Israel and Hamas, the most deadly in years.

"Our report is painful and timely," said Navi Pillay. "It emphasises that the only path towards ending violence and achieving sustainable peace is through strict

observance of international law throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel. This requires addressing the root causes of the conflict, including the occupation of Palestinian territory, and allowing the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination." The report will be presented before the UN General Assembly on October 24. The report found that Israel's prevention of food and medicine to Gaza is in violation of international law and that Israeli policies on Gaza are inseparable from an occupation that it says Israel has "no intention" of ending. In occupied east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank, the commission also detailed what it described as a "distinct hierarchy" of Israeli methods used to dispel demonstrators, with Palestinians in occupied east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank receiving the "harshest and often lethal responses".

The UN also said that previous instances in which Palestinian groups in Gaza fired rockets towards Israeli population centres were "inherently indiscriminate" and a war crime. The report also found that Israeli attacks on Gaza were "not proportionate to the military advantage" and likewise constituted a war crime. The commission has said that it is collecting evidence of war crimes committed by Palestinian armed groups such as Hamas and Israeli forces during the current round of fighting. After hundreds of Hamas fighters from Gaza launched an attack on southern Israel that killed at least 1,400 people and injured thousands more, Israeli forces imposed a "complete siege" on the territory, cutting access to food, water, electricity and fuel in Gaza, and unleashed a campaign of air raids that have levelled entire neighbourhoods. At least 2,808 people have been killed in the bombardment and more than 10,000 others wounded, according to Palestinian officials.

Last week, Israel said that the more than one million residents of northern Gaza must evacuate south before an anticipated Israeli ground invasion, an order the UN called "impossible" and that rights groups have said could amount to forced population transfer, which is a crime against humanity.

‘Chinese jets being reckless near N Korea’

TORONTO (Agencies): A Chinese fighter jet flew within five metres (16 feet) of a Canadian military plane over international waters near the coast of China, Canada's defence minister has said. The Canadian plane was taking part in surveillance to enforce United Nations sanctions on North Korea when the incident happened, Minister Bill Blair told reporters. This is not the first time there have been close encounters between Canadian and Chinese planes.

In June 2022, after Canada made similar accusations, China said Ottawa was using UN Security Council resolutions as an "excuse" to "[ramp] up its close-in reconnaissance provocations on China", according to China's state-run Global Times citing

Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson at China's Ministry of National Defence. Speaking to journalists about the latest incident, Blair said that while the Chinese Air Force regularly interacted with planes on UN missions, the particularly close encounter had put the Canadian aircraft at significant risk. "I am very concerned about the unprofessional way in which this was done," Blair said. "It was quite frankly dangerous and reckless. And those types of behaviours are not ever acceptable and we will express that to the People's Republic of China in the most appropriate way," he continued, but did not give details.

Canadian journalists from the website Global News were on board the Canadian surveillance

plane and filmed the encounters with the Chinese jets. At least two different Chinese jets intercepted the Canadian plane over a number of hours during the more than eight-hour-long mission, according to the outlet. While most of the intercepts were done in a way those on board deemed professional, the paper reported, citing the military and its crew on board, that the last jet, which was armed with air-to-air missiles, was aggressively flying back and forth in close proximity while appearing to put the Canadian plane in its blind spot. In May, the United States Pentagon said a Chinese fighter jet carried out an "unnecessarily aggressive" move near a US military plane over the South China Sea in international airspace.

Trump gets gag order in election subversion case

WASHINGTON (Agencies): A US judge has imposed a narrow gag order on former president Donald Trump, barring him from publicly attacking prosecutors, witnesses, and court staff in the run-up to a trial focused on Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election. US District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, DC said that she would not tolerate a "pretrial smear campaign" by the former president targeting those involved in the case. "No other criminal defendant would be allowed to do so, and I'm not going to allow it in this case," Chutkan said as she issued the order. In recent weeks, Trump, with a long history of disparaging pub-

lic officials and perceived rivals, has taken to social media to call federal prosecutor Jack Smith a "thug". Under the rule, Trump is still allowed to assert his claim that the trial is politically motivated.

"A terrible thing happened to democracy today - Gag order!" Trump said in a post on the social media site Truth Social. Trump is currently facing a long list of legal challenges and investigations, some of which revolve around his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which he lost to current President Joe Biden. Trump lawyer John Lauro has previously pushed back against efforts to rein in Trump's frequent attacks

against those involved in the cases against him, characterising such efforts as a form of censorship. "He is allowed to make statements the prosecution doesn't like. That's part of living with the First Amendment," said Lauro, who did not comment on the ruling following the hearing.

But Smith's team has argued that Trump's incendiary statements - such as calling the judge "Trump-hating" and the prosecution a "group of thugs" - carry with them the risk of violence from his supporters. "This is not about whether I like the language Mr Trump uses," Chutkan said. "It's about language that presents a danger to the administration of justice."

‘Malaysia does not agree with Western pressure’

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters): Malaysia does not agree with Western pressure to condemn Palestinian militant group Hamas, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said, amid widespread outrage over this month's deadly attack on southern Israel. Western and European countries have repeatedly asked Malaysia to condemn Hamas in meetings, Anwar said, without providing

details. "I said that we, as a policy, have a relationship with Hamas from before and this will continue," Anwar told parliament. "As such, we don't agree with their pressuring attitude, as Hamas too won in Gaza freely through elections and Gazans chose them to lead." Muslim-majority Malaysia has long been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause and has advocated for

a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. It does not have a diplomatic relations with Israel. Top Hamas leaders in the past have often visited Malaysia and met with its premiers. Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in 2013 defied Israel's blockade on Gaza, crossing into the Palestinian enclave following an invitation from Hamas.

Evacuation of Ukrainians from Gaza discussed

TORONTO (Agencies): President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from Gaza in a phone call, the president said via Telegram.

Zelensky said that he and Trudeau were "in constant contact," and thanked the prime minister for "his willingness to help with the evacuation of our people from the Gaza Strip." Around 260 Ukrainian nationals remained trapped in the besieged region of northern Gaza. Despite claims that the Rafah border crossing into Egypt would be opened for foreigners and humanitarian aid deliveries on the morning of Oct. 16, Israel denied any such agreement.

Ukraine's Human Rights Commissioner Dmytro Lubinets called the situation in Gaza a "humanitarian catastrophe" on Oct. 14. Zelensky also said the conversation with Trudeau touched on agreements made during his visit to Canada in September.

The leaders discussed "hydroelectric power generation" as well as plans to complete a museum dedicated to the Holodomor, along with ongoing "defense cooperation." Zelensky said he invited a Canadian representative to the next meeting regarding Ukraine's peace formula, which he said would be held soon. On Oct. 11, Canada pledged a new aid package worth \$19 million, intended to help Ukraine during the winter months.

Court rules on presidential candidate eligibility

JAKARTA (Agencies): Indonesia's Constitutional Court has upheld the minimum age requirement for presidential and vice presidential candidates, but said there could be an exception for those who have held or been elected as regional leaders. The decision leaves the door open for President Joko Widodo's eldest son - who is 36 - to run for vice president in elections due next February.

Chief Justice Anwar Usman, who is the president's brother-in-law, led a panel of nine judges who rejected the petition to lower the minimum age to 35 years from 40. The judges said determining the age limit should be left to parliament and that the petition had no "reasoning according to law".

The president, popularly known as Jokowi, is unable to contest the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections having served a maximum two terms in office. He was first elected in 2014. The ruling Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) has selected Ganjar Pranowo, the governor of Central Java, as its candidate for the February 2024 elections. Prabowo Subianto, defence minister in Jokowi's government, is also expected to run for the top job again. Before Jokowi appointed Prabowo to his cabinet in 2019, the two men were considered archrivals. The constitutional challenge to the age limit for presidential and vice presidential candidates - on the basis that it was discriminatory - fuelled speculation that Jokowi's son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, was considering a run for the vice presidency, perhaps as Prabowo's running mate.

The court had received seven judicial review requests calling for the age limit to be lowered, including from the Indonesian Solidarity Party - known for its appeal to younger voters. Jokowi's youngest son Kaesang Pangarep recently became the party's chair. Gibran is currently the mayor of Surakarta city, also known as Solo, and has not publicly expressed an interest in contesting the February elections. If one of Jokowi's children does eventually run for president, he would not be the first Indonesian president to create a political dynasty.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, who became president in 2001, the first woman to do so, is the daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno.

‘Every second in danger’: Gaza journalists race against deadlines and death

GAZA (Agencies): Freelance journalist Rakan Abdelrahman works out of a cafe, wearing his vest marked "press", ready to rush out if he needs to as he reports on Israel's bombing of the Gaza Strip. But Abdelrahman, whose work has appeared in Middle East Eye and The National, is not just covering a story. Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip, like Abdelrahman, are trying to defy the odds - and death - to bring the horrors of war to the world amid difficulties that threaten to hobble their work.

For 10 days, Israeli warplanes have been bombing the coastal enclave relentlessly and have killed 2,808 Palestinians, a quarter of them children. A further 10,859 have been wounded in aerial bombardments, the interior ministry said that the bodies of more than 1,000 Palestinians are trapped under the rubble of buildings destroyed by bombs. Last week, Israel bombed the communications tower in the besieged territory and cut off electricity to the strip's sole power plant. The actions are part of the "total siege" Israel has implemented in response to the surprise attack on October 7 by Hamas fighters on the Israeli military bases and surrounding Israeli towns and settlements outside of the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis were killed in the attack.

The bombings and the siege have left the Gaza Strip without reliable internet or electricity. This has made the work of journalists - already risky and challenging in a war zone - even harder. "Due to bad internet connection and electricity outages, we can't report on something in real-time. There is no appropriate place to work from anyway," Abdelrahman tells Al Jazeera, adding that journalists wearing clearly marked press vests and helmets have been targeted. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least 15 journalists have already been killed in the Gaza Strip since October 7.

"We can't cover the site of massacres or even get to the places that have been bombed for fear that another Israeli attack will target the same area," Abdelrahman says. "Every second you are in danger. Our colleagues have paid the price with their lives, such as Saeed al-Taweel, Mohammed Subh and Hisham Alnawjha." The three journalists were killed on October 10 after going out to film a building in Gaza City about to be bombed. They were all standing at a safe distance, hundreds of metres



from the stated target of the Hiji building, but the air attack instead hit a different building, much closer to them. Residents in the Gaza Strip, which has a population of 2.3 million people - more than half of whom are under the age of 18 - have said the current war is the most ferocious out of the previous offensives in the last 15 years. At least 1 million people have been internally displaced. Abdelrahman says that in addition to fearing for his life when he is reporting, his mind is also preoccupied with concerns for his family and his four children.

"I think about their psychological state of mind, their exposure to this horrific war," he says. "During the previous Israeli wars, they were too young to remember, but now that they're older, it's been extremely difficult for them and for me to witness the fear that's engulfed them." Ghazi al-Aloul, a correspondent for Jordan's al-Roya TV channel, said that juggling these two fears is part and parcel of being a journalist in the Gaza Strip. His family, including his pregnant wife and three-year-old daughter, survived an Israeli attack on the building they were staying at in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, the publication al-Roya reported.

"Of course, you're torn between your responsibility as a journalist in conveying the truth and the risks that come with that, versus what your family is going through," al-Aloul says. "I think we're used to these pressures now. We will always continue our work no matter what obstacles come our way." "We all know that Israel acts with total impunity and disregard to international law, and we always try convey that as

much as possible in our coverage," he adds. Coupled with the lack of internet and electricity, many journalists are not working from their media offices. Instead, they gather in whatever cafe is open, confirming information with each other and filing their reports.

The Shifa Hospital in Gaza City has also become a hub for journalists and reporters, offering them a chance to charge their phones despite running on generators. It also provides them with access to information they otherwise could not know, due to the lack of electricity and disruption to mobile phone networks, in the form of the dead and wounded arriving from the different areas bombed by Israel. "When there is no internet, this results in censoring the journalist as they cannot report on information or news in different areas in the Gaza Strip," Shorouq Shaheen, a correspondent for Syria TV says.

"We are still covering the news but we have become limited in our coverage," she says. "We learn where an Israeli air attack took place when the dead and injured come to the hospital. But what happens to the attacks in different places that we can't get to? How can we cover that immediately?" Al-Aloul admits that journalists know the risk to their lives and that "there's a chance that we could end up being the news instead". But the deaths of their fellow colleagues only "gives us more motivation to carry on working in their names and memories", he says. "We, as journalists, have always proved that we are up to the task," al-Aloul adds. "We are also adamant in showing the atrocities that Israel is committing against us."

Finnish Nobel peace laureate Martti dies at 86

NAMIBIA (Agencies): Martti Ahtisaari, the former president of Finland who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending conflicts around the globe, has died. The former United Nations diplomat passed away at the age of 86 after battling Alzheimer's disease, Finland's presidential office said.

Finnish President Sauli Niinisto paid tribute to Ahtisaari, describing the former leader as a "president in times of change", "a citizen of the world" and a "great Finn". Ahtisaari will receive a state funeral, with the date to be announced later, the Crisis Management Initiative he founded said. Ahtisaari played a key role in negotiating peace on multiple continents, including agreements related to Namibia's independence in the 1980s, Serbia's withdrawal from Kosovo in the late 1990s, and autonomy

for Aceh province in Indonesia in 2005. When the Norwegian Nobel Committee recognised Ahtisaari in October 2008, it lauded "his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international conflicts". "Peace is a question of will," Ahtisaari said while accepting the award. "All conflicts can be settled, and there are no excuses for allowing them to become eternal." Born on June 23, 1937, in Viipuri, which is now part of Russia, Ahtisaari began his career as a primary school teacher before joining Finland's foreign ministry in 1965.

As a diplomat, Ahtisaari served as ambassador to Tanzania, Zambia, Somalia and the United Nations in New York. After being named Namibia's special representative by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in 1978, Ahtisaari

helped secure the African country's independence, for which he was granted honorary citizenship.

In 1994, Ahtisaari was elected as the 10th president of Finland as the country transitioned from an electoral college system to direct elections. His international prominence peaked in 1999 when he negotiated the end of the conflict in Kosovo alongside Russia's Balkans envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin. During his time in office, he was a fervent advocate for Finland's membership of the European Union and NATO, both of which the country eventually joined.

After he declined a second presidential term in 2000 to dedicate his time to Finland's rotating EU presidency, Ahtisaari founded the CMI to promote dialogue and mediation in conflicts. He is survived by his wife, Eeva, and their son.

Philippines’ president to visit Riyadh

MANILA (Agencies): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will visit Riyadh later this week to attend the inaugural summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the GCC, the Department of Foreign Affairs said. The Philippines is one of ASEAN's 10 member states, whose leaders are scheduled to meet their Gulf counterparts on Oct. 20 in the Saudi capital for their first joint summit, following increasing engagements between the two groupings in recent years.

The Gulf bloc comprises Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the UAE. This week's summit aims to further ties between ASEAN and GCC, said the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. "The GCC Summit is primarily about the endorsement of the framework of cooperation between the ASEAN and the GCC, which is the first summit that aims to intensify and optimize the ties between

the two regional organizations," Daniel Espiritu, assistant secretary at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, told reporters during a briefing at the presidential palace in Manila. "It's very important because the GCC is composed of highly-developed Arab economies, and at the same time, they are petrochemical as well as hub and logistics economies," he said.

"They can help ASEAN in addressing energy and food security - energy security because they're petrochemical powerhouses - but also food security because some of the countries there ... are among the largest producers of fertilizers and they can fill up the slack or deficit on the ASEAN side." Manila will also be seeking to boost bilateral and business ties on the sidelines of the ASEAN-GCC summit, Espiritu said. "There are also planned bilateral meetings with Saudi Arabia, as well as with Bahrain," he said.

Marcos is scheduled to meet with officials from the Saudi Ministry of Investment, Arab businesses and also the Filipino community in Riyadh as part of his visit.

The Kingdom has long been the most popular destination for overseas Filipino workers, or OFWs, with about a third of newly hired workers who left the country in 2023 choosing Saudi Arabia. Marcos' visit to Riyadh this week could potentially boost Philippine-Saudi ties, said Don McLain Gill, lecturer at the department of international studies in De La Salle University. "From large investments and trade to being the favored destination of OFWs, Saudi Arabia's importance in Philippine foreign policy is undeniable," he told Arab News. "Moreover, Saudi Arabia's role as a major West Asian power with a large economy and vast energy resources also adds more reasons for Manila to strengthen ties with Riyadh," he said.

Mapping protests held in solidarity with Palestine

ADELAIDE (Agencies): Demonstrators around the globe have taken to the streets to demand an end to Israel's bombardment of Gaza. Israel launched air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip after the Palestinian group Hamas, which governs the territory, carried out a brutal attack on southern Israel on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people, according to Israeli authorities.

At least 2,800 people have been killed in the responding Israeli assault on Gaza, according to Palestinian authorities, and an estimated one million people were displaced in Gaza in the first week of the conflict, according to the United Nations. Around the world, protests took place in multiple cities, with demonstrators chanting "Free Palestine" and calling for an end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land. The map and list below show the locations where sizeable protests have occurred. It will be updated as more protests take place.

Adelaide, Algiers, Amman, Athens, Auckland, Baghdad, Barcelona, Beirut, Berlin, Boston, Brabant, Brasilia, Brisbane, Cairo, Calgary, Cambridge, Canberra, Cape Town, Caracas, Colombo, Copenhagen, Dallas, Damascus, Dearborn, Delhi, Dhaka, Doha, Diyarbakir, Dublin, Edinburgh, Edmonton, Geneva, Glasgow, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Istanbul, Jakarta, Karachi, Kargil, Kolkata, Kuala Lumpur, Lahore, London, Los Angeles, Lucknow, Male, Manama, Manchester, Marawi City, Melbourne, Mexico City, Milan, Mississauga, Montreal, Mumbai, Nablus, Naples, New York City, Paris, Pittsburgh, Portland, Pune, Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Sanaa, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Surakarta, Sydney, Tehran, The Hague, Thiruvananthapuram, Tokyo, Tucson, Turin, Vancouver, Washington DC.

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BRF vision and Sino-Pak friendship

PRIME Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, accompanied by a high-level delegation, has reached Beijing to participate in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), the magnificent Chinese Initiative for global connectivity and International Cooperation. During the visit, the Prime Minister will attend the Opening Ceremony of the BRF and will hold bilateral meetings with the Chinese leadership including President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Mr. Li Xi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The leaders will discuss all facets of bilateral relations, with particular focus on strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Belt and Road Forum (BRF) refers to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is an international Consortium organized by the People's Republic of China (PRC) to promote its ambitious project to compete with its Western contenders including the United States, the EU and their partners in Asia and Oceania. The BRI, also known as the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, is a large-scale infrastructure and economic development project aimed at enhancing connectivity and cooperation between China and countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond. The forum serves as a platform for participating countries to discuss and collaborate on various aspects of the BRI, including infrastructure development, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges. It provides an opportunity for China to showcase its vision for economic and trade integration, while also addressing concerns and criticisms that have been raised by its adversaries regarding the initiative's environmental, economic, and geopolitical implications.

China's Belt and Road Forum typically features high-level government officials, business leaders, and representatives from participating countries, and plays a significant role in shaping the development and direction of the Belt and Road Initiative. Currently, a large number of global leaders from non-aligned nations including Pakistan, Chile, Sri Lanka, Congo, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Indonesia and others along with anti-western club together with Iran, Brazil, Russia, Belarus and several others have joined BRI club to benefit from unprecedented economic and monetary dividends of this modern age silk road and intercontinental economic integration. Although, there is massive propaganda and stigmatization from Western politicians, think tanks and media against Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative and its widely publicized China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) yet scores of nations from all continents have joined this club because it brings benefits to everyone.

Historically, Pakistan occupies a significant place in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project within the BRI that aims to connect Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan to China's northwestern region, Xinjiang. The CPEC is a massive infrastructure and economic development project led by China that links both neighbours and long-held friends through a network of highways, railways, and pipelines. This corridor is considered a vital component of the BRI and is expected to enhance connectivity, trade, and economic development in Pakistan and the broader South Asia region through various infrastructure, energy and development projects. The CPEC has emboldened Pakistan's geostrategic importance by transforming the South Asian nation into a regional trade hub, connectivity provider and gains multiplier in the region and beyond.

The government and people of Pakistan perceive the CPEC and the wider Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as guarantors of regional and global connectivity, economic integration and multilateral cooperation among the member states. Pakistani leadership aims to explore new avenues under the CPEC to enhance trade and investment, bilateral connectivity and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and China in a bid to transform this bilateral cooperation into multilateral engagement in South and Central Asia that leads to the Middle East through Iran. Currently, Pakistan, China and several other nations are endeavouring hard to manifest this dream into a shared and prosperous destiny in the days to come.

Re-discovery of Poland

ACCORDING to the western media, Poland's populist ruling party appeared to be on the brink of losing power, after a bitter and high-stakes national election that has concluded with victory of the pro-EU, Civic coalition. The Polish people have categorically rejected the hate mongering, nationalist and somehow anti-EU manifesto of the ruling Law and Justice Party which governed the East European nation over the past eight years. Presently, the Centralist and progressive opposition has grabbed the majority of the parliamentary seats and championed the recent polls that were held on Sunday.

Historically, the recent polls in the frontline European state were very crucial for Poland itself as well as for the European Union and the future of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The ruling Law and Justice party portrays itself as the sole defender of Polish sovereignty and of ordinary Poles, and its politics revolves around the opposition of the Polish elites and criticism of the European Union. Interestingly, the PiS has introduced multiple changes in the government and parliamentary system and brought the Polish judiciary, public media and cultural bodies under greater control, and has taken a hard line against LGBTQ and civil rights in a bid to consolidate his rule in the country. On the other hand, the civic coalition is a pro-EU alliance and asks for greater economic integration with EU member states and strengthening of NATO alliance and Poland's defense against the Russian threat. The civic coalition vowed to bring Poland back to Europe and has plans to reverse all illiberal and nationalist policies introduced by the PiS during its eight years rule since 2015.

Realistically, politics and democracy had been used by the elites as tools to reach high offices, grab power and satisfy personal goals in a majority of the nations around the globe. Similarly, fuming hate, fueling sectarianism, religious and ethnic biases, and inciting nationalism become the most effective recipes for politicians and clerics to build their palace and accomplish their political manifesto in a shortest possible time. All self claimed public saviours have always applied such mechanisms, passed laws and enforced policies that could pave the way for their future victories in their country. The same had been repeated by the Polish law and justice party which neither applied law on itself nor did justice with others throughout its tenure in office. The Polish people voted against the incumbent rulers and failed in their plans. Although, Civic coalition successfully brought Poland back to Europe, their patriotism would be evident in the future.

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The myth of Israel's ‘most moral army’

Neve Gordon

AS Israel ordered 1.1 million Palestinians - many of whom are the children and grandchildren of refugees - to leave their homes in northern Gaza ahead of its ground offensive, I asked myself how much more killing and destruction will be necessary to satisfy this death drive. Israel is clearly seeking retribution in the wake of Hamas's horrific attack. In the Israeli imagination, October 7 will be forever remembered as the day Hamas massacred more than 1,300 citizens. Hamas fighters entered Israeli settlements and towns, killing hundreds of children, men and women. An attack on a music festival in the desert left more than 250 Israelis dead.

Legally speaking, these attacks constitute a series of blatant and egregious war crimes and thus it is only natural that leaders around the world have denounced them as heinous acts of violence. Yet, Israel attacking civilian buildings and infrastructure and killing more than 2,300 Palestinian children, men, and women have been met with silence from Western leaders. Moreover, Israel's decision to cut off electricity, limit the water supply and flatten large parts of the Gaza Strip has barely engendered any criticism from the West even though these actions also constitute flagrant war crimes.

In order to understand why the death of Palestinian civilians fails to generate moral indignation among the Western elite as well as what likely lies ahead for Palestinians in Gaza as Israeli troops cross the border, we need to take a look at dominant Israeli narratives of past assaults. In 2014, for example, during Israel's invasion of Gaza, more than 2,200 Palestinians were killed, 556 of whom were children; this is compared to 64 Israelis who were killed in that round of violence.

So how is it, then, that even after Israel unleashed such disproportional and lethal violence in 2014, the West overwhelmingly continues to believe that the Israeli army is "the most moral in the world", while Palestinians have been

relentlessly cast as "violent aggressors"? Why is it that Western leaders never publicly denounce Israel for war crimes? The answer is complex, as there are a number of factors at play. But one of them is Israel's incredibly savvy manipulation of the laws of war that has successfully helped to frame Israeli violence as ethical.

Israel's legal manipulations draw on a series of ambiguities and exceptions that constitute international law, revealing that the laws of war favour states over non-state actors and the strong over the weak and consequently might not be the best tool to shield civilians in Gaza. Let us take some concrete examples. The standing orders given to the soldiers entering the Gaza Strip in 2014 were clear: Palestinians who did not heed Israel's warnings to evacuate their homes and flee south became legitimate military targets. One soldier explained to the Israeli organisation Breaking the Silence that: "There weren't really any rules of engagement ... They told us: 'There aren't supposed to be any civilians there. If you spot someone, shoot'. Whether the person posed a threat or not wasn't even a question; and that makes sense to me. If you shoot someone in Gaza it's cool, no big deal. First of all because it's Gaza, and second because that's warfare. That, too, was made clear to us - they told us, 'Don't be afraid to shoot', and they made it clear that there are no uninvolved civilians."

One might think that a military order permitting indiscriminate firing at civilians would be deemed illegal under international law, particularly given the principle of distinction between the bedrock of the laws of war calling on warring parties to distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants, and prohibiting the intentional attacking of civilians) - and given the fact that over half of the 2.3 million Palestinians currently living in the Gaza Strip are children.

The irony is that Israel actually uses the laws of war to portray itself as the moral actor. As it has done earlier this week, in 2014,

the Israeli army instructed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to leave their homes and travel to the south knowing full well that among those living in the area are thousands of elderly and sick people and that the time it gave them to vacate the area was not sufficient. But Israel also knows that warning the Palestinian civilians and instructing them to leave will allow it to deny the very existence of civilians within northern Gaza. That is precisely the meaning of the phrase "there are no uninvolved civilians", since it brands all those who have remained in the area - even if civilians are still the majority and are unable to leave, as the United Nations has averred about the current situation - as "participants in hostilities" or as "voluntary human shields". Such terms render these civilians "killable", according to some interpretations of the laws of war.

And since the claim to morality is based on compliance with the laws of war, the lethal violence that Israeli soldiers use against civilians who remain in their homes is then constructed as morally justifiable and even ethical. Alongside this legal discourse, Israel also circulates a colonial narrative that presents the Palestinians as "human animals" that do not understand the laws of war. By combining these colonial tropes and "legalese", it frames Palestinians as immoral barbarians who "deserve to die". This rhetorical move, in turn, construes Israeli soldiers as the opposite, namely, the "civilised" and moral "fighters".

Furthermore, the linking of international law with colonial tropes - or what we might call colonial legal discourse - helps justify the execution of massive violence. About a month ago, CBS News's 60 Minutes programme interviewed Shira Etting, an Israeli pilot who had been active in the protests against attempts by the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to overhaul Israel's legislature. "If you want pilots to be able to fly and shoot bombs and missiles into houses knowing

they might be killing children," she said, "they must have the strongest confidence in the [politicians] making those decisions."

Etting nowhere admits to any intention of killing children. Yet she does acknowledge that when she and her fellow pilots set off on a mission over the Gaza skies, they understand that the missiles they fire may very well - and often do - end up killing civilians. In other words, Israeli pilots, like Etting, know that they kill children when dropping massive bombs on city centres, but since they did not "intend" to kill them, international law as well as media outlets like CBS News and Western leaders consider their actions to be morally sound. This is despite the bombardment these pilots carry out resulting in the death of exponentially more civilians, including children, than in a Hamas attack. Western media outlets portray them as heroes who did not intend to kill non-combatants - euphemistically called "collateral damage". Note, however, that within this colonial legal discourse, it is not only the perpetrators of violence who are framed as morally distinct, but the victims of this violence as well. Israeli victims have names and life stories, which have been tragically cut short. These victims, in other words, are presented as people worthy of being grieved.

Palestinian victims, by contrast, remain nameless; and they tend to be presented as mere numbers rather than flesh and blood human beings whose lives also deserve to be grieved. This, too, helps to perpetuate the myth of the Israeli military as moral. Ultimately, then, it is not only that those who deploy the weapons of the strong are considered more ethical because they kill innocent people from a distance, but also because the colonial legal discourse constructs the people they kill as "human animals", "collateral damage", or as a statistic. So long as the dead are dehumanised in this way and, consequently, presented as unworthy of being grieved, the death drive will continue unabated. This, I fear, is a recipe for genocidal retribution.

Aljazeera

Ireland won't be allowed to freeload on global economy

Matthew Lynn

RISHI Sunak could be forgiven for casting an envious eye across the Irish Sea. In his Budget last week, Ireland's finance minister Michael McGrath, instead of the dismal round of tax rises and spending cuts we are used to in the UK, announced plans for a sovereign wealth fund, which could have assets of 100 billion euros by the middle of the next decade. It would generate wealth for decades to come.

The sovereign wealth fund is a partial answer to a problem that isn't shared by many other governments around the world: how to get rid of all the spare cash the treasury has accumulated. There is nothing wrong with that in itself. Norway's massive sovereign wealth fund has been a huge success, and, looking back, many people think the UK should have done something similar with the tax revenues earned from the North Sea when it was at its peak in the 1980s and 1990s. A wealth fund can even out good fortune between generations, and ensure the financial stability of the government even if the economy turns south.

But there is an important difference between Ireland and a country such as Norway. While Norway built up its surplus from a new industry, Ireland's wealth is poached from other countries. Ireland has been a low-tax base for a long-time, and justifiably earned plaudits for its commitment to being an attractive jurisdiction. And yet international efforts to coordinate the way corporate taxes are raised may inadvertently have contributed to a huge boom in the amount of money it raises. Rather than signalling a strong economy, in reality most of Ireland's extra money is coming directly from the US and other European countries. And Ireland can't expect to freeload in this way on the global economy for much longer - at least without provoking a huge backlash.

Just take a look at some of the numbers. Ever since it introduced its 12.5pc corporate headline tax rate, among the lowest in the developed world, Ireland has been a low-tax base. That rate is the reason why so many global multinationals, and especially the big American tech and pharmaceutical giants, have based their European operations there. Sure, they like the language, and Dublin and Cork have some decent bars.

But they were mainly there for the low taxes. Over the last few years, however, the amount Ireland collects has exploded. From 4 billion euros in corporate taxes in 2014, the amount rose to nearly 23 billion euros last year, just under 28pc of net tax receipts, a five-fold increase.

As it happens US multinationals have not massively increased their operations in the country. Instead, there is a far simpler explanation. The US-led effort to coordinate a

global crackdown on corporate tax, pushed by President Joe Biden, may have backfired, and led to a huge boom in Irish tax revenues. American companies that previously used offshore tax havens to protect some of their income now find it too difficult. As an alternative, they are parking more and more of their profits in Ireland, a low-tax jurisdiction, but not an out-and-out tax haven. The result? The figures have been distorted by vast amounts of profits "earned" and therefore taxed in Ireland.

Indeed, according to the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, just three firms paid a third of all those corporate taxes between 2017 and 2021, of which Apple was the largest. Every time you buy a new charger for your phone, Ireland gets a bit richer. Here's the problem, however.

It is impossible to believe that the scale of the Irish tax bonanza will be tolerated by the rest of the world for much longer. The EU has already flirted with plans to get a share of the money, with proposals flying thick and fast for measures such as direct levies on gross operating surplus, or pooled tax bills for multinationals. These proposals seem to be aimed at getting Brussels' hands on some of this Irish money.

And the White House, after Joe Biden's wild spending on a protectionist "green industrial strategy", is now grappling with an off-the-scale budget deficit that has already weakened the US bond market and led to a cut in its credit rating. It is hard to see how either Biden, or a slightly-more-wide-awake successor, can ignore the vast amounts that America's largest companies are now handing over the government in Dublin for much longer. There was never anything wrong with Ireland setting a low and competitive corporate tax rate. Indeed, it very successfully encouraged local entrepreneurs, and inward investment in real factories and R&D centres, transforming a rural backwater into one of Europe's most prosperous economies (heck, who knows, perhaps the UK should give it a try some time).

But the Irish tax rate may have turned into something quite different. The half-baked global tax agreement has turned it into a freeloader on the global economy. At a certain point that will surely become intolerable. Ireland can discuss what to do with the bonanza if it wants to.

And its Prime Minister Leo Varadkar can give pompous, moralising lectures to the rest of the world, such as when he accused the UK of "disen-gaging" with the rest of the world earlier this month, if he chooses too. And yet the blunt truth is that Ireland has turned itself into a parasite on the global economy - and sooner or later it will quite rightly face a clamp-down.

The Telegraph

Israel's evacuation order is nothing but cover for ethnic cleansing

Yara Hawari

ON October 12, after days of bombardments, the Israeli government ordered 1.1 million Palestinians living in the north of the Gaza Strip, which includes Gaza City, the most populated urban area, to move to the south of the besieged territory. It promised that for a 24-hour window, the roads would be safe for those wanting to flee the impending ground invasion. Many began to move towards the south immediately on foot, others climbed onto trucks and the "lucky ones" packed up their cars.

Israel has been bombing the roads in the northern part of the Strip for days, making any evacuation attempt slow and arduous. Worse yet, there were reports of the Israeli government breaking its promise and targeting convoys mov-

ing towards the south. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, an Israeli strike on the Salah al-Din Road, a main thoroughfare in the overcrowded territory temporarily declared "safe" by the Israeli military, killed 70 people attempting to flee towards the south on October 13.

In the end, many have evacuated, but many more have not been able to. Some are not in a condition to move, either because of disabilities or injuries. In several hospitals, doctors and nurses are refusing to leave behind their immovable patients. There are also others who are refusing to leave because they fear permanent exile. The trauma of Nakba in 1948, where 750,000 Palestinians were permanently exiled from their homes, has never left Palestinians. This feeling is especially palpable among

Palestinians in Gaza, the majority of whom are from families displaced in 1948.

The Israeli government knows this. It also knows that moving 1.1 million people in a space like Gaza, in a matter of hours, is logistically impossible. But the evacuation order serves its purpose - it provides cover for the Israeli government to commit mass atrocities by using the age-old fallacy that Hamas is using human shields. International agencies have made it clear that the evacuation order does not absolve the Israeli government of its obligations and responsibilities under international humanitarian law, and have called on Israel's leaders to rescind the order. On its part, however, the Israeli government has not made a huge effort to hide the fact that this evacu-

ation order or its wider plans for Gaza is an attempt at ethnic cleansing. Various Israeli ministers and politicians have called for the wiping out of Gaza over the past week, using dehumanising language. Israel's defence minister even called Palestinians in Gaza "human animals".

Meanwhile, the United States is pushing Egypt to allow for a humanitarian corridor between Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula through the Rafah border crossing. While it is imperative that all efforts are made to help people escape the bombardment, and for aid to be delivered, the fear is that anyone who is made to leave Gaza now may end up being permanently exiled. This is not an irrational fear - it is something which has been happening continuous-

ly throughout Palestinian history. Indeed, the Israeli government has persistently ignored various international conventions establishing the rights of refugees, including those that ascertain their right to return home. It is estimated that more than seven million Palestinians are currently living in permanent exile and not allowed to return to - and in many cases even visit - their homeland. As Palestinians in northern Gaza make the impossible decision of whether to stay in their homes or risk attempting to evacuate, the Israeli government is preparing for a ground invasion. Hundreds of Israeli tanks have been moved to the Israeli fence that has caged Palestinians in Gaza in for so long.

Meanwhile, Israeli politicians and army generals are whipping up a rhetorical

frenzy. They even brought in an Israeli war criminal, who was involved in the 1948 Deir Yassin massacre, to raise the morale among soldiers. He told them to "erase the memory of them ... Erase them, their families, mothers and children. These animals can no longer live."

Everything is telling us that the invasion is going to be ruthless. The pretext of wanting to wipe out the "top political and military leadership of Hamas" is just that - a pretext. The invasion will provide the Israeli government with an opportunity to take the northern part of Gaza and push Palestinians into a smaller prison or, for many thousands, beyond the borders of Gaza. Whichever way you look at it, the situation can only be described as ethnic cleansing and continuation of the Nakba that began in 1948.

Israel’s government unfit to govern but still Netanyahu won’t quit

Yossi Mekelberg

IT will take a long time for Israelis to recover from the horrendous events of Oct. 7. The nation is now engulfed by a collective trauma that has enhanced its already deep-seated existential fears. Hamas' incursion into its territory represented the nation's worst nightmare: caught off-guard and unprepared for an attack by one of its sworn enemies, with unimaginable numbers of people of all ages indiscriminately murdered or taken hostage.

Consequently, it is just a matter of time until the government inevitably yields to demands for an official investigation, which will examine how it could have been possible for this colossal failure of state to defend its own people against such a long-planned attack of this magnitude. However, until such a commission of inquiry is formed and subsequently delivers its verdict, it is safe to say that the disastrous events of last week have demonstrated once again that there is no powerful military without a strong and united society.

Furthermore, it was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, throughout his many - way too many - years in power, who polarized Israeli society in order to maintain his position. The country is now facing the most tragic consequences of those divisions. It is today clearer than ever that those who argued that a prime minister who faces corruption charges as severe as those Netanyahu faces is not fit to run a country, let alone one confronted by such extreme security challenges, were right to be so concerned. But the more his legal woes mounted, the more divisive poison was spread by the prime minister, his family and his sycophants.

Since the beginning of the year, Israel has been marred by internal divisions, all of which originate from Netanyahu's readiness to

form an extreme right-wing coalition and irresponsibly cave in to the demands of Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich to head ministries crucial for the country's security, while at the same time embarking on an assault against the pillars of the democratic system. Not only are both men not qualified in any shape or form to handle such ministries, but they and the other members of their parties thrive on inflaming tensions with the Palestinians and vitriolically attack their political opponents - attacks that include accusing them of treachery.

In this Israeli Cabinet, there is hardly anyone with significant military experience and some with none at all. For a country whose security is its top declared priority, this situation is due to nothing less than criminal neglect. And the responsibility for being conceptually and operationally completely unprepared for this surprise Hamas attack lies squarely with Netanyahu and his coalition, which diverted the political system's pre-occupation with security and other urgent and long-term priorities in order to carry out a series of attacks on the judiciary and other democratic institutions. Israelis are now experiencing a double trauma, firstly from the brutality of Hamas and its readiness to commit such hideous crimes against innocent civilians.

But equally they are shuddering from the realization that a country that has long prided itself on having the strongest military in the region, and which has one of the world's highest levels of military expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product, has been caught completely by surprise by an irregular militant group.

Netanyahu may yet get away with corruption and sowing division; however, his political career

is unlikely to survive his acts of gross negligence, which have cost the lives of so many people and, in doing so, exposed such an astonishing failure of intelligence. Much of this terrible crisis derives from Netanyahu's botched school of thought that weakened the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, while allowing Hamas to build its power base in Gaza in the mistaken belief that the group had lost its appetite for military confrontation.

There is also anger in Israel that Netanyahu, his wife and other ministers have so far failed to visit the locations that suffered such terrible losses in the Oct. 7 attacks and spoken to the bereaved, the displaced, the injured and the hospitalized. This only enhances the view that Netanyahu is utterly detached from the country and its people, and more generally from reality. His lack of contrition and refusal to take personal responsibility for what has been a systemic failure throughout the political and military chain of command raise more serious issues that further question his suitability to remain in power for a minute longer, let alone a single day.

Netanyahu's inaction could not contrast more strongly with the immediate response from opposition leaders, who reacted swiftly by not only engaging with the victims of the attack but also by offering to put their differences aside and join forces to form an emergency government. But Netanyahu has dithered and waited to receive assurances from Benny Gantz that the latter would join a government of unity without demanding the exclusion of the divisive duo of Ben-Gvir and Smotrich. Even in these dark days, Netanyahu is, in his political paranoia, prioritizing his personal interests over the task of ensuring that Hamas will never

again be able to inflict such a huge catastrophe on his country.

However, by agreeing to a compromise that keeps the far-right members of the coalition in government but away from the decision-making process, Gantz and also Gadi Eisenkot have joined the Cabinet, providing it with military experience to help the army recover from the massive blow it suffered last week and keeping the lunatic right away from influencing events. However, this also allows Netanyahu to believe that he has a flicker of hope of surviving this mega-fiasco. Nevertheless, it is almost unimaginable that Netanyahu and his Likud party will survive in power after what has happened on their watch. For months, they have been busy maligning and inciting against members of the Israel Defense Forces, crucial to the defense of the country, for opposing the government's efforts to crush the democratic system and saying they would refuse to serve if this was the direction the government was taking. These IDF personnel are the very people who last Saturday, without hesitation, joined their units or volunteered to help with logistics.

These very people will also renew their opposition to Netanyahu and his government the minute the war is over and they will oppose it with even more zest, justification and popular legitimacy. In the meantime, the prime minister and his party are in freefall, with the polls showing that the opposition parties have opened up a big lead over the ruling coalition and Gantz is likely to form the next government. It goes without saying, of course, that if there had been any dignity or sense of responsibility left in Netanyahu, he would have resigned as soon as the magnitude of the Oct. 7 disaster became evident.

Arab News

With this election victory, Poland is smiling again - and that's good for all of Europe

Timothy Garton Ash

TO be in Poland on Sunday night was to experience a rare moment of political joy. Young voters queued until the early hours to see off the xenophobic, nationalist populists who have been dragging their country backwards; to prove that even an unfair election can be won against the odds; and to turn Poland towards a modern European future. If you were already in the queue at 9pm, when polls closed, you were allowed to wait to vote. Some of the queues were very long, so neighbours brought hot drinks to sustain people in the cold. Interviewed at about 1am on Monday, one young man in Wroc?aw said he had to hang in there because this was the most important election since 1989.

I walked to a Warsaw polling station on election day with the same old friends whom I had accompanied to that historic vote on 4 June 1989. With delight, they each chose one name from the long list of parliamentary candidates. With equal delight, they refused even to take the ballot paper for the simultaneous referendum, which - with its ludicrously biased questions about things like an alleged "forced relocation mechanism" for illegal immigrants, supposedly "imposed by the European bureaucracy" - was effectively election propaganda for the ruling Law and Justice party (PiS). But my friends and I were full of nervous anticipation.

Anna told me that whereas in 1989 her dominant emotion had been hope, now it was fear. Her daughter, who was just seven in 1989, worried what more the ruling party could do to poison young minds and ruin her own seven-year-old daughter's education should they win another term. But then, starting with the first exit polls at 9pm, our foreboding turned to relief and then joy. Despite being

only semi-free, that 1989 election opened the door to democracy in Poland. And despite being unfair in multiple ways, not least in the crude, mendacious propaganda pumped out by all state-controlled media, this one should reverse Poland's slide towards the kind of electoral authoritarianism practised by Viktor Orbán in Hungary.

The record turnout, at nearly 74% on the current count, was 10% higher than in 1989. Reversing a continent-wide trend, first estimates suggest that voters under 29 turned out in larger numbers than those over 60. It seems young Poles finally understood that their future was at stake. Whatever happens next, this was a great democratic moment. The people spoke and said they wanted a different government. Unless current projections are badly wrong, the democratic opposition parties will have a clear parliamentary majority over PiS and its potential partner, the wild Konfederacja party, which had threatened to pick up a significant youth vote.

Why did the opposition win? We will need more time to understand this fully, and there always remains a fog of glorious mystery around how and why millions of individual people ultimately decide to vote one way rather than another. Nonetheless, we can see that many voters simply got fed up with the corrupt, petty, backward-looking, obscurantist rule of the party led by the 74-year-old Jaros?aw Kaczy?ski, who is a kind of one-man walking anthology of resentment. Some were alarmed by opposition warnings that the anti-Brussels course of PiS might lead to Polesxit. As well as the increased youth vote, for the first time ever more women than men voted in this election. Part of their motivation seems to have been the sight of a reactionary, patri-

archal party imposing one of the strictest anti-abortion laws in Europe. More than 600,000 Poles abroad registered to vote, although their impact on the actual result will be (unfairly) marginal.

Huge credit must go to Donald Tusk, the leader of the largest opposition list, the Civic Coalition, which has at its core the Civic Platform party that he co-founded in the early 2000s. I must confess I was sceptical about the return to the frontline of Polish politics of the 66-year-old former president of the European Council. It felt a bit like Tony Blair resuming the leadership of the British Labour party - and, as with Blair, there are a lot of people who can't stand Tusk. But he fought his way through a barrage of poisonous abuse, ludicrously accusing him of being the German candidate, and this victory is in significant measure his. I came to Warsaw directly from Istanbul, where my liberal democratic friends are in deep depression after a united opposition failed to defeat president Recep Tayyip Erdo?an in an election earlier this year. In spring 2022, I watched a united opposition in Hungary go down badly against Orbán. In Poland, my friends and I were also urging the opposition to unite, which it failed to do. Yet it may turn out that the fact there were three different opposition lists to choose from - Tusk's Civic Coalition, the Third Way (combining two parties broadly acceptable to liberal Roman Catholic voters) and the New Left - actually ended up maximising the opposition vote. It's still early days. Resentment-filled Kaczy?ski may yet have a few dirty tricks up his sleeve. President Andrzej Duda will almost certainly give him the first chance of forming a government, so it could take months before power finally changes hands. Such a diverse

opposition coalition may be fractious in government (think Germany).

Then there will be the huge challenge of reversing PiS's creeping state capture. I just learned a new Polish word: depisyzacja, that is, dePiSisation, by analogy with decommunisation. But taking the PiS out of the Polish state will be a tough task. It means restoring the independence of the courts, turning state media into proper public service media, undoing deep political penetration of the civil service and state-owned enterprises, redrawing constituency boundaries so they reflect population changes, and more. All this while Duda still has extensive veto powers. Restored EU funding will help, but no one knows the true condition of Poland's public finances and there's a war grinding on next door in Ukraine. PiS remains the party that won the single largest share of the vote. In big cities, nearly half the votes went to opposition parties and less than a quarter to PiS, but in the countryside it was the other way round. Civic Platform must show it has learned from its mistakes in the 2000s and respect the concerns of a poorer, more conservative, Roman Catholic, rural and small-town Poland. And the opposition needs to avoid the temptation simply to take revenge - a temptation wonderfully depicted in Andrzej Wajda's film of the classic 19th-century Polish comedy Zemsta (Revenge), which sees two Poles who share a castle furiously trying to do each other down. But sufficient unto the day are the evils thereof. I noticed this morning that the presenters on the independent, opposition-supporting TV channel TVN can hardly stop smiling - and, frankly, nor can I. Poland's populist nightmare is almost over and all of Europe will benefit as a result.

The Guardian

Donald Tusk is back - and could blow Brexit wide open

Tom Harris

UNKIND observers might conclude that if Donald Tusk emerges as Poland's prime minister - again - following the weekend's general election, it would serve the country right. It would certainly raise a few eyebrows in UK circles for Brussels' rottweiler of the Brexit process to re-emerge as a player on the international stage. If Prime Minister Sunak might not welcome such a development, how would Prime Minister Starmer approach la bête noir of the difficult negotiations that saw Britain finally leave the EU in 2021?

Tusk, who was president of the European Council during the EU referendum in 2016 and its aftermath, could be reappointed as Poland's prime minister (he served in that office from 2007 until 2014, becoming the first premier to win re-election since the fall of communism) following the less-than-conclusive results from the weekend's count. Extraordinarily, but not uncommon in European countries with proportional voting systems, he hopes to usurp the winning Law and Justice party, which secured 36 per cent of Poles' votes, compared to 31 per cent won by

the Civic Coalition, which Tusk leads. If he can pull together a coalition of all the losing parties, Tusk might yet return to power, helping to reassert the EU's sovereignty over the country after years of popular anxiety about immigration and criticism of government policy that has encroached on the freedom of the press and on the judicial system.

So Tusk's famously assertive and "plain speaking" approach to public life will probably be to his advantage if he does manage to unseat the incumbent prime minister. In Britain he will be best remembered as the EU official who claimed in 2019 that there was a "special place in hell" for "those who promoted Brexit without even a sketch of a plan of how to carry it out safely". He also enraged Leavers by advocating a vote for the breakaway Change UK Party in the last ever European Parliament elections in 2019. Tusk was the European politician who could be relied upon to say publicly what others only thought privately. Like the Remain campaign itself, he was most active in the fight against Brexit only after the EU referen-

dum result had been declared, bemoaning a decision that had already been made and favouring us all with his hindsight in the hope that the will of the British people might yet be frustrated.

If he returns to power in Poland, he will become, once again, an important voice in EU councils. But what would his approach be to a Labour government that, when in opposition, campaigned vigorously against Britain's departure from the EU but which, under Keir Starmer's leadership, has pledged publicly to "make Brexit work"? This last notion will be anathema to Tusk. The very idea that any country - its leaders, if not its citizenship - might prefer to remain outside the trading bloc is one that he could never entertain. Only a public and sincere repudiation of Brexit from Britain's leaders could convince him that it is a country worth taking seriously. Whatever Starmer's private opinion, that is something he simply won't be able to deliver.

Still, Tusk's return to prominence on the European stage might come as a much-needed fillip for pro-Brexiteers. The more militant-

minded of the pro-EU movement, the sort who, even now, include #FBPE in their Twitter/X profiles, approved wholeheartedly of his practice, while he was still European Council president, of making no holds barred attacks on Leavers. They welcomed his "special place in hell" comments because they understood that a referendum advocating one narrow interpretation of Brexit, rather than simply the principle of it, would never have got as far as a referendum in the first place. But to other Brits, including many of those who voted Remain, the sight of a bullying EU apparatchik lecturing Britain's elected politicians - and the 17 million citizens who had voted Leave - was a reminder of the EU's occasional tendency to browbeat rather than debate.

If he returns to prominence, Tusk will have his work cut out for him as he tries to repair a fragile polity in his home country. Whether or not he's the best person to pour oil on troubled waters remains to be seen. But it's clear that as far as the open wounds of Brexit are concerned, he needs to do what he should have done seven years ago, and remain as far away from that debate as possible.

BRI powering development across the world

Li Min

THE Belt and Road Initiative has become a game changer on many levels globally. It has provided a model for transboundary economic cooperation. Its emphasis on the common goals of development of nations, transcending political, cultural and ideological differences, is a unique feature of the initiative. And the fact that it respects the sovereignty and dignity of the countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative is an important addition to international relations and global governance.

More important, the Belt and Road Initiative has put the "win-win" concept on the world cognitive map at a time when zero-sum games and the winner-takes-it-all have become the norm for some major Western economies. China has presented a world view which believes that "your prosperity is my prosperity", and if your neighbor's house is burning, you cannot be sure of the safety of your own house.

In terms of development financing and goals, the initiative presents an effective and coordinated way of achieving them based on long-term results rather than immediate monetary gains. Also, China believes in helping other countries realize development by building and improving large-scale infrastructure instead of providing them with "aid" which runs off into the sand, perpetuating poverty. In terms of economic-scientific thinking, the emphasis on clearing the "three bottlenecks of development" in Africa - by filling the financing gap, helping build or improve the needed infrastructure, and addressing the shortage of skilled labour - is key to eradicating poverty and ushering in development.

The year of 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is aimed at improving infrastructure connectivity and serves as a catalyst for economic development and shared prosperity for all by championing multilateralism and global unity. The initiative stands as a transformative platform in the realm of international cooperation, representing a decade of concerted efforts to achieve win-win cooperation across various domains. The ambitious project, which facilitates policy exchanges and road connectivity, promotes trade and creates jobs.

President Xi Jinping's unwavering commitment to global development and peace deserves commendation, especially because China has been playing a pivotal role in assisting countries in their pursuit of a shared future through Belt and Road projects. One exemplary manifestation of the Belt and Road Initiative's impact is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Over the past decade, the CPEC has transformed from a concept to a tangible reality, reshaping Pakistan's development landscape. It has not only deepened economic cooperation but also bolstered cultural ties between China and Pakistan. With its focus on development and its inclusive nature, it has helped improve the energy and transportation sectors of Pakistan and other Belt and Road countries.

Indeed, the CPEC signifies a momentous vision, cementing an unbreakable bond between China and Pakistan in their collective pursuit of a human community with a shared future. China's sincere pursuit of global development goals are exemplary and offer valuable lessons to the world. The international community should look to China as a model of effective collaboration and sustainable development.

As connectivity has become a defining feature of a modern economy, it is evident that connectivity needs impetus, planning and proper implementation. The Belt and Road Initiative helps make those connectivity goals a reality. Evidence abound on the successful endeavors of countries that were wise enough to see the potential beforehand and pragmatic enough to lay the grounds for a cooperation that would benefit all sides involved. Central and Eastern Europe have seen several such tangible results, including in the

Budapest-Belgrade high-speed railway, the Pelješac Bridge in Croatia, the Port of Piraeus in Greece, and hundreds of kilometers of highways throughout the Balkans built with Chinese funding and expertise.

In addition to the short-term impact of infrastructure investment, there are also medium- and long-term effects in strengthening the basis for future economic growth, including making labor more efficient and productive, which for Southern and Eastern Europe means narrowing the gap with wealthier Western Europe. The world has become a different place since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, but the initiative has to evolve to enable countries to capitalize on its strengths and identify its untapped potential. With China's rapid growth and chaotic conditions worldwide, it is of vital importance that the world must understand China's role. The initiative offers a proper lens to see China's approach to global development and its efforts to build

emergency humanitarian aid for Sri Lanka in times of crisis. Besides, China has agreed to strengthen cooperation with local and foreign companies, and contribute more to Sri Lanka's economic recovery. But some countries have been countering China and the Belt and Road Initiative while proposing many alternative initiatives some of which fail to even take off.

Whether some countries like it or not, the Belt and Road Initiative has been driving infrastructure development globally, and improving connectivity and trade. It's impossible to overstate just how much the Belt and Road Initiative has changed the world in the decade since it was proposed. In many countries, too many so-called leaders say nice words that people want to hear, but few deliver on the (false) promises they make to lure the people, mostly for votes. Sadly, when the world is facing horrendous problems, such as climate change, global public health, poverty and war, some countries have chosen confrontation over cooperation, ostensibly to

Central and Eastern Europe have seen several such tangible results, including in the Budapest-Belgrade high-speed railway, the Pelješac Bridge in Croatia, the Port of Piraeus in Greece, and hundreds of kilometers of highways throughout the Balkans built with Chinese funding and expertise. In addition to the short-term impact of infrastructure investment, there are also medium- and long-term effects in strengthening the basis for future economic growth, including making labor more efficient and productive, which for Southern and Eastern Europe means narrowing the gap with wealthier Western Europe. The world has become a different place since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, but the initiative has to evolve to enable countries to capitalize on its strengths and identify its untapped potential. With China's rapid growth and chaotic conditions worldwide, it is of vital importance that the world must understand China's role. The initiative offers a proper lens to see China's approach to global development and its efforts to build a human community with a shared future for mankind.

a human community with a shared future for mankind. In the 10 years since it was proposed, the Belt and Road Initiative has become an important global public good, generating tangible benefits for countries including increased investment, job creation and improved livelihoods. The initiative has progressed from a vision to reality, yielding tangible results for Belt and Road countries and their peoples.

Infrastructure development is essential for economic development, and there is a huge need of funds in developing countries to narrow the investment gap. But the lack of proper infrastructure has held up the development of many countries. Better connectivity and deeper economic cooperation are needed to facilitate the development of many countries. Fortunately, the initiative has been filling the funds and infrastructure gaps in many countries, thus boosting regional and global trade. That's why more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations have already signed the Belt and Road cooperation documents with China.

Sri Lanka, too, has launched a series of development projects under the Belt and Road framework, leading to a huge improvement in its infrastructure. The Belt and Road Initiative is also promoting Sri Lanka's economic growth, creating jobs and improving people's livelihoods. China is a great friend of Sri Lanka and has always supported the country in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has also provided much-needed

perpetuate their hegemony. President Xi put forward the idea of building a "human community with a shared future" in a speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations on March 23, 2013. To turn words into action, later the same year, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, President Xi proposed a very significant global initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative. Oscar Wilde once said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Former US president Donald Trump proposed the now-forgotten "Blue Dot Network", which unsuccessfully tried to counter the Belt and Road Initiative in sectors such as the digital economy, cybersecurity, energy and infrastructure development. Incumbent US President Joe Biden and the G7 have proposed the "Build Back Better World" initiative which one never hears about nowadays, proving that it was only a pathetic attempt to counter China's initiative by trying to ape it. Similarly, the European Union has its "Global Gateway Project" which seems to be a highway to nowhere.

On Jan 17 of that year, on a state visit to Switzerland, President Xi repeated his call for building a community with a shared future for mankind at the United Nations office in Geneva. Three days later, after his inauguration as US president, Trump said: "From this day forward, it's going to be 'America first'." Sadly, it still is. With so many existential threats facing humankind, why can't we work together?

The China Daily



LAHORE: Labourers carrying vegetables on hand cart deliver to at vegetable market.

Pak Stock Exchange loses 200 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 200.34 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 49,531.01 points against 49,731.35 points the previous day.

A total of 368,340,627 shares valuing Rs 10.404 billion were traded during the day as compared to 467,383,787 shares valuing Rs 14.119 billion the previous day.

As many as 347 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 149 of them recorded gains and 186 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 12 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 65,958,036 shares at Rs 3.11 per share, Pak

Int. Bank with 21,502,500 shares at Rs 4.61 per share and Maple Leaf with 20,668,090 shares at Rs 35.58 per share.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 190.00 per share price, closing at Rs 8,390.00, whereas the runner-up was Philip Morris Pak with a Rs 28.50 rise in its per share price to Rs 609.00.

Bhanero Textile witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 37.50 per share closing at Rs 957.50, followed by Pak Hotels with a Rs 36.35 decline to close at Rs 448.36.

Rupee sheds 20 paise against Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed 20 paise devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.03 against the previous day's closing of Rs 276.83.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 276.5 and Rs 278.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 40 paise to close at Rs 292.01 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.61, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.85, whereas an increase of 09 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 337.12 as compared to the last closing of Rs 337.03.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal surged by 06 and 05 paise to close at Rs 75.42 and Rs 73.85 respectively.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where sixships namely, Onyx-1, Kypariissia, MSC Shangai-V, Gambella, Al-Zubarah and Xin An Ping scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement,LNG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Maersk Sentosa, XT Dolphin and Sea Treasure carrying Containers, Palm oil and Fuel also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of twelve ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ship, MSC Shangai-V, Onyx-1, Horin Trader, Livarden and Hafnia Prestige left the port during the report period, while three more ships, Kypariissia, Jal Kalpavriksh and Limraare expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 203,938 tonnes, comprising 149,244 tonnes imports cargo and 54,694 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,141 Containers (1,098 TEUs Imports and 2,043 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Chem Harvest, Sea Treasure and Maersk Sentosa& two more ships, MSC Maria Elena and Al-Deebal Carrying Palm oil, Furnace oil, Containers and LNG areexpected to take berths at LCT, FOTCO, QICT, and PGPCL respectively on Tuesday,while three more Container ships, Cap Andreas, MSC Vilda-X and Maersk Jabalare due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

Recent massive reduction in fuel prices welcomed

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Industrialists welcomed the recent unprecedented reduction in fuel prices, describing that the government's decision will give a boost to industrial and trade activities and lead the country's national economy toward stabilization and sustainable growth.

Ayub Zakori, president of the Industrialists Association Peshawar while addressing members during a meeting held at IAP office on Tuesday said electricity, gas and fuel used as raw material for industries, and their prices gradually increased during the last one year, said in a press release here.

Resultantly, he said the cost of industrial production also increased exponentially, which has caused a spiraling 'price-hike'.

However, he expressed hope that the industrial process will be accelerated after massive reduction in fuel prices made by the government.

Ayub Zakori said industrialization will lead the country toward sustainable economic growth and enhance exports.

The IAP chief demanded of the government to reduce prices of electricity and gas and ensure implementation of business-friendly policies at every level to promote industries and businesses activities to stabilize the economy.

Profits down 36% in third quarter

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): US investment bank Goldman Sachs reported a fall in third quarter profits on Tuesday, noting net losses in equity investments compared with a year ago.

The bank reported profits of \$1.9 billion, down 36 percent from the same period last year. Its net revenues were "essentially unchanged" in this time-frame, at \$11.8 billion.

The bank reported net losses from real estate investments among other areas.

This weighed on its asset and wealth management unit, which saw losses of 20 percent in net revenues.

Goldman also said it took a write-down of \$506 million on GreenSky -- a fintech platform for home improvement loans that Goldman acquired with fanfare in 2021.

It announced a \$2.2 billion all-stock acquisition of GreenSky in September 2021, with the deal closing at a valuation of \$1.7 billion.

The firm has since reached a deal to sell GreenSky, after a financial hit linked to the business in the previous quarter.

The bank earlier reported that it suffered a pre-tax loss of \$677 million on GreenSky.

Goldman shares ticked up in premarket trading.

In the report, chief executive David Solomon said in a statement: "We're confident that the work we're doing now provides us a much stronger platform for 2024."

"I also expect a continued recovery in both capital markets and strategic activ-

ness community and relevant government authorities.

He vowed IAP will continue playing its role in protection of industrialists' rights and interest and provide all facilities and incentives through government at central and provincial level.

He also reaffirmed his commitment that IAP will continue to cooperate with government and relevant authorities.

Shafaq Cooking Oil launches drive

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Shafaq Cooking Oil's World Food Safety Day campaign sparked a revolution and raised awareness towards the cause of safe and hygienic culinary practices.

The campaign earned international recognition, including a feature in a prestigious Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) article.

Furthermore, Shafaq Cooking Oil's World Food Safety Day campaign was a triumph that showcased the incredible power of digital outreach, OOH impact, print influence, and influencer voices in advocating for food safety.

Petroleum price reduction brings relief, says Iftikhar

ISLAMABAD (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Tuesday said the reduction in petroleum prices was not only a relief for people but also a significant measure that would positively impact various sectors of the economy.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Kan Buneri, he said decision, a commendable step reflected the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the people and promoting economic stability in the country, said a news release issued here.

He said lower fuel prices would reduce transportation costs for businesses, which, in turn, could lead to decreased prices of goods and services.

"This domino effect helps alleviate financial burdens on the public and boosts their overall quality of life", he remarked. He believed that such initiatives played a crucial role in fostering a sense of trust and confidence among the public towards the government's policies.

SAPM says govt supports pharmaceutical sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Investment, Tahir Javed Tuesday said that Pakistan was the world's leading manufacturer and exporter in the pharmaceutical sector in the 1990s.

At one time, Pakistan Pharmaceuticals was the leading exporter of Europe and America, whose exports held a special place in the important markets of the world, he said.

He said this while addressing to meeting with Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) delegation led by its Chairman, Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Rehman here in

BOI office.

The SAPM said that the pharmaceutical sector was a major player in the country's exports and the trend of investment in the special economic zone was increasing and pharmaceutical companies should come and invest in it.

He said that the government would support the pharmaceutical sector in every aspect and Ease of Doing Business was the priority of the Board of Investment.

The SAPM said that problems of the pharmaceutical sector would be resolved to make the country's economy strong and increase its exports.

He said that providing quality and affordable medicines to the people was the first priority of the government, for which the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers would try to work together.

Tahir Javed said that "I will take the proposals given to me by the pharmaceutical sector in the cabinet and work to improve the business environment for the pharmaceutical sector."

He said that further development could be made in the sector through innovation which could take the country forward in the competitive market in today's world.

He reiterated that the government would encourage the investors in every way so that economic development could take place in the country.

Meanwhile, Chairman Pharmaceutical Mian Khalid Misbah-ur-Rehman said that they could bring an investment of \$1 billion in the Special Economic Zone.

He said that the government should not change the sales tax and tariff structure and especially give tax exemption on raw material.

He said that 95% of pharmaceutical raw material was imported due to which the price of medicines increased due to high exchange rate of dollar.

FFL aims to highlight indispensable role of Pakistani farmers

F.P. Report

LAHORE: 'Salam Kissan' is a flagship initiative of Fatima Fertilizer that aims to highlight the indispensable role of Pakistani farmers in protecting the economy and our national food security. The most commendable achievement under this initiative was the proposal to celebrate December 18th as the official "Kissan Day" in Pakistan to pay tribute to the courage and resilience of Pakistani farmers. This proposal was not only applauded but also recognized by the Government of Pakistan and has been celebrated every year since 2019. In recognition of the untiring efforts by the 'Salam Kissan' initiative to uplift the social character and motivation of Pakistani farmers, it was recently bestowed with the prestigious "Digital Experience of the Year for Pakistan" award at the 2023 Asian Experience Awards during a special ceremony held in Singapore.

The 'Salam Kissan' initiative is firmly rooted in the belief that the nation's economic growth is closely linked to the progress and prosperity of its dedicated farmers. 'Salam Kissan' aspires to elevate the lives of these unsung heroes and harness the power of digital innovation and technology to modernize the agriculture sector. By doing so, it will also equip Pakistan farmers with essential resources, knowledge and assistance so they can not



only help to maximize food production but also protect our national food security.

Upon receiving the award, Rabel Sadozai, the Director of Sales and Marketing at Fatima Fertilizer, conveyed her gratitude, stating, "I am deeply humbled and honored to receive this prestigious accolade on behalf of my team, my company Fatima Fertilizer and my country". She restated the pivotal role farmers play in the nation's overall prosperity and pledged her dedication and commitment to providing them with an effective platform to engage with the policy-maker corridors.

She also emphasized the unwavering commitment of Fatima Fertilizer to empower farmers, contribute to the national econ-

omy's growth, and address the pressing challenges related to food security. She expressed that this commitment was stronger than ever before. Conclusively, she regarded the award as a testament to their shared vision and relentless dedication to forging a brighter and more sustainable future for Pakistan.

The Salam Kissan initiative is not confined to a single endeavor but encompasses a wide array of programs under its expansive umbrella. These programs are meticulously designed with a singular objective: to uplift both male and female farmers across Pakistan, guiding them on a path toward economic prosperity. Central to this mission is the harnessing of technology-driven transformation

within Pakistan's agriculture sector. The initiative also plays a pivotal role in assisting farmers by addressing critical aspects of their lives, including financial inclusion, social stability, and the adoption of modern farming techniques. Through multifaceted initiatives such as Sarsabz Tabeer (female farmer training and empowerment program), Sarsabz Pakistan (our agriapp for the farmers of Pakistan), Sarsabz Kahani (the first agriculture-based web-series highlighting the real stories of the farmers in the country), the Salam Kissan mission strives to empower farmers, bridge gaps, and unlock the immense potential of Pakistan's agricultural landscape for the benefit of all.

The Asian Experience Awards serves as a platform dedicated to highlighting and celebrating the innovative endeavors of companies spanning various industries throughout the Asian region. These awards are not just a means of acknowledging excellence but also act as a wellspring of inspiration and motivation for organizations to consistently improve their customer experience and engagement strategies. In the current year, companies from numerous countries within the Asia Pacific region participated and received awards in various categories. Notably, Fatima Fertilizer stands as the sole recipient of this award from Pakistan.

Meher stress Africa's potential as golden opportunity for Pak growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman, Meher Kashif Younis on Tuesday highlighted the immense potential of Africa and the golden opportunity for Pakistan to expand its horizons and achieve unprecedented growth.

Speaking at a seminar on "Pakistan and potential of Africa" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said immense possibilities lie in the African continent for our business community, according to a news release issued here.

He said as we all know Africa is experiencing a

significant economic transformation, with several countries showing remarkable progress in various sectors.

The continent's burgeoning population, combined with increasing urbanization and technological advancements, has created a vibrant market hungry for goods and services that promise a perfect environment for Pakistani businesses to introduce their products, technologies, and expertise, he added.

Iftikhar Ali said Pakistan, with its entrepreneurial spirit and innovative solutions, has much to

offer to African nations.

"From agriculture and healthcare to technology and renewable energy, our businesses can collaborate and contribute to the development of Africa while reaping substantial benefits", he added.

By tapping into Africa's vast potential, Pakistani businesses can make a big impact on its development while ensuring sustainable growth and profitability.

As a business leader, he urged stakeholders to take bold steps, explore new territories, and establish Pakistan as a strong economic partner in Africa. He

emphasized the importance of working together to build bridges, foster collaborations, and create a prosperous future for both nations.

Meher Kashif who is also Chairman of Kyrgyzstan Trade House in Pakistan said Africans appreciate products and services that offer value for money and incorporate cutting-edge technology.

He said collaborations can facilitate market entry, mitigate risks, and enhance understanding of the local business landscape and tailor your products and services according to their demands.

'Look Africa' a good initiative by Pakistan govt, says Nigerian HC

LAHORE (APP): High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that Nigeria is the most populous and biggest economy in Africa and 'Look Africa' by the government of Pakistan is a good initiative for the enhancement of mutual trade and economic ties.

Addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the High Commissioner, who was on his farewell visit, said that Pakistan is his second home and he would continue to facilitate Pakistani businesses in Nigeria.

He said, "We are introducing medium of communication between Pakistani and Nigerian business people in order to increase trade opportunities and the Nigerian High Commission

has eased visa processing."

The HC said that facilitating and fast tracking business activity is what they are working for, and they were trying to encourage investments in Nigeria.

In his welcome address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated the High Commissioner for keeping regular interaction with the LCCI. He said, "We attach a lot of value while talking about trade and economic relations with Nigeria which is one of the largest economies in Africa with GDP touching 500 billion dollars."

Kashif Anwar said that as per trade data taken from State Bank of Pakistan, the volume of bilateral was around 117 million dollars in 2021-22 which came down to 52 million dollars in 2022-23. He added that

the main reason for this fall was an instant dip in imports from Nigeria which drastically decreased from 50 million dollars to 4 million dollars during that period. "In the meantime, the exports from Pakistan to Nigeria also contracted from 67 million dollars to 48 million dollars. These trade trends call for making some serious efforts from private as well as public sectors from both countries."

The LCCI president said that Pakistan's main exports to Nigeria consist of pharmaceutical products, tractors & parts and some textile products etc. On the other hand, Pakistan imports from Nigeria include petroleum gas, cotton and resins etc. He added that the total global imports of Nigeria are above 60 billion dollars while the total

exports of Nigeria are above 63 billion dollars. There is considerable potential for both countries to take the trade volume to at least 1 billion dollars.

He said that Nigeria imports wheat (worth 2260 million dollars), sanitary fittings (worth 973 million dollars), sugar (worth 844 million dollars), medicaments (worth 828 million dollars) and frozen fish (worth 678 million dollars). Pakistan has great potential of exporting all these items to Nigeria at much competitive prices.

The LCCI president said that Pakistan and Nigeria can explore opportunities for expanding trade volume. Pakistan is known for its value added textile, rice, leather products, sports goods, carpets and surgical instruments etc., which can be exported to Nigeria.

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.164/. Institution. 3/6/2023. Date of hearing. 11/11/2023. Mumar VS Nazer Khan. Notice to no 3.Mst. Hakem Zari d/o Zaref Khan. 7.Mphamad Karim s/o Zulm Khan residents of Sura tehsel Mandanr district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 11/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Gurbaz rapped by ICC for angry outburst

L U C K N O W

(Agencies): Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz was reprimanded on Tuesday for angrily smashing his bat against the boundary rope and a chair after being dismissed during the shock World Cup win over England. Gurbaz made 80 in Afghanistan's total of 284 but vented his frustration after being run-out in the game at New Delhi. In a statement, the International Cricket Council said Gurbaz was found to have broken the code relating to the "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an international match." "The incident occurred in the 19th over of Afghanistan's innings, when after his dismissal, Gurbaz slammed his bat on the boundary rope and a chair," the ICC statement explained. Gurbaz admitted the offence and accepted the sanction. Gurbaz played a key part in the stunning 69-run upset when he set the tone for his team's dominance in a 114-run opening stand with Ibrahim Zadran.

Table tennis girls championship

FAISALABAD (APP): The Inter-collegiate table tennis girls championship 2023-24 will be held on October 18. Teams of Punjab College for Women, Divisional Model College, Government Post Graduate Islamia College for Women, Eidgah road, Divisional Public school and College, Government Post Graduate College for Women Karkhana Bazar, Government Graduate College for Women Samanabad, Government Graduate College for Women Satellite Town, Jhang Saddar, Chenab College Jhang and Lasal College will participated in the event.

Salah donates to Gaza

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool striker and the captain of Egypt's national football team Mo Salah has donated to the people of Gaza through the Egyptian Red Crescent, said the executive director of the charity Rami Al-Nazer. "It's true, Mohamed Salah donated to the Red Crescent to support the people affected by the Israeli bombing in Gaza," Nazer told Egyptian publication Youm7. Nazer refused to reveal the value of Salah's donation, based on the player's wish, explaining: "The details of the donors or the details of what happened cannot be revealed." "Mohamed Salah is an Egyptian star who has a broad fan base and interacts with Arab issues positively," he said. Nazer praised Salah, saying it was the first time that the Egyptian star has donated to the Red Crescent.

US ambassador to India backs cricket

NEW DELHI (AFP): The United States' ambassador to India believes his compatriots will come to share his joy in the "unabashed fun" of Twenty20 cricket when the format features at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. International cricket's shortest form was approved as one of five new sports for LA 2028 during the International Olympic Committee's session in Mumbai on Monday. Flag football, baseball/softball, lacrosse and squash were the others. Eric Garcetti, a former mayor of Los Angeles, told reporters in Mumbai late Monday that his passion for cricket had grown during his time living in the UK, but blossomed after he took his post in India six months ago.

Pakistan beat Cambodia 1-0 to win first ever FIFA World Cup qualifier



ISLAMABAD: A view of the football match between Pakistan and Cambodia of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifying match.

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan men's football team beat Cambodia 1-0 on Tuesday to win their first ever FIFA World Cup qualifier at the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad,

courtesy of a stellar goal by midfielder Harun Hamid.

This was the first football match hosted by the South Asian country in eight years and signaled the homecoming of inter-

national football to the country. Pakistan last hosted Afghanistan in 2015 in Lahore and before that, the national team played its last home World Cup qualifier in 2011 against Bangladesh.

After the first half between the two teams remained goalless, an excellent assist by Fareed Ullah helped Hamid net one in the 68th minute of the match, taking the score to 1-0.

"Harun Hamid's superb finish against Cambodia to win Pakistan its first ever WCQ," Football Pakistan, an independent online football platform in Pakistan, wrote on social media platform X and posted a video of the goal by the Pakistani midfielder.

Videos shared by the Pakistan Football Federation showed hundreds of fans celebrating in the stadium after the match ended, as the Pakistani footballers prostrated in celebration. Congratulations poured in from all quarters after Pakistan emerged as the victors.

Leading Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Multan Sultans congratulated the men's football team on the win.

Former Pakistan captain and ex-cricketer Mohammad Hafeez felicitated the national team for winning the contest as well.

Last week, Pakistan held Cambodia to a goalless match during the opening leg of the first-round qualifier in Phenom Penh. With the victory today, Pakistan advanced to the next round of the World Cup qualifiers.

The green shirts will now face comparatively impressive football teams Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Jordan in Group G

of the second round of the World Cup qualifiers. A total of 36 teams will be grouped into nine groups, four teams each, with the winners and runners-up then progressing through to the third round.

Last month, Pakistan's football body announced the appointment of Stephen Constantine, an elite FIFA instructor since 2000, as the new head coach of the men's national squad ahead of the World Cup qualification match. Constantine has earned respect in South Asia for taking India 176 to 96 in international rankings. Pakistan are currently at 197th position with 847.67 points on the FIFA Men's World Ranking, while Cambodia are at 177th spot.

Pakistan has faced many challenges in international football over the years, including multiple suspensions of the country's domestic premier division in the last six years. The last one was in April 2021, when FIFA banned PFF due to "third-party interference" after a "hostile takeover" of the body's headquarters in Lahore and the ousting of a FIFA representative by a rival group. FIFA restored PFF's membership in June 2022.

Dalton becomes first female coach in PSL

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Catherine Dalton has been signed up as Multan Sultans' fast-bowling coach. Dalton, 30, becomes the first female coach in PSL history, and the first female fast-bowling coach of a top-level men's side. The official announcement is set to be made later today.

Dalton, 30, was born in England and acquired Irish citizenship in 2015, going on to represent them in four ODIs and four T20Is. She has visited Pakistan twice earlier and worked with several fast bowlers, including Mohammad Ilyas, Sameen Gul and Arshad Iqbal, as well as a number of Under-19 players.



An ECB-certified Level 3 Advanced Coach, Dalton has previously held coaching positions in the national fast-bowling academy in the UK and the Ultimate Pace Foundation in India where, among others, she worked with Deepak Chahar. Dalton was also assistant head coach at the UK-based National Fast-Bowling Academy, working alongside Ian Pont and Andre Nel.

"Having worked in Pakistan with some of the Multan Sultan players on two previous visits, I am really thrilled to be officially joining up with the franchise at the PSL," Dalton told ESPNcricinfo. "It's not lost on me the ground-breaking moment for a female fast-bowling coach to be working in a major men's T20 franchise. I am very humbled by the opportunity and cannot wait to hopefully help make a difference on multiple levels."

"Catherine has been part of our player-development programme for almost five years now. I have seen how she has improved players first hand. I always knew she would become a fast-bowling coach at a high level," Ali Tareen, Multan Sultans' owner, said. "And I am so glad that her first opportunity came at the Sultans."

When Tareen, a former co-owner of Multan Sultans, resumed full control of the franchise, he told ESPNcricinfo he wanted more females applying for coaching and management roles. "It's about equal opportunity," he had said at the time. "Normally for these roles, sides only interview men. We want more female candidates to apply for these roles too."

"We have three male coaches, and we endeavour to hire three female coaches. We want to have them in place before the start of the [next] PSL. I expect the female coaches to be foreign coaches for now, and when we have a women's team, these are the coaches we expect to move on and help us out with the women's team as well. This season onwards, I hope to achieve gender parity for all seasons as long as I'm owner."

Last month, the PSL confirmed it would be held in a window between February 8 and March 24, 2024. Multan Sultans finished runners-up at the 2023 edition, and have reached the final of each of the last three tournaments.

Sri Lanka lifts Gunathilaka ban after sexual assault acquittal

COLOMBO (AFP): Sri Lankan cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka had his playing ban lifted on Tuesday, weeks after he was cleared of sexual assault by a court in Australia.

The 32-year-old batsman was arrested in November last year just hours after his country lost to England in their final Twenty20 World Cup match in Australia.

But he returned home after his September acquittal, telling reporters outside the court that he could not wait "to go back and play cricket". Gunathilaka was still subject to disciplinary proceedings from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), but the board announced Tuesday he was now free to return to the game. A committee investigat-

ing his conduct had "unanimously recommended an immediate lifting of his cricketing ban, allowing him to resume regular cricket activities and return to national duty", an SLC statement said. "They have also cautioned Mr. Gunathilaka to always uphold his status as a representative of the nation in all his future actions," it added.

Prosecutors had argued he removed a condom during sex without telling the woman, who had only agreed to protected sex, according to a report by

16 countries confirm participation for Asian Open Taekwondo C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 16 countries have confirmed their participation in the 5th COMBAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship to be held at Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex, under the auspices of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation.

The countries include England, Netherlands, Turkey, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Oman, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Nepal, Afghanistan, WT Refugees, Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, Jordan, Mali and the host Pakistan (17th team).

The registration process of 268 athletes has been completed.

According to the President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Lt. Col. (R) Waseem Ahmed Janjua, under the auspices of the Asian Taekwondo Union in collaboration with the PTF, 5-day Kyurugi and Poomsae education courses would be held from October 27 to 31, in which international coaches and managers from different countries including Pakistan will participate.

In addition, the Asian Taekwondo Union Referees Education Course will be held on October 29 and 30 as well as the education programme of Khyrougi and Poomsae will also be conducted from October 27 to 31 at Pakistan Sports Board.

Quaid-e-Azam XI wins basketball tournament

KARACHI (APP): The Quaid-e-Azam XI won the one-day Shaheed-e-Millat Basketball Tournament organized by Karachi Basketball Association at International Abdul Nasir Basketball Court Aram Bagh by defeating Allama Iqbal XI by 51-42 points.

The chief guest of the final was Commissioner Karachi sports Ghulam Muhammad Khan while KBBA Secretary Tariq Hussain and other personalities were present on the occasion, said a news release on Tuesday.

In the final, Rana Athar scored 13 points, Taimur Zaheer 10, Abdul Samad 10 and Arbaaz Khan scored 9 points, while from the runner up team Mohsin Riaz scored 14 points, Daniyal Khan Marwat scored 11 points, Anas Azhar and Hasan Ali scored 8, 8 points.

Amir Sharif, Ashraf Yahya and Rajkumar Lakhwani were the referees while Zaima Khatun, Mumtaz Ahmed, Naeem Ahmed and Usman Khan were the technical officials.

Australian public broadcaster ABC. SLC suspended him after he was charged.

Three of the four charges against him were dropped in May and he was found not guilty of the fourth. Gunathilaka made his international debut in 2015 and has played eight Tests, 47 ODIs and 46 T20Is.

World Cup 2023 South Africa suffer shock defeat by Netherlands

D H A R A M S A L A (Agencies): South Africa's unbeaten run in the World Cup was ended by a shock 38-run defeat by the Netherlands in Dharamsala. In a match reduced to 43 overs a side by rain, the Proteas' bowling effort unravelled after a dominant start, allowing the Dutch to post 245-8. Captain Scott Edwards' unbeaten 78 led a remarkable recovery from 82-5.

In reply, Temba Bavuma's side slipped from 36-0 to 44-4 and were eventually bundled out for 207 in the last over. It is the Netherlands' first win of the tournament, and the first time they have beaten a Test-playing nation at a 50-over World Cup.

While the South African batting effort was disappointing, it was the bowling performance at the end of the Netherlands' innings that started their demise.

Their discipline slipped as Edwards counter-attacked alongside lower-order batters Roelof van der Merwe, who made a 19-ball 29, and Aryan Dutt, who hit three sixes in his 23 not out, with the Netherlands blitzing 105 runs from the last 9.1 overs.

South Africa were visibly frustrated as they left the field at the halfway mark but they were still favourites, given their greater experience and form leading in to the game after thrashing Australia and Sri Lanka. David Miller was the only Proteas top-order batter to offer any resistance with his composed 43, but his departure in the 31st over



Logan van Beek got the big wicket of David Miller.

left his side struggling 145-7 before Keshav Maharaj's entertaining 40 from number nine proved in vain.

While the result is a shock, South Africa are still in a decent position to qualify for the knockouts, having beaten Australia and Sri Lanka, and will look to bounce back against England in Mumbai on Saturday. England are also going into the game on the back of a surprise defeat after losing to Afghanistan.

Sloppy bowling costs

South Africa Bavuma's men had started their World Cup in stunning fashion, hitting a record total against Sri Lanka before demolishing Australia to earn themselves an early tag of title contenders. And they started in the same way against the Netherlands, with the sublime Kagiso Rabada impressing with two early

wickets, backed up by Lungi Ngidi and the ever-improving Marco Jansen, who also added two each to their tally.

The Dutch batters had no answers to their swing and consistency, and were tied down by the nagging accuracy of Keshav Maharaj's spin - he finished with 1-38. With the Netherlands on the ropes at 82-5 and then 140-7, only a truly woeful display of death bowling and fielding could have prevented South Africa from winning - and that is exactly what materialised.

Edwards, Van der Merwe and Dutt played aggressively and shifted the momentum, but a bowling attack as good as South Africa's should have been able to withstand such pressure in a game in which they were such overwhelming favourites.

Instead, the body language slumped more and more after every wide, no-

ball and boundary that was flayed from their inconsistent bowling. One defeat does not define such a talented side, however, and they will be hoping that this is just a wobble that they might have needed to avoid complacency or pressure from expectation later in the tournament.

Netherlands' bravery

perseveres

Dutch sides have history with famous World Cup upsets in the shortest format. They beat England in 2009 and last year produced another South African upset by knocking them out of the T20 competition in Australia. But they had yet to make their mark in the 50-over contest, having only previously beaten Associate nations Scotland and Namibia, making their demolition of the Proteas all the more remarkable.

PCB files complaint with ICC over 'inappropriate conduct' targeting Pakistan

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the International Cricket Council (ICC) over "inappropriate conduct" directed at the national squad during the Pakistan-India World Cup match in Ahmedabad last week.

India steamrolled Pakistan by seven wickets in the Oct 14 blockbuster match to maintain their unblemished 50-overs World Cup record against their neighbours.

The national team was bowled out for 191 in the 43rd over after their batting line-up collapsed in characteristic fashion in the face of Indian bowlers.

To make it even more intimidating for the players, chants by the stadium announcer and the spectators were only to buck up India. So was the case with the music being played at the cauldron-like venue.

When the Men in Green made their way onto the field, a chorus of boos was directed at the team, notably while skipper Babar Azam was speaking at the toss.

Similarly, a widely circulated video showed Indian fans aggressively

chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' in Mohammad Rizwan's face as he walked back to the pavilion after his dismissal.

Pakistan fans were effectively banned from the ground after failing to secure visas to cross the border, leaving the arena awash with the blue shirts of Indian supporters.

In the post-match press conference, coach Mickey Arthur did not hold himself from being "brutally honest" about what he felt was a partisan atmosphere.

"It didn't seem like an ICC event to be brutally honest," Arthur had said. "It seemed like a bilateral series; it seemed like a BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) event," he had added.

In response to the criticism, the ICC head said a day earlier that he was confident that India would host an "outstanding" World Cup.

In a statement issued today, the PCB said it had filed a complaint with the sport's governing body regarding the inappropriate treatment of the players during the match.

The board said that it had also registered a "formal protest" with the ICC regarding visa delays for

Pakistani journalists and the absence of a visa policy for Pakistani fans for the 50-over showpiece.

After several delays and repeated concerns by the PCB, Pakistan journalists finally got visas to cover the World Cup last week.

However, fans have been kept in the dark, with reportedly no correspondence whatsoever having taken place between visa application centres and the Indian High Commission regarding their process.

Earlier, the PCB had also approached the Foreign Secretary and raised concerns over delay in visas for Pakistani fans willing to travel to India for the World Cup.

PCB says most Pakistani players have 'fully recovered' from fever: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday clarified that most members of the World Cup cricket squad who were suffering from a fever had "fully recovered," days before Babar Azam's side meets Australia in a key clash of the tournament.

Local media widely reported on Monday that key Pakistani players Shaheen Shah Afridi, Abdullah Shafique and

Usama Mir were suffering from fever and a viral chest infection.

"Some players got fever in the past few days and most of them have fully recovered from it," the PCB said in a statement. "Those who are in the stage of recovery remain under the team medical panel's observation."

The green shirts, who lost their World Cup clash against India on Saturday, face five-time World Cup winners Australia on Friday in Bengaluru.

Afridi, who leads Pakistan's pace attack, has remained unimpressive in the three matches he has played so far, conceding 139 runs and taking only four wickets.

Meanwhile, Shafique hit an impressive century against Sri Lanka on Oct. 11 while Mir is yet to play a World Cup match this year.

With two wins and a loss so far, Pakistan are placed at number four in the World Cup rankings table. They face a resurgent Australia, who were beaten in their first two games against India and South Africa but managed to defeat Sri Lanka by five wickets on Monday.



In brief

IRSA releases 104,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 104,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 76,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.86 feet and was 130.86 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 38,700 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1212.15 feet, which was 162.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,700 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 54,900, 57,900, 48,800 and 18,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest three dacoits

RAWALPINDI (APP): Murree police while conducting an operation managed to net three dacoits, members of a gang and recovered Rs 3.5 million cash, weapons, motorcycle, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Murree Police arrested three members of a dacoit gang namely Numan, Abdul Rehman and Husnain Manzoor, who were allegedly involved in various dacoity and robbery cases. He informed that the Murree police team on the directives of SP Saddam Muhammad Nabeel conducted a raid and managed to net the criminals who had looted over Rs 3.5 million and other items from a warehouse nearly one month ago.

27 more contract with dengue virus

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 27 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1,992 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said that, among the new cases, ten of each case had arrived from Potohar town urban and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi area, five from Chaklala Cantonment and one from Gujjar Khan area. He said 101 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 72 were confirmed cases while 1,919 positive patients were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 37 FIRs, issued tickets to 11, sealed one premise, and a fine of Rs 200,500 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. During indoor surveillance, in the previous 24 hours, the teams checked 16,759 houses and found larvae in 547 homes.

AIOU extends admissions deadline

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 07, for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students. According to the AIOU, the programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B.Com), Associate degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Investment/ Minister of State, Muhammad Tahir Javed meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) at BOI office.

Senate body urges Saudi reconsideration of reduced HGOs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Tuesday held a thorough discussion on the reduction of Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) from 905 to 46, following directives from the Saudi government relayed through the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

The meeting of the committee was held at the Parliament House which was chaired by Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri. The committee included distinguished members such as Senators Gurdeep Singh, Molvi Faiz Muhammad, Professor Sajid Mir, Naseebullah Bazai, Hafiz Abdul Karim, and Haji Hidayatullah.

In attendance were also additional secretary of religious affairs, his team and other senior officials.

The officials informed that a letter in this regard had already been dispatched to the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in light of the recommendation of the committee, urging a deferral of this reduction for the current year and a gradual reduction in subsequent years, adding that the ministry eagerly was awaiting a response from the Saudi quarters concerned. The representatives from the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan were also present during the meeting.

They emphasized the necessity for representatives of the religious affairs ministry to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Director-General Hajj and

officials of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to address their concerns.

Expressing their lack of knowledge regarding the Hajj Policy for 2024, the religious affairs ministry clarified that ongoing discussions and policy sharing with the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan were in progress, attributing the communication gap as the reason for their lack of awareness.

The committee was informed that altering the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah's decision to reduce the number of organizers seemed improbable.

Consequently, the committee Chairman Haideri stressed the importance of being fully prepared for the upcoming Hajj arrangements.

Hakim Muhammad Said remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): World famous medical researcher Hakeem Muhammad Said was remembered on the occasion of his death anniversary on Tuesday.

Born on January 9, 1920 in Delhi, Hakim Said was a renowned scholar and philanthropist of Pakistan and former Governor of Sindh.

He established Hamdard Foundation in 1948.

Within few years, the herbal medical products of

Hamdard became household names.

Hakeem Mohammed Said authored or compiled several books which include books on religion, Tibb (natural medicine), health and sciences, literature, social and scientific topics and travelogues.

He was a multifaceted personality, a physician, author of books, and editor of journals, bibliophile, an organizer, an idealist, an innovator, educationist and above all a patriot of the highest order.

Hakeem Said founded Hamdard University in 1991.

He made enormous contributions in the field of health, science, education and culture.

He was awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz in 2002, in recognition of his services. On 17th October 1998, Said was assassinated by a group of unknown assailants while he was on his way to attend a medical experiment at the Hamdard Laboratories in Karachi.

ICCPO urges to transfer competent officers to operations division

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has emphasized the need to transfer competent officers to the Operations division to increase its efficiency and provide maximum relief to citizens. In a meeting held at the Central Police Officer, he assessed the performance of all divisions and directed the enhancement of their efficiency.

The meeting stressed utilization of the ICT-15 application for official duties. Furthermore, there were

directives to strengthen security for government offices and installations.

Special emphasis was placed on appointing skilled investigation officers in the Operations division, under the guidance of SSP Operations. Suspended officers were advised against attending training courses. Delays in case processing were also addressed through streamlined SOPs.

Dr. Khan highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes of false complaints and promoting the role of dispute resolution

centers in resolving public issues. All officers were instructed to tackle vehicle theft and smuggling promptly and to report on their performance within three days. Specific emphasis was laid on elevating the Operations division's standards, discouraging false complaints, and addressing their underlying causes.

Additionally, the officers were tasked with combating vehicle theft and smuggling within their jurisdictions, mandating prompt reporting for comprehensive performance evaluation.

ANF arrests 11 for operating online drug trafficking network

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has arrested 11 accused, members of a gang allegedly operating a drug trafficking network through online shopping platforms. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, a total of 11 accused were arrested while 33 parcels had been recovered from the possession of the arrested persons.

The ANF spokesman informed that the recovered drugs included 53.7 kg hashish, 1.6 kg Ice drug and 1.2 kg opium.

The investigation revealed that the network involved in drug smuggling through online shopping platforms was spread across the country.

The spokesman further revealed that the gang had registered their companies on online shopping platforms and supplied drugs to their consumers. Meanwhile, further investigation is underway to nab their accomplice, he added.

Civil defense arrests 18 beggars

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major crackdown on professional begging, Civil Defense teams arrested 18 beggars in Islamabad on Tuesday, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Director Civil Defense and covered the areas of G-10, F-10, Aabpara, and G-11.

The beggars were arrested and transferred to the police station, while the remaining minor children were sent to the Edhi Center. The operation against beggars is ongoing under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners on a daily basis. The crackdown on professional begging is being welcomed by residents of Islamabad, who have long complained about the nuisance caused by beggars.

The operation is also seen as a step in the right direction towards addressing the issue of poverty, as professional begging is often seen as a way for people to exploit the generosity of others. The government has a responsibility to provide for those who are unable to support themselves, and the crackdown on professional begging is one way to ensure that resources are directed towards those who need them most.

Ashrafi urges OIC to take strong stance on Israel's bombardment of Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said it was almost 10th day that Israel was continuously doing bombardment on Palestine and particularly on Gaza causing casualties of innocent people of all ranks including women, children and civilians.

Talking to media persons, he said due to inhuman policies of Israel, the Palestinian people were suffering from shortage of food, water, medicines and other necessities of life adding that trucks carrying relief goods were queuing at the border of Egypt but, Israel was not giving permission to enter them in the territory.

Ashrafi urged the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to take a solid stance on the issue of Palestine in its meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

He said Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jillani was leaving for OIC's meeting expressing hope that he would make significant development on this issue.

He said the Muslim world should not be silent spectator anymore and devise an effective strategic plan to deal with this long-standing issue with collective efforts in letter and spirit on permanent basis.

He said the entire Muslim Ummah was united under the leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as it the centric point of all faithful around the world and moreover, it was at the helm of affairs of the OIC.

Ashrafi lamented that in the United Nations Security Council, the resolution presented by Russia could not be passed as it aimed to stop the war between Palestine and Israel on the humanitarian grounds.

He said it was a good omen that Russia and China were standing by the stance of Muslim countries on the issue of Palestine.

He further said the United States (US) President Joe Biden was making an extraordinary wartime visit to Israel this week as he sought to demonstrate staunch support for the country.

Beside other Muslim leadership, he appreciated the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman for demanding to stop the Israel's aggression on Palestine in his recent meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Ashrafi proposed that besides repenting on our sins, we must seek the help of Allah Almighty and extend all possible support to our war-stricken brothers in Palestine in accordance with available resources.

He appreciated the Pakistan government for expressing its intention to dispatch relief goods to Palestine urging it to take up the Palestine issue in more effective manners at the international forums.

He informed that Pakistan Ulema Council was organizing a conference to express unity with Palestine here in the federal capital on Wednesday and hoped that their voice would be heard in the corridors of power in the world.

HEC holds prize distribution ceremony for int'l Science Olympiad participants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Careers Programme hosted a prestigious Prize Ceremony to honour the outstanding achievements of participants in 2022 and 2023 at International Science Olympiads.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed was the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by Executive Director HEC Mr. Awaiz Ahmad, Rector Institute of Engineering and Applied Science (PIEAS) Dr. Naseem Irfan, faculty members, students, and relevant HEC officials.

The STEM Career Programme is a joint venture of HEC and PIEAS. It has two objectives to pursue. First, it aims to inspire youth of the nation to opt for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

and prepare them for participation in the annual International Olympiad in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. You standing behind initiatives like the Science Olympiads. He went on to express his optimism, stating, "Our teams have been performing exceptionally well, and we're keeping our fingers crossed for gold medals in the future."

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasised the holistic development of individuals, saying, "Our aim is to make a complete human being." Dr. Naseem Irfan highlighted the importance of benchmarking with global competition and the need for continuous improvement in STEM education.

He stressed the importance of expanding STEM careers programme and expressed his intent to continue this exercise to nurture future talent.

Addressing the International Science

Olympiad (ISO) participants, he encouraged them to contribute to their domains and strive for excellence. He urged them to keep their curiosity alive, emphasising that only innovators would survive in the long term.

The event was a celebration of academic excellence, recognising the hard work of the students who participated in ISO in various fields of science.

In the year 2022, the students who emerged as winners and brought home Bronze Medals were Muhammad Bilal Asmatullah and Osman Siddique in the field of Physics. In the year 2023, Soban Sajdar won bronze medal in field of Biology and Ahmed Raza won bronze medal in the field of Mathematics. In addition to the winners, HEC also honoured students with an Honorable Mentions in ISO for their commendable performances.

Islamabad Excise to provide civic facilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The residents of Islamabad will be able to get their vehicles registered, and transferred, and have their token tax paid at Kachnar Park today, and the citizens have appreciated the initiative of the Excise Department Islamabad.

The department will also be offering other services, such as domicile certificates, birth certificates, power of attorney, and international driving permits, through its Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle, ICTSpokesmanDrAbdullah Tabassum said.

The initiative is on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon and is

aimed at providing convenience to the public. The excise staff will be present in the parking lot of Kachnar Park from 3 to 5 p.m. today.

In addition to the vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax services, the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle will also be offering the following services: Domicile certificate, Birth certificate, Power of attorney, International driving permit, Fuel permit (domestic/commercial), Motor vehicle registration.

The residents of Islamabad are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get their vehicles registered, transferred, and have their token

tax paid, as well as to avail of other services offered by the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle.

The Excise Department Islamabad is committed to providing efficient and customer-friendly services to the public.

The initiative to provide vehicle registration, transfer, token tax, and other services at Fatima Jinnah Park today is a step in the right direction.

Residents of Islamabad are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get their vehicles registered, transferred, and have their token tax paid, as well as to avail of other services offered by the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle.



ISLAMABAD: Students of National College of Arts viewing the displayed artwork during an exhibition in the college.

Japan announces \$4.46m aid

KABUL (Agencies): The government of Japan announced Tuesday that it will provide \$4.46 million to help the victims of the earthquakes that struck western Afghanistan. In a statement, Japan's foreign ministry said that \$3 million will be extended through international organizations, while the remaining \$1.46 million will be provided to Japanese NGOs. The assistance will be in the areas of food, health and other needs.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Minister visits China

KABUL (Agencies): Nooruddin Azizi, the Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, has arrived in China to participate in the One Belt One Road conference. During his visit, Azizi plans to meet with numerous Chinese businessmen, investors, industrialists, and Afghan businessmen residing in China. These discussions will take place on the sidelines of the OBOR conference. The OBOR summit, hosted by China, will see participation from representatives of several countries.

43,000 people directly affected by earthquakes

KABUL (Agencies): More than 43,000 people have been directly affected by the recent earthquakes across Afghanistan's western province of Herat, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. OCHA said in its update that Injil district is the worst-affected district, accounting for 53 percent of people affected. In total, about 1,500 people have died, and a further 2,000 injured, according to

the report.

Daniel Peter Endres, acting UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, described the situation there as "a race against time" for aid organizations to deliver assistance before the onset of winter.

"These earthquakes have struck some of the most vulnerable communities in Afghanistan, they have already been grappling with decades of conflicts and under development," he

said.

"The affected communities have little resilience to cope with the multiple and simultaneous shocks, and especially with the cold winter coming, when households have limited food resources and are most constrained in capacity."

Nightly temperatures have dipped considerably, he said, noting that many whose homes were damaged are sleeping outside, afraid their dwellings might collapse completely.

Seasonal illness rises as temperature dropped



KANDAHAR CITY (TOLOnews): Officials at Mirwais Provincial Hospital in Kandahar said hundreds of children have been infected with seasonal illnesses in the province as winter approaches.

According to officials, at least 800 children have been brought to the hospital in the past month.

Karimullah, deputy head of the pediatric treatment unit at Mirwais seminary

hospital, told TOLOnews that up to 40 sick children are brought to the hospital every day.

"We used to have 500 to 600 patients per month and now it is 800 because seasonal diseases have increased," he told TOLOnews.

Families of sick children at the hospital say most of the children have fallen ill due to cold weather.

"When you educate the

child well, look and wash well, he will not get sick," said Osmanya, resident of Shah Wali Koot district.

"They do not wash their hands, if they keep themselves clean, they will not become ill," said Fatima, resident of Dand-e-Chanin district.

Doctors consider the use of clean water, healthy food and hygiene tips as the best and easiest way to prevent seasonal diseases.

Precipitation dropped 37% compared to last year

KABUL (TOLOnews): A senior official with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) said that average precipitation in Afghanistan has dropped by 37 percent compared to last year.

The official said that more than 1,700 people have died due to effects of climate changes including floods last year.

"The precipitation rate of snow and rain dropped by 37 percent. It has a massive impact on our environment," said the deputy head of the NEPA.

A conference was held in Kabul's Serena hotel, where the participants exchanged views on the effects of the climate change and ways to counter it.

"Climate change has affected the lives of 8 billion people on the earth," said Abdul Rahim Khuram, organizer of the event.

Charity Watson,

Coordination Officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said that after August 2021, the climate change issue has been largely neglected.

"However, due to the collective work and awareness-raising of the public and private sectors as well as NGOs and members of the international community, this issue is now getting more attention," she said.

Speaking at the conference, the Chargée d'Affaires a.i. -Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan, said that climate change "poses a profound challenge to the people of Afghanistan, especially women and children."

"During my stay in Afghanistan, where I have been hosted and living for more than a year and the visit to different provinces, I have observed that the Afghans say; may Kabul be without gold but never

without snow...." she said.

The Islamic Emirate's officials claimed that greenhouse gasses have caused the massive destruction to the climate in Afghanistan, while it has not played any role in producing it.

They also called its production illegal and urged the top world countries to help the vulnerable countries.

Digging of deep wells worries residents

QALA-I-NAW (Pajhwok): Some residents and experts in western Badghis province are worried about the digging of deep wells in substandard manner, asking the government to prevent the practice. A wave of droughts in the country has left the level of underground water plummeting, creating a shortage of potable water in different provinces. Eng. Ahmad Shah Payor, an expert, warned if unauthorized digging of deep wells continued, the underground water level would further decline, leading to dangerous consequences. He said underground water must not be used for irrigation of farmlands. "In fact, the underground water is decreasing and people are turning to digging deep wells, which is worrying and will lead to the drying up of surface water." The government and institutions concerned should take serious steps to control the digging of deep wells and declare obtaining permission for them mandatory, he suggested. M. Naseem, a resident of Qala-i-Naw, said this year, most of the people in their neighborhood dug deep wells due to the falling level of underground water. He urged the government set criteria for digging deep wells. Burhanuddin, another resident of Badghis, held a similar view, saying most of the people had dug deep or semi-deep wells and used their water excessively, even to irrigate agricultural lands.

Aid for victims continued

HERAT (TOLOnews): The distribution of aid from global institutions and domestic and foreign charities to all villages affected by the earthquake is continuing.

The assistance includes food, tents, blankets, clothing and hygiene materials.

Earthquake victims whose houses were destroyed in Herat demand shelter from government and global aid agencies.

Nasir Ahmad Salehi reports that the process of distributing aid from global institutions and domestic and foreign charities in all villages affected by the earthquake is continuing.

A Germany-based charity has provided food and non-food aid for hundreds of families in the village of Nayeef Rafi in Herat's Zenda Jan district.

Mohammad Aaleem Shahab, responsible for a charity organization, said: "We have brought aid to the sisters and brothers affected by the earthquake, including tents, blanket, tea, sugar, oil and flour."

Menhajudin Hashemi, Afghan Red Crescent Representative, said "for 78 families food and non-food items distributed. From now on? we want to bring tents to some families whose tents have been destroyed and help them."

The victims who have lost their homes and everything in this earthquake called the aid vital. They say that global aid agencies have saved their lives.

Mohammad Hashem, earthquake victim: "Every day help comes to us, but we lost all our possessions and our lives are ruined."

Abdul Basir, earthquake victim: "Now we survive with this aid and if it continues? it is good? but if the aid is cut off? we need a lot of things including winter clothes."

Earthquake victims in Herat are calling for permanent shelter from government and global aid agencies.

They say that life is hard because of the cold weather, and their children are sick.

Habibullah, earthquake victim: "It's too cold and if the cold increases, we'll have more problems."

Mohammad Naeim, earthquake victim: "We can't live here and we want to be sheltered everywhere? in every village and every province? because there are children and women who can't come here."

Tents were distributed to all villages affected by the earthquake, including Zenda Jan, Anjil and Kashk of Herat.

Turkish ambassador commits to increased aid



KABUL (Agencies): In a meeting with the Acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, the Turkish ambassador in Kabul reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to providing additional assistance to the victims of the Herat earthquake.

Expressing his condolences for the losses suffered due to the recent

earthquakes in Herat, the ambassador assured that more aid is forthcoming from Turkey.

The ambassador also highlighted that Turkish aid groups have already been dispatched to the disaster site to provide immediate relief.

He emphasized Turkey's strong relationship with

Afghanistan and assured that Turkey will continue to stand by Afghans during these challenging times.

Alhaji Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, the Acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, acknowledged the close relations and shared values between the two countries.

He commended Turkey's

efforts in assisting Afghan refugees.

To facilitate the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees, the Acting Minister requested Turkey to allow Afghan attachés in their country.

This move is expected to streamline processes and provide necessary support for returning refugees.

Internally displaced people challenged in cold season

KABUL (TOLOnews): As winter approaches, some internally displaced people complain about the lack of basic living facilities.

They ask the current government and supporting institutions to provide them with assistance.

Zarghona is the breadwinner of eight family members and said that in addition to other costs, she is concerned about the lack of fuel.

"I have children, there is no work, the weather is cold, we don't have food, we don't have shelter, the weather is getting cold, the children collect the papers, I don't have a heater," said Zarghona.

Some displaced people also have the same challenges as Zarghona and expressed concern over lack of food and fuel for the coming winter.

"We collect some papers to burn, we cook food with it, we warm our stove with it, both children are facing problems, and we are also facing problems," said Qand Agha, an internally

displaced person.

Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, said that efforts are being made to provide the necessary assistance from the Ministry of Immigrants for these displaced people.

"Afghanistan's economy is not strong enough to treat everyone equally. Therefore, it is natural that we have problems, in this regard, we ask for cooperation from the countries and international institutions to help these displaced people," said Zabiullah Mujahid.



The upcoming winter is approaching, while this year, the economic crisis and the increase in unemployment has made many citizens of the country poor.

Zana Khan elders demand educ facilities

GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): Tribal elders in Zana Khan district of southern Ghazni province have asked the government to provide education facilities for children of the area. The elders say they are concerned about children's lack of access to education in the district.

Haji Hazrat, one of the tribal elders, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had made many attempts during the past two decades to establish schools for their children, but their efforts bore no fruits due to the wars and some other problems.

He said there were about 100 villages in the district and up to 40,000 children were deprived of education.

He expressed his concern about the future of their children and said if they were paid no attention, they would grow up in the darkness of ignorance.

Sayed Rahman, another tribal elder, said the people were not interested in sending their children to schools in the past, but now they wanted their children to be educated.

He said no attention was paid to the

education sector in the past and the current government to provide children access to education.

Education Department officials accept the problems mentioned by Zana Khan district elders and blame the previous government and wars for the current situation.

Sibghatullah Ahmadi, the provincial education department head, told Pajhwok: "We have shared the problems of Zana Khan district residents with the Ministry of Education (MoE) for solution."

He added the lack of schools, textbooks, school buildings and the shortages of professional teachers were common issues not only in Ghazni but in many provinces.

Zana Khan is a mountainous district situated 30 kilometers northeast of Ghazni city and encompasses over 100 villages, with only two schools.

Besides Zana Khan, residents of many other remote districts of Ghazni complain about not having access to public services and demand of the government to services in their areas.

Iktyaruddin Fort severely damaged by earthquake

HERAT (Khaama Press): The Herat Provincial Information and Culture Department has reported severe damage to the cultural heritage of the Herat, including Qala Iktyaruddin, due to recent earthquakes, as shown in published images.

The national TV, under the rule of the Taliban administration, stated on Tuesday with the republishing of this news, that some of the buildings, structures, and historic mosques in the city of Herat have been damaged as a result of recent earthquakes, especially the earthquake on Sunday, and are at risk of destruction.

Qala Iktyaruddin holds a central place in the city's tumultuous history and is a remarkable testament to the region's enduring citadels (Hisar). This historic fortress has witnessed significant events, including



the siege of Herat by Alexander the Great in 330 BC as part of his campaign against the Achaemenid Persian Empire.

Local media have also published images of the earthquake-induced destruction in the historic Jama Mosque of Herat.

This comes as a result of consecutive earthquakes in Herat, causing a portion of the intricate tilework of the Jama Mosque of Herat to collapse.

The Jama Mosque of Herat and the Qala Iktyaruddin (Fort) are important archaeological sites in Afghanistan.

On October 7th, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 shook Herat, followed shortly by another earthquake on October 11th, again with a severe magnitude of 6.3.

The casualty figures from these earthquakes have been reported to exceed 2,000 individuals.

Afghan girls' Robotics team wins silver, inspires hope



KABUL (Khaama Press): The Afghan Girls' Robotics Team achieved a remarkable feat by securing the second position/silver medal for their robot's courage and ranking 41st

out of 190 participating countries at the 2023 Global Robotics World Championships.

The annual Global Robotics World Championships, which bring together

thousands of students under the age of eighteen from all around the world, were hosted this year by Singapore.

The central theme of this year's Global Robotics

Competition was renewable energy, specifically hydrogen, and its impact on the planet's future. The Afghan Girls' Robotics Team collaborated with four students from Sweden and Canada, along with two mentors, to participate in this event.

The team achieved the remarkable feat of winning the second place/Silver medal for their robot's courage and ranking 41st out of 190 countries participating in this competition.

Ali Mehraban, the mentor of the Afghan Robotics Team, mentioned that "other team members who are in Afghanistan or recently immigrated were unable to participate in this competition due to travel restrictions and the lack of travel permits."

Mehraban added, "Despite educational disadvantages, financial constraints, travel bans, and limited

access to educational resources, the Afghan girls were able to win the silver medal in this competition."

He continued encouraging Afghan girls by saying, "They should not lose hope, as achieving this ranking in a global competition demonstrates that Afghan girls are talented and, with the right resources, can play a significant role in building the future of their country."

In collaboration with team members inside and outside Afghanistan, the Afghan Girls' Robotics Team designed a robot capable of moving, collecting renewable energy, and storing and transporting that energy.

The Afghan Robotics Team was established in 2017 and has been participating in various competitions since then, earning numerous awards.

Cipher case: Imran, Qureshi’s indictment deferred

ISLAMABAD (INP): A special court established under the Official Secrets Act 2023 Tuesday deferred the indictment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and his party’s Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case until the next week.

The hearing of the case was held at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi where the judge of the special court, Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, oversaw the proceedings, scheduling the indictment for the next hearing. The framing of charges against the PTI leaders was put off due to the non-provision of the case challans’ copies to the accused during the previous hearing. During the hearing, the court distributed copies of the challan among the accused and adjourned the hearing of the case for a week.

During the course of the hearing, the Federal Investigation Agency’s (FIA) special prosecutor, Shah Khawar, appeared in the court while both Khan and Qureshi were also produced in the courtroom set-

up in the prison. The court had fixed October 17 (today) as the date of indictment for both politicians in the case with the challan already issued on October 9 and its copies could not be shared with the accused. “The accused had refused to receive a copy of the challan at the previous hearing,” the special prosecutor said.

After the charges are framed, the evidence of the prosecution is recorded and the case trial begins. Subsequently, the testimonies and statements of the accused are recorded by the court. Speaking with journalists outside the Adiala jail before the hearing, a member of the PTI chief’s legal team, Umair Niazi, said that the copies were not provided to them in the previous hearing. He also said that the prosecution’s Section 14 plea was not allowed by the court.

“The hearing in the jail should not be in-camera and the media should have access,” he said, adding that this will be discussed today. It should be noted that the Islamabad High

Court (IHC), a day earlier, reserved its ruling on petitions filed by PTI chief seeking post-arrest bail and quashing of the cipher case registered against him.

On August 18, the ousted premier was booked under the Official Secrets Act 1923 in the cipher case after the FIA invoked Section 5 of the said law. The diplomatic cable reportedly went missing from Imran’s possession. According to the former ruling party, the cable contained a threat from the US to topple the PTI’s government. Imran is currently in Adiala jail on judicial remand in the cipher case. He was taken into custody after being sentenced to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case on August 5, 2023. Initially, he was kept in Attock jail but later he was moved to Adiala jail on his request. It is pertinent to mention here that the IHC on August 29 had suspended the sentence handed down to the PTI chairman in the Toshakhana case but he remained behind bars due to his arrest in the cipher case.

‘Europe shaken’ after two Swedes shot dead

BRUSSELS (BBC): Two Swedish nationals have been shot dead and a third person injured in Brussels, in an attack which prosecutors are treating as terrorism. The Belgium-Sweden Euro 2024 qualifier football match being played in the city was abandoned. Brussels is on its highest terror alert as the gunman, who appeared to have an assault rifle, remains at large. French President Emmanuel Macron, who was on a visit to Albania, said: “Europe has been shaken.”

A spokesman for the Belgian federal prosecutor, Eric van Duyse, urged the public to “go home and stay at home as long as the threat has not been eradicated”. He said a man claiming to be the attacker had said in a video on social media he had been inspired by the Islamic State group. A video shows an Arabic-speaking man saying he carried out the attack in the name of God and that he killed three people. The video and others uploaded during the attack are being verified by police, the BBC has been told. Federal prosecutors say a terrorism inquiry has been opened over the shooting on the Boulevard d’Ypres.

A social media video shared by newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws, but not verified by BBC News, shows a man wearing a fluorescent jacket get off a scooter armed with what appears to be an assault rifle and enter a nearby glass-fronted building. He appears to then shoot at least one person. Police and emergency services cordoned off nearby roads following the shooting which happened at around 19:00 (17:00 GMT).

Belgian media outlets report that the two people killed were wearing football shirts belonging to the Swedish national team. Swedish footballers told Uefa they did not want to play the second half of the match and the Belgian team agreed, according to Swedish broadcaster TV6.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo went on social media to offer his “sincere condolences to the Swedish PM following tonight’s harrowing attack on Swedish citizens in Brussels”. “Our thoughts are with the families and friends who lost their loved ones,” he said. “As close partners the fight against terrorism is a joint one.” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on social media her thoughts were “with the families of the two victims of the despicable attack in Brussels”. “I extend my heartfelt support to the Belgian police, so they swiftly apprehend the suspect,” she said. “Together, we stand united against terror.”

SC overturns PHC’s decision

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday annulled the decision of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) to provide uninterrupted electricity to the customers paying bills regularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

A three-member SC bench, headed by Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, accepted the appeal of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) against the decision of the PHC. “The PHC’s order to end loadshedding is against the law. People affected by loadshedding should approach the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra),” the Supreme Court in its ruling said. “In the law, Nepra and Tribunal Forums have been established against Discos. The High Court cannot issue orders directly while the forum concerned is there,” it added.

“The High Court ordered to file cases against the authorities in case of loadshedding. Loadshedding is a problem of the whole country. The cases against the Pesco officials will be unjustified,” Pesco’s lawyer Umar Aslam said. “The court had asked for details of loadshedding in the previous order,” the respondent’s lawyer said. “The High Court has said that electricity should be provided to the bill payers,” he added.

“Many technical points can also come to the fore in this matter.



ISLAMABAD: PTI’s Information Secretary, Rauf Hassan and Barrister Umair called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Putin seeks support from ‘dear friend’ Xi

BEIJING: President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing for talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Tuesday, seeking diplomatic and economic support from a key ally as his war in Ukraine drags on and Russia’s dependence on China grows.

The Kremlin hopes to secure major commodity contracts, agreements to share cutting-edge technologies and an official declaration of Beijing’s backing of Moscow, independent experts on Russia-China relations and energy as well as a former senior Russian diplomat told The Moscow Times. Putin might not obtain all of that, but expects that his “dear friend” will at least provide assurances of friendship and an understanding of Moscow’s interests as legitimate.

“China’s support for Moscow in particular will be used in [Russia’s] negotiations with the Global South,” Boris Bondarev, a Russian diplomat who resigned in protest of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, told The Moscow Times. Putin and Xi, whose strategic partnership has deepened as both seek to counter the West, hailed Moscow and Beijing’s “no-limits” partnership in February 2022, just weeks ahead of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The visit marks Putin’s first trip outside the former Soviet Union since the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for his arrest in March. Like Russia, China is not a member of the ICC and is not obliged to arrest him. During his two-day visit, Putin will attend a forum marking 10 years of the Belt and Road Initiative, China’s influence-boosting global infrastructure program. He is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Xi on Wednesday.

The Russian president has brought a large delegation of officials to Beijing that includes key ministers from the government’s finance and energy blocs. Among them are the deputy prime ministers for energy and technology, the finance minister, the head of the Central Bank, the powerful heads of the Gazprom and Rosneft energy giants, and the head of Russia’s largest lender, Sberbank.

Also in the delegation are the heads of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation and Rosfinmonitoring, the

financial intelligence agency. “Ideally, Putin would want big raw materials contracts, but they won’t happen now. Because any optics that contracts with China provide new sources of income to Putin’s military treasury is bad for China. And China is in a position not to do it even if the Russians really want it,” said Alexander Gabuev, a leading Russian expert on relations with China, to The Moscow Times.

The Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline, which traverses Mongolia, is one such project in which the Kremlin is trying to raise China’s interest. However, Beijing has repeatedly told Moscow it doesn’t need the pipeline, Mikhail Krutikhin, of independent consulting agency RusEnergy, told The Moscow Times. The Kremlin sees the project as a way to replace revenues lost due to the end of Russian gas supplies to Europe.

“For political reasons, China can agree to something with a very good price,” Krutikhin said. “But even in this case, such a pipeline, with a capacity of 55 billion cubic meters a year, will still not replace the halted supplies to Europe: 155 billion cubic meters a year,” Krutikhin said. “And its construction and launch may take at least 10 years.” Beijing is nonetheless keen on cooperation with Russia. In the nearly two years since the invasion of Ukraine, the volume of trade turnover between the countries has already increased by 60%, Gabuev said.

By early 2024, trade turnover between the countries could reach \$200 billion a year, Putin said in an interview on the eve of his visit to China. Despite its close ties with Russia, China has sought to walk a diplomatic tightrope over the war in Ukraine, attempting to put itself forward as a mediator earlier this year with a peace plan that was praised by Putin but treated with skepticism by Ukraine and its Western allies.

China may have supplied Russia with dual-use goods, including parts for drones, Western media reported in March 2023. Beijing has denied supplying arms to either side of the conflict. Moreover, in the spring of 2023, China refused to supply weapons to the Wagner mercenary group, according to the Financial Times. — The Moscow Times

CPEC to alleviate poverty

(Continued from Page 1)

successes, reviewing the lessons learned, and charting out a map for the next phase of high-quality development of the project. He also shared that the two sides had agreed to convert the CPEC into a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, openness and green development. In their remarks, Chinese academics and scholars underscored the importance and significance of CPEC as a great partnership between Pakistan and China under BRI.

They also reaffirmed the continued interest of Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan’s Special Economic Zones and to contribute to the further growth of CPEC, enhanced regional connectivity and sustainable development. At the roundtable, the participants agreed that through collective efforts of the two nations, CPEC can become a pivot for regional trade and connectivity and a bridge for people-to-people contacts.

Prior to his address to the think-tanks, the prime minister in his post on social media platform X said he had a productive meeting with Ren Libo, President of the Grandview Institution. “We discussed shared goals and vision for the future. Grateful for his useful input and looking forward to further strengthening the fraternal bond between Pakistan and China,” the prime minister said.

PM, SL President discuss ties: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met with President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka today. The two leaders fondly recalled the close and cordial relations and immense goodwill between the people of the two countries.

Caretaker PM attends state banquet hosted for world leaders: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday attended a state banquet, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping for the world leaders participating

in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum. The prime minister was accompanied by senior ministers of his cabinet, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Held at the iconic Great Hall of the Peoples, the banquet was attended by the heads of state/government of Russia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Hungary, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Papua New Guinea, Mozambique and Chile, among several other world leaders. At the banquet, the prime minister was welcomed by President Xi and First Lady Madame Peng Liyuan.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Kakar also held informal interactions with the world leaders attending the event. The prime minister arrived in Beijing on Monday to attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum at the invitation of President Xi.

Pakistan values Chinese cooperation in education & research: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said Pakistan valued its cooperation with China in the field of education and research. The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with Ren Libo, President of the Grandview Institution, held in Beijing.

PM Kakar, who is in China to attend the Belt and Road Forum, said collaboration with the Chinese institutions in the field of education could help the country attain its goals. He termed China a close friend of Pakistan which supported it at all difficult times. In his post on social media platform X, Kakar said, “We discussed shared goals and vision for the future. Grateful for his useful input and looking forward to further strengthening the fraternal bond between Pakistan and China.”

Attack on Gaza: Tensions surge in US universities

NEW YORK: It was an unprecedented scene. Columbia University, located in the heart of Manhattan, took the extraordinary move of closing its doors to the public last week as dueling protests erupted simultaneously on its lawn.

Hundreds of protesters, representing pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli student groups, clashed in front of the stately colonnade of Butler Library on October 12. Three helicopters hovered overhead, and rows of New York Police Department officers stood ready to intervene if tensions boiled over into violence. But Columbia was hardly the only school in the United States to convulse with demonstrations during the past week.

Student-led rallies have exploded from coast to coast. In the west, the University of California at Berkeley issued a statement decrying the “growing prevalence of online threats, doxxing and harassment”. And in the east, emotions were so high at a University of Florida prayer vigil that when a participant reportedly fainted, the crowd screamed and panicked, injuring five in a stampede. — Aljazeera

Shehbaz vows to fulfil masses’ expectations

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday vowed to fulfil the masses’ expectations. The former prime minister held a meeting with the PML-N leaders in Lahore. On this occasion, the matter is in line with the preparations for welcoming PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to the country on October 21.

Expressing his thoughts, Shehbaz Sharif said: “The PML-N will again take the country out of the quagmire. We will prove this again: everything can be fine.” He vowed that on October 21, the journey of fulfilling the promises will start. The former prime minister commended the efforts of the PML-N leaders, saying, “The way the workers and leaders are working is appreciable. Prominent among those who attended the meeting was PML-N Vice President Hamza Shehbaz.

Few days back, PML-N senior leader Musadik Malik vowed that his party will end poverty in the country. Addressing the workers’ convention in Attock, Malik said, “We will welcome PML-N supremo with the great verve. It’s time to erase the darkest chapters of history. “It is our responsibility to serve the people. If we commit mistakes, then we will be answerable to the masses,” Malik added.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Attaulah Tarar said on Saturday that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is returning to change the fate of the country. Addressing the workers convention in Rawalpindi, Tarar said: “The atmosphere here in Rawalpindi is no less than the festival. The city has always belonged to Rawalpindi. Nawaz Sharif will return to the country within a few days.” He recounted the tenure of Nawaz Sharif, saying, “The price of petrol was merely Rs100 per litre when Nawaz Sharif left the power.” Tarar took a dig at the opponents, saying, “Those who used to make big claims are now escaping.”

PHC CJ: Court orders to be implemented at all costs

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan remarked that the court wouldn’t tolerate ignorance in the implementation of judgements because it is made under constitution and law while adding that we have no sympathies with any political party or personality, on Tuesday.

The chief justice observed that court will not allow sabotaging of decisions. He added that the decisions aren’t will of any personality but judgements are made as per the constitution and law from Magistrate to Supreme Court.

PHC’s Chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan acknowledged civil administration and police efforts for law and order in the provision but also assured implementation of the court’s orders. While Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked that the implementation of the court’s decision is a key indicator of civilized societies and observed that don’t create perception which perceives living in an uncivilized society.

The divisional bench made these observations during hearing of writ regarding arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Peshawar city president Irfan Salim despite court’s order while Advocate General

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed, chief secretary Tahir Nadeem Chaudary, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Ghandapur, Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Syed Ishfaq Noor, Senior Superintendent of Police Operation Kashif Abbasi and counsel for petitioner Ali Zaman Advocate appeared before PHC.

The writ pleaded that the court had earlier set-aside

arrest of PTI’s president Irfan Salim under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) but on 28th September was Irfan Salim was arrested under fresh MPO order. It is worthy to mention that the petitioner had filed application to Chief Justice PHC which was converted into writ petition.

Chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan remarked while directing Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that we are aware regarding responsibilities of your positions as well as about current situation but court would oversight implementation of judgements. PHC’s chief justice observed that earlier Member Provincial Assembly Rangeez Khan was also arrested despite court’s order. He remarked that may Deputy Commissioner issuing warrant under MPO on someone else directions.

The chief justice said while directing Chief Secretary that Rule of Law can balance the society there will be nothing in the lasting. He further observed that they (DCs) are young officers but court’s orders would implement at any cost. In the meantime, chief secretary upheld the integrity of judiciary and argued that administration has right to file appeal or revision petition against judgements in case of differences. However, chief justice observed that you have right to revision but court will decide petitions under constitution and law without any sympathies for political party or personality.

The chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan remarked that I have no political carrier neither my family is involved in such activities and added that he is serving as judge from 33 years. PHC’s Chief Justice

basis. He vowed that ECP would provide maximum assistance to the interim provincial government.

During the session, the ECP secretary briefed the participants on the election preparations. CEC Raja announced that the Pakistan Army and Rangers’ assistance would be sought in the upcoming general polls. The ECP spokesperson said that 26,783,254 registered voters would take part in the polls to be held on 61 National Assembly (NA) and 130 Provincial Assembly (PA) seats. 19,236 polling stations would be established across Sindh.

Ahead of polls, 4,430 polling stations have been declared ‘most sensitive’ and 8,080 ‘sensitive’ by the ECP. The Sindh chief secretary assured of complying with all instructions of the election commission. He detailed that the provincial government was implementing the ECP directives

regarding the transfers and postings. He also assured of providing all facilities at the polling stations during the upcoming polls.

During the session, IG Sindh Police briefed on security plan for the general elections. He said that 110,334 police officials will perform security duties during the polls. Additionally, a quick response force (QRF) would be put on alert to cope with any untoward situation. The IG Sindh said that all steps would be taken to ensure the organisation of peaceful polls.

Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024. “The final delimitation list will be published on November 30,” said ECP, adding that general elections will be held in the last week of January 2024 following the 54-day election schedule.