

Hanif Abbasi acquitted
LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Wednesday acquitted PML-N leader Raja Hanif Abbasi in the ephedrine quota case. The LHC division bench comprising Justice Aalia Neelum and Justice Asjad Javed Ghural announced the verdict. The court reserved verdict Tuesday after the concluding arguments of the lawyers for the appellant and the government.

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REPATRIATION OF
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BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang met on the sidelines of 3rd Belt and Road Forum in China.

Biden arrives in Tel Aviv, backs Israel's narrative — Israel nonstop attacks continue on Gaza

TEL AVIV: US President Joe Biden landed in Tel Aviv on Wednesday hours after Israel launched a deadly airstrike on a hospital in Gaza City, martyring hundreds of Palestinians and drawing condemnations from world leaders.

Biden on a solidarity visit to Israel backed the ally's account that Palestinian fighters caused a devastating hospital strike in Gaza, adding Hamas had brought "only suffering". "I was deeply saddened and outraged by the explosion at the hospital in Gaza yesterday. And based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you," Biden said as he opened a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

"But there's a lot of people out there not sure so we have to overcome a lot of things," Biden said. "We have to bear in mind that Hamas does not represent all the Palestinian people and has brought them only suffering," Biden said.

He said he was encouraging Netanyahu to ensure "life-saving capacity to help the Palestinians who are innocent and caught in the middle of this". In announcing Biden's visit, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Israel had agreed to work with the United States on a plan to let aid into Gaza, which has been besieged and bombarded for 12 days and under an Israeli blockade for 16 years.

Israel is threatening a ground invasion following the devastating October 7 assault by Hamas. Biden said he was "proud" to visit Israel. "I want to say to the people of Israel -- their courage, their commitment and their bravery is stunning," Biden said. Netanyahu, who has faced domestic criticism after the deadliest attack in Israel's history, had eagerly invited Biden, who until recently had openly criticised some moves by Israel's hard-right government.

Netanyahu hailed Biden — who has faced accusations from the rival Republican Party that he is insufficiently pro-Israel — for paying "the first visit of an American president in Israel in a time of war". "There's only one thing better than having a true friend like you standing with Israel and that is having you standing in Israel," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu, opening the talks with Biden, called for global unity against Hamas. "Just as the civilised world united to defeat the Nazis and united to defeat ISIS [Daesh], the civilised world must unite and defeat Hamas," Netanyahu said. "I can assure you, Mr President, Israel is united to defeat Hamas and we will defeat Hamas and remove this terrible threat."

The horror of the hospital deaths threatened to derail his high-stakes visit, with Jordan cancelling a summit where King Abdullah II had been due to host Biden, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said that an Israeli air strike destroyed the Gaza clinic, while Israel said a misfired rocket launched by the Islamic Jihad group had hit the Ahli Arab Hospital.

Between 200 and 300 people died, according to Gaza health authorities, while Hamas put the toll at more than 500 dead. Neither the Israeli nor the Palestinian accounts could be independently corroborated. Middle East anger over the 12-day-old Gaza war, which has left thousands dead, has reached new heights after the hospital bloodshed, and protests against Israel were called in cities across much of the Arab and Muslim world.

Biden has strongly backed top ally Israel and its military campaign — retaliation for the killing of 1,400 people who were shot, mutilated or burnt to death in shock cross-border attacks launched by Hamas on October 7. Israel's campaign to destroy Hamas and try to rescue 199 hostages from the besieged and blockaded territory had already left at least 3,000 dead inside Gaza before the hospital was destroyed.

Entire Gaza neighbourhoods have been razed and survivors are left with dwindling supplies of food, water and fuel, unable to flee the 40-kilometre (25-mile) long strip that has been blockaded since 2007 by Israel and Egypt. "The situation in Gaza is spiralling out of control," UN World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

"We need violence on all sides to stop." On the ground in Gaza, the blast at the Christian-run hospital brought new chaos and suffering Tuesday night, as the dead were pulled from the rubble and the wounded were rushed to nearby medical centres. Scores of bodies cloaked in blood-stained sheets and white plastic wrap soon lined the floors at the nearby the Al-Shifa hospital, where stunned and bereaved relatives tried to identify loved ones.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said hundreds died including women, children, staff and "internally displaced people seeking safe shelter". Ghassan Abu Sittah, a doctor with the charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF), recounted that "we were operating in the hospital. There was a

(Continued on Back Page)

Pakistan carries out flight test of missile

E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan on Wednesday conducted a successful flight test of Ababeel Weapon System aimed at re-validating various design, technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems of the weapon system. "The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalization of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the overall construct of Credible Minimum Deterrence," an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The test flight launch was witnessed by Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and senior officers from Strategic Plans Division and Strategic Forces Command, Scientists and Engineers of Strategic Organizations. The CJCS appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards the successful test. The President, Prime Minister and Services Chiefs also congratulated all members of the Strategic Forces on the achievement.

Khadija gets bail in Tower attack case

E.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Wednesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Khadija Shah in the Askari Tower attack case. Khadija Shah, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist, and former finance minister Dr Salman Shah's daughter is in jail on judicial remand. Ms Shah through her advocate Sameer Khosa filed a petition in the LHC saying the petitioner had been "falsely" implicated by the police in the cases.

UnmuteA two-member LHC bench headed by Justice Ayla Neelum announced the reserved judgment after completing the hearing, last week. The Lahore High Court (LHC) also granted bail to other accused named Arbaz Khan, Salman Qadri, Usman Sharif, Shehbaz Ali and three others in the Askari Tower and Jinnah House attack cases.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9. The protests were held in various cities as the party workers agitated against the party chairman's arrest. Army installations and the Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attacks during a protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers.

The Frontier Post

Pakistan committed to work with China, regional partners: PM

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

"With shared responsibility and by embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he said in his address at the high-level event of the Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF) on 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy'. The two-day forum, which marked the 10 years of the multi-billion dollar cross-regional Belt and Road Initiative, kicked off in China's capital Beijing with representatives from 140 countries in attendance.

PM Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's vision of global connectivity and also looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialize the projects. "I am hopeful that together we can shape a world with the bonds that unite us together, rather than the forces that divide us," he said.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping for his revolutionary idea of the Belt and Road Initiative launched 10 years ago that proved instrumental in bringing common development and shared prosperity. He termed enhanced connectivity a profound factor in development and progress in the modern age of globalization.

"The BRI's concept of shared future for mankind is not about road and railway infrastructure, but also to create linkages among civilizations and nations," he said. He mentioned that the world faced a number of challenges including post-pandemic effects, the divide between the developed and the impoverished, peace, and food security.

Kakar highlighted that BRI's flagship project China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a crucial role in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan. Underscoring its salience for Pakistan's robust economic development, he endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green economy, openness, and inclusiveness.

The prime minister underlined the need for a united global response to address complex transnational challenges faced by humankind and to prevent backsliding on the gains achieved under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda. He emphasised the urgency of addressing infrastructure gaps in the developing world by investing in transportation, energy, and digital economy.

In Pakistan, he said CPEC's 50 projects worth \$25 billion investment resulted in the creation of modern highways, seaports, airports, and rapid mass transit systems. He said the government of Pakistan had taken steps to make the country a trade hub by connecting Gwadar with the landlocked countries, thus opening new vistas to the west and beyond.

Kakar expressed confidence that as CPEC crossed its decade of launch, the next phase would be poised to accommodate rural farmers, students, and small tradesmen and ensure improvement in living standards, poverty alleviation, and jobs creation. He said Pakistan's collaboration with China in the information technology sector and CPEC's green corridor would ensure modernization, food security, and agricultural and environmental protection.

"This vision promotes cooperation, collective security, inclusive and sustainable development, and a balanced eco-system as the only way to address global challenges," he said. The BRF was opened by Chinese President Xi Jinping this morning where he highlighted the concept of working with all participants to draw

a new blueprint for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi said China looks forward to strengthening ties, engaging in dialogues, forging new partnerships, and promoting regional connectivity for a brighter future. "The BRF is about planning together, building together, and benefiting together," he said, adding that the project had established a new framework for international cooperation.

PM highlights govt's business friendly, pro-investment initiatives: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the government was taking business-friendly and pro-investment initiatives to bring about the economic development in the country. The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of East Sea Group led by Chairman Fang Yulong, highlighted pro-business policies of the government.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum held here. He said the government was encouraging the private sector and providing a conducive atmosphere to enable it play an effective role for country's economic development. Fang Yulong told the prime minister that East Sea Group was making investments in Gwadar Free Zone and refinery sector and that the Chinese firms were taking keen interest in increasing their investment in the country.

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the East Sea Group's interest in investment in Pakistan and called Gwadar a key factor for Pakistan's economic development and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that Pakistan and China were time-tested friends as the latter stood by the former in every difficult time. Later, the prime minister wrote on X that in the meeting they discussed Pakistan's business-friendly policies, private sector growth, and deepening Pak-China economic ties.

(Continued on Back Page)

Constitution, polls halted for 'one person's return'

E.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Wednesday that the country's Constitution, election, and democracy were halted due to "one person's return" — taking a veiled jibe at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Despite being partners in the last government and demanding the former three-time prime minister's return, the PPP has kept raising concerns that Nawaz might get a "special relief". "Our previous allies will have to acknowledge that delaying elections will not 'give respect to vote', rather disrespect it," Bilawal said during a public rally in Karachi, hitting out at the PML-N, whose slogan has been "vote ko izzt do (give respect to the sanctity of vote)".

The PPP chairman also said that he wants to end



the politics of divide and abuse, adding that if politicians keep fighting amongst themselves, the country will not progress. "We demanded that those who defied the Constitution be punished. The entire nation should be aware of who was wrong and who was right," Bilawal, who served as the foreign minister under Shehbaz Sharif in the PDM-led government, said. He said the PPP had to swallow the "bitter pill" of elections moving past 90 days, but asked all political parties to back his party in demanding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the date for general elections. "The

election commission should immediately announce the date for the polls. We should, once and for all, end this politics of divide [...] the PPP is ready for elections," the party's chairman said.

The PPP leader, during the rally, also announced that his party was kick-starting their mass contact campaign, which will demand the ECP issue election's date. "Let the people exercise their right to vote; they will have to accept the demand of the people," Bilawal added. The former foreign minister further said that the parties would have to let bygones be bygones and there was a need for a new leadership, which was not entrenched in the past.

"Today, Pakistan needs new politics and new thinking. We need Pakistan of the '90s, not of 2017," he said, demanding that parliament be given space so it can function up to the expectations.

KP CM asks illegal aliens to leave

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has asked the foreign nationals illegally living in the province to voluntarily return to their countries before the 31st of this month adding that the government will extend its all-out support and facilitate them with regard to their repatriation.

In a statement issued here to this effect on Wednesday, the Chief Minister has said that the district administrations and other relevant quarters have already been directed to facilitate the repatriation process within the stipulated time frame, as the government wants a dignified repatriation of all such foreigners to their homelands.

Refugees will be sent back to their country with dignity: Balochistan

Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai said on Wednesday that Pakistan will deport all illegal Afghan immigrants by November 1. While talking to media here, he shared over 1,000 Afghan families have left Pakistan so far, and around 250 families are returning to Afghanistan via the Chaman border daily.

The minister also said that the government has compiled complete data on where illegal immigrants are living in the province. Achakzai said that refugees have been treated with hospitality for the last 40 years, and now they would be sent back to their country with dignity. He added that no political pressure will be tolerated in that regard and illegal migrants will have to leave Pakistan.

The state has taken some principled decisions and they will strictly follow it, he said adding that after the deadline, the illegal residents will be sent back. Jan Achakzai said that the deadline for illegal Afghan refugees is the final deadline and the fingerprint registration of returnees will be done. He said that foreign immigrants who have visas and Proof of Registration Card (PoR) will not be deported.

US vetoes UN resolution

NEW YORK: The United States has exercised its veto power at the United Nations Security Council, blocking a resolution put forward by Brazil that called for humanitarian pauses in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Hamas. The purpose of these pauses was to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

This vote, however, had been postponed twice as the US worked to negotiate aid access to Gaza, emphasising the importance of diplomacy in the region. In the vote, 12 member states supported the Brazilian-drafted resolution, while Russia and Britain abstained. US Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, defended the decision to veto the resolution, stating, "We are on the ground doing the hard work of diplomacy. We believe we need to let that diplomacy play out. Yes, resolutions are important. And yes, this council must speak out. But the actions we take must be informed by the facts on the ground and support direct diplomacy

efforts. That can save lives. The council needs to get this right."

The US has historically shielded Israel from Security Council actions due to their close alliance. This move was met with criticism from other countries, with Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accusing the US of hypocrisy and double standards. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in contrast, called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to enable the release of hostages and to provide humanitarian access to Gaza.

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun expressed his disbelief at the outcome, stating that the US had not expressed opposition during negotiations, leading council members to believe the resolution could be adopted.

Thomas-Greenfield expressed the US's disappointment with the draft resolution for not recognising Israel's right to self-defence and held Hamas responsible for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. She emphasised the importance of delivering essential supplies like food,

medicine, water, and fuel to Gaza and blamed Hamas for causing the severe humanitarian crisis.

The resolution also urged Israel, without naming it directly, to revoke its order for civilians and UN staff in Gaza to move to the southern part of the Palestinian enclave. Additionally, it condemned "the terrorist attacks by Hamas." In response to recent events, Israel ordered nearly half of Gaza's population, approximately 1.1 million people, to move south in preparation for a ground offensive following a major Hamas attack on Israeli civilians.

The conflict has resulted in intense bombardments, with Israel vowing to eradicate Hamas after a significant attack by the militant group. Palestinian officials have reported a high number of casualties, with over 3,000 Palestinians killed. The draft UN resolution condemned all violence against civilians, acts of terrorism, and hostilities while calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. — Aljazeera



Ashrafi calls for global support for Palestine, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Wednesday unequivocally expressed support for Palestine and called on the global community to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

Addressing a conference organized to express solidarity with Palestinian people under the auspicious of Pakistan Ulema Council here, he raised questions about the alleged military aggression in Syria and Lebanon and said Pakistan stood with Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, in case of any aggression from Israel.

Ashrafi hinted that if this war continued, it would not be confined to Egypt and Lebanon, it would ultimately engulf the entire world. He called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to provide a roadmap for the Palestinian cause urging everyone to break their silence, warning that "if Palestinian children are targeted today, it may be children from other regions

tomorrow." With the Presidency of the OIC now in the hands of Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope that it would take concrete steps to support Palestine. He said this conference announced to observe 'Martyrs of Palestine Day' across the nation on Friday, as a mark of support for the Palestinian brethren. He mentioned that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's position in the Corps Commander Conference the other day, reemphasizing their unwavering support for Palestine.

Highlighting the enduring blockade of Gaza, he said it had been a prison for sixteen years raising questions about the incident on October 7, which he attributed to the denial of Palestinian due rights.

Ashrafi called for international human rights organizations to investigate the hospital attack in Gaza, stressing that the suffering of Muslim children remained unseen. He emphasized that children were children, regardless of

their origins expressing concerns over America's intention to cover up this disastrous incident. He acknowledged improved relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and Syria and Arab nations.

He reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining unity within the Ummah, rejecting any sectarian division. "We will not allow anyone to divide the Muslim Ummah based on the Shia-Sunni divide," he stated.

He emphasized the importance of global unity among Muslims and discouraged any division, highlighting the need to stand up against imperialism and extremist groups that aimed to divide and weaken the Muslim Ummah.

Ashrafi warned that colonial powers sought to establish extremist organizations to disrupt the unity of Islamic countries, referencing bomb blasts and terrorist attacks as

part of this conspiracy. He shared insights into past attempts to incite religious tensions in Pakistan, noting that the national security institutions and scholars had worked together to thwart such nefarious designs.

In his closing remarks, Ashrafi called for a boycott of Israeli products and expressed that Muslim nations should come together to protest the violence against Muslims in various regions including Kashmir, Palestine, and other parts of the world. Palestinian Deputy Head of Mission Nader K. Alturk, expressed heartfelt gratitude towards Ashrafi and the people of Pakistan for their unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. Drawing attention to the ongoing crisis, he said at this moment, Israel was committing genocide in Gaza, underscoring the urgency of the situation.

No threats to law and order of city: Police

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Police on Wednesday rejected the rumors circulating on social media regarding threats to the law and order situation in the megalopolis. The police spokesmen termed the viral news, regarding any possible threats to law and order situation, as fake and a mere propaganda.

The citizens were appealed not to pay heed to any such fake news and also not to spread them, he added. Earlier, a message was circulating over social media according to which there were threats to peace of the city. The said message further read "Some miscreants, who apparently are non-natives were spotted by a number of people in suspicious vehicles carrying heavy arms and ammunition and the next 72 hours were most sensitive for the city." Besides the news also mentioned the names of different city areas.

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ سَوَّلَ لَنَا الْيَهْرَ رَاجِعُونَ

Rasm-e-Chehlum

The Chehlum of late Dr. Sultan Muhammad's wife will be held today (Thursday) at her residence Nagri Payan Nagri Bala road near Katkala Bazaar in Lower Dir. The deceased was the mother of Ali Muhammad (Head Master), Hayat Muhammad, Riaz Muhammad, Haji Javed Muhammad, Sajjad Muhammad, Haji Nigar Muhammad, Suleman Muhammad and Aftab Muhammad.

We pray that Allah (SWT) grants the highest place in Jannah and gives family strength and patience during this difficult time. Ameen



In the Court of Jehangir Khan Judge Banking Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 97/1 Next Date: 20-11-2023 Suit for recovery of Rs. 9,44,495/- NBP Main Branch Hayatabad Township Vs Waqas ullah. Notice Versus: 1. Waqas ullah S/o Ayub Khan Mohallah Miangan Achini Bala P/o Peshawar University Peshawar. 2. Wajidi Ali S/o Ali Jan Kandi Bala Achini Payan P/o Peshawar University Peshawar. Where in the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 9,44,495/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an ex parte decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

In the court of Jehangir Khan Judge Banking Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 94/1 next Date: 20-11-2023. Suit for recovery of Rs. 9,17,124/- NBP Main Branch Gunj Gate Vs Zain ul Abedin Notice Versus: 1. Zain ul Abedin S/o Nasir Ahmad House No: 1268 Said Calony Sheikh Abad Peshawar. 2. Madhi Saba D/o Amanullah Khan House No: K 3139 Mohallah Noor ul Islam Shaheen Bazar Peshawar. Where in the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 9,17,124/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an ex parte decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Mokhammad Siddik Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bakht Pari citizen number 4410303072712 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Fazeelat (Daughter) 2. Hidayat (Daughter) 3. Ulfat Ali (Daughter) 4. Muhammad Rafique Khan (Son) 5. Mokhammad Siddik Khan (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Saleem Javed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Fazal Muhammad citizen number 1570170129973 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Parven Begum (Daughter) 2. Shamim (Daughter) 3. Shabnum Fazal Muhammad (Daughter) 4. Roshan Parvez (Daughter) 5. Mah Jabeen Bibi (Daughter) 6. Sher Afzal (Son) 7. Saleem Javed (Son) 8. Mir Afzal (Son) 9. Nasir Iqbal (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
PID(I) 237/123
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DIR-UPPER-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Malik Abdul Haseeb with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Hanif citizen number 1310109199489 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Misbah Bibi (Daughter) 2. Sabiha Bibi (Spouse) 3. Malik Abdul Haseeb (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Sawera Saeed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Javed Khan citizen number 3740514076525 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Sawera Saeed (Spouse)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Said Karan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Naseem Akhtar citizen number 1560270428962 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Alia (Daughter) 2. Naheed (Daughter) 3. Amina Bibi (Daughter) 4. Amir Rawan (Son) 5. Bakht Karam (Son) 6. Said Karam (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shafaras Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Gul Faraz Khan citizen number 1510303621479 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Bakht Mina (Mother) 2. Salmat Bibi (Spouse) 3. Shafaras Khan (Father)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BUNER-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sayed Kabir with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bibi Rizwana citizen number 2130389573644 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Bibi Tahira (Daughter) 2. Hayat Bibi (Daughter) 3. Fozia Bibi (Daughter) 4. Sayed Muhammad (Son) 5. Sayed Mazhar (Son) 6. Sayed Kabir (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SFU PARACHINAR-CFC

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shamoon Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Naik Zamina citizen number 1540213791382 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.
1. Sakeena Bibi (Daughter) 2. Maryam Bibi (Daughter) 3. Shamoon Khan (Son) 4. Muhammad Yaqoob (Son)
On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
PID(I) 237/123
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU

LDA demolishes several illegal properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA), in its ongoing crack-down against illegal properties, demolished several illegal commercial properties in the surroundings of Johar Town on Wednesday.

According to LDA spokesman, the action was taken on the directions of Commissioner Lahore and LDA Director General Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and under the supervision of Operation Chief Town Planner II Azhar Ali, in Johar Town. These properties were demolished due to non-compliance of several notices issued by the authority.

Four dead, 1018 injured in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least four persons were killed and 1081 injured in 975 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Of whom, 490 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 528 people with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue Medical Teams.

Analysis shows that 510 drivers, 30 underage drivers, 139 pedestrians, and 373 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 223 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 231 people placing the Provincial Capital at the top of list followed by 76 in Faisalabad with 75 victims and at third Multan with 67 road accidents and 64 victims.

McDonald's Pakistan Donates PKR 10 Million for Gaza Relief



McDonald's Pakistan's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mr. Jamil Mughal, presented a cheque to the Chairman of Edhi Foundation, Mr. Faisal Edhi, for Gaza relief efforts.

During these trying times, McDonald's Pakistan, operated by SIZA Foods (Pvt.) Ltd, expresses its sincere sympathies to those affected by the tragic humanitarian crisis in Gaza. In a modest act of support and empathy, McDonald's Pakistan has contributed PKR 10 Million to the Edhi Foundation towards Gaza relief efforts.

On this occasion, Mr. Jamil Mughal, Chief Operating Officer (COO), McDonald's Pakistan, presented the cheque to Mr. Faisal Edhi, Chairman of the Edhi Foundation.

It is imperative to note that McDonald's Pakistan is a wholly-owned Pakistani entity, solely managed and operated by SIZA Foods (Pvt.) Ltd. The company firmly rejects any assertions that question its Pakistani identity and remains steadfast in its dedication to the nation.

Beyond serving meals, McDonald's Pakistan has been dedicated to the well-being of local communities. This commitment has been consistently demonstrated over the last 25 years through contributions to the local economy, the creation of employment opportunities, and the strengthening of local business relationships. In these trying times, McDonald's Pakistan stands in solidarity with the affected in Gaza, and remains optimistic about a peaceful and resilient future.

Special Initiative of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Chief Minister's Education Endowment Fund (CMEEF) Scholarship Programme

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Higher Education, Archives & Libraries Department offers fully funded scholarships for the year 2023-24 covering all educational expenses including monthly stipend of Rs. 5000/- on merit-cum-need basis in the following selected institutions/disciplines:

Undergraduate:

Name of Institution	Discipline	No. of Scholarships
Agha Khan Medical College Karachi	MBBS	2
GIKI, Swabi	BS Laser & Opto Electronics	4
	BE Mining Engineering	4
UET, Peshawar	BE	4
	Industrial/Manufacturing Engineering	4
COMSATS, Abbottabad	BS Power Engineering	4
UET, Lahore	BE Petroleum Engineering	2
NED, Karachi	BE Petroleum Engineering	2
	BS Anthropology	4
University of Peshawar	BS Social Work	4
	BS Conflict Resolution	4
	BS Disaster Management	4
	BS Geology	8
IMS Sciences, Peshawar	BBA	4
IBA, Karachi	BS Accounting & Finance	4
	BS Geo Informatics (GIS/RS)	4
NUST, Islamabad	BS Physics	4
	BS Computer Science	4
GCU, Lahore	BS Mathematics	8

Graduates:

Name of Institution	Discipline	No. of Scholarships
		M.S. M.Phil Ph.D
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad	Geophysics	2 -- 2
	Anthropology	2 -- 2
	Mathematics	2 -- 2
	Nano Technology	2 -- 2
NUST, Islamabad	Computer Communication	2 -- 2
	Electrical Engineering	2 -- 2
	Medical Physics	2 -- 2
PIEAS, Islamabad	Biotechnology	-- 2 2
	Nuclear Medicine	-- 4
KMU, Peshawar	Anatomy	2 -- 2
	Microbiology	2 -- 2
	Pharmacy	2 -- 2
University of Peshawar	Environmental Sciences	2 -- 2
	Microbiology	2 -- 2
Islamia College University, Peshawar	English Literature	2 -- 2
University of Agriculture, Peshawar	Biotechnology	2 -- 2
	Maths	-- 4
GCU, Lahore	English Literature	2 -- --
UET, Peshawar	Mining Engineering	2 -- 2
	Industrial Engineering	2 -- 2
PIDE, Islamabad	Economics	-- 2 2

Note:

- The candidates shall apply directly in the selected institutions for both the programmes.
- Provision of wrong/false information shall lead to cancellation of scholarship.
- Applications submitted directly in the Management Unit Office shall not be entertained.
- Selected Universities/Institutions are required to forward recommendations completed in all respect for undergraduate program on or before 15th March 2024 and for graduate program on or before 15th April 2024.



HIGHER EDUCATION, ARCHIVE & LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT
Management Unit Office, Ground Floor, Higher Education Complex
Block-II, Rano Garhi, Chamkani Morh, Peshawar. Email: cmeefkp@gmail.com, Phone: 091-9214431-23



Thalassemia patients visits Governor House

PESHAWAR (APP): As many as fifty thalassemia affected children and their parents visited Governor House Peshawar on the invitation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali.

The children were accompanied by Founder Hamza Foundation, Hamza Ejaz, Professor Abaseen Yousafzai and Khaild Khan.

KP Governor intermingled with children and distributed snacks and juice among them. Talking to media, on the occasion, he

said that these children deserve our special attention, love and help owing to their sufferings.

He said that these children have confronted many difficulties in their life and we should provide them hope, assistance and kindness enabling them to overcome hardships and lead a normal life.

"I am honored to arrange a luncheon for them, and would always strive to give them happiness and hope", he added.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that free education has

been announced for special children in universities and steps would be taken for the facilitation of children suffering from thalassemia and other blood related disorders.

He also underscored the need to establish separate playgrounds and recreational facilities of thalassemia affected children.

The Governor appreciated efforts of Hamza Foundation to help out these children and also assured his cooperation to resolve problems faced by the foundation.



PESHAWAR: Thalassemia affected children and their parents visiting Governor's House.

Govt decides to develop agri processing sector

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamir Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided the processing of fruits, vegetables and other agriculture products on international standards as edibles and its development as a profitable business sector.

He made this announcement while presiding over a meeting here in the Committee Room of Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Department here in the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday.

Besides, Secretary, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah and authorities of all subsidiary sectors, the head of agriculture business and training institute, Saleem abne Fazil also attended the meeting.

The caretaker minister directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps to focus on these sectors, beside the traditional attractive sectors of investment and turn it into useful for earning maximum profit for economic uplift of the province. During the meeting, the head of the Agriculture Business and Training Institute, Saleem abne Fazil highlighted in detail the better utilization of fruits, vegetable and other agriculture produces and bringing improvement in its quality as per market demand and benefits taken in other countries and steps and experiences for maintaining their standard.

The participants of the meeting stressed for making more useful utilization of these available resources of the province and also agreed on signing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for joint efforts of

the concerned subsidiary bodies of the department and training institute.

Under this arrangement, the concerned institute will extend cooperation in the imparting quality training to interested youth in technical and vocational training institutes to utilize their expertise for the uplift of these sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, the provincial minister said that our province offers potential sectors for investment. However, it requires training and awareness to utilize in the benefit of the province.

He in this connection, he highlighted the crafting of 4 million wild olive plants only in tribal district Orakzai and said that several similar profitable sectors can trigger socio-economic uplift in the province. However, he stressed need for giving full attention and taking of practical steps.

Session strengthens child protection efforts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Case Management and Referrals System conducted an orientation session for child protection focal points from various government departments and organizations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's merged districts. The session aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively coordinate and provide child protection services, including addressing the unique needs of

children on the move and Afghan refugees.

The Directorate of Social Welfare in Merged Areas is addressing child protection issues within communities, including those involving children on the move and Afghan refugees. To achieve this, the department has approved a PC-I for establishing child protection units and providing support to orphans in merged districts. Nine Child Protection Units have been set up in specific merged

areas.

During the one-day orientation session held on October 18, 2023, participants from government departments, civil society organizations, media, and other sectors were encouraged to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to protect children's rights. The importance of collective action, collaboration with Child Protection Units, and building strong partnerships with parents and communities was emphasized.

4 money exchangers arrested

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a crackdown against illegal money exchangers and Hundi businesses on Wednesday arrested four suspects. The arrested accused identified as Muhammad Ishaq, Muhammad Saeed, Fazl Haq and Abdul Rehman were involved in Hundi business and were arrested from the Saddar area and Torkham Check Post. The FIA team recovered Rs 815000 and 67100 Afghani currency notes from them. Later cases were registered against the accused and investigation started.

UNICEF Child Protection Specialist Mr. Sohail Ahmad highlighted the training's objectives and the significance of engaging various department focal points in child protection. He stressed the importance of the Child Protection Information Management System (CP-IMS) in enhancing the efficiency of the Case Management and Referral System.



PESHAWAR: Beaconhouse FC Head Ms. Shaista Amjad and Headmistress FC Campus (Boys) Ms. Nargis Iqbal in a group photo with students and teachers during High Achievers ceremony.

Mayor visits embroidery center

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali on Wednesday handed over 150 sewing machines to an embroidery center in Parda Bagh here and said to provide missing facilities to the women in embroidery centers, all available resources were being utilized.

The mayor visited the embroidery center in Parda Bagh wherein DG Capital Metropolitan Government, Sayyed Waqas Ali Shah, Director East, Rehman Khattak, Director West, Riaz Awan and Engineer Riaz Ahmad were also present.

The Deputy Director for Women Program, Shehnaz Akhtar on the occasion briefed the mayor on working of the embroidery center, its problems and facilities being provided there.

The mayor handed over 150 sewing machines to the center and said 28 other embroidery centers of the district would also be provided with sewing machines. He said the sewing machines were provided to the center so that a respite and ease in work could be provided to the women of the embroidery center.

The mayor said 200 out of order sewing machines in this center would also be repaired so that the capacity of the center could be enhanced. He said he would visit all the embroidery centers of the district next week and all their issues would be addressed on a priority basis.

The mayor assured that the issue of shortage of furniture at these centers would be addressed very soon and asked the working women to pray for the success of endeavors made by the metropolitan government for the uplift of its people.

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Women crisis center inaugurated

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights, Justice @ Irshad Qaisar on Wednesday visited Social Welfare Office at Pajagai Road, Bashirabad here where she inaugurated a Women Crisis Center.

The Minister on the occasion, inspected various sections of the Social Welfare Office and met the children with special abilities.

The Minister was also briefed on ongoing administrative affairs and development works. She was also informed regarding services, registration, relief activities, women empowerment and other activities of the Social Welfare Center.

She said special children have a special space in our hearts and we have to do our best to help them achieve their bright future. She said the government was making efforts for the welfare of its people adding that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people with special abilities.

Beaconhouse FC organizes ceremony

PESHAWAR (APP): Beaconhouse Frontier Campus, Peshawar on Wednesday held high achievers ceremony to recognize the thorough efforts and hard work of the O and A levels students.

Dr Riaz Anwar, Cardiac Surgeon and Special Advisor to Chief Minister KP graced the event with his presence as chief guest.

Shaista Amjad Ali, Campus Head gave a welcome note for the parents attending the event and thanked them for their sincere trust and faith in Beaconhouse. She appreciated the students for their commendable achievements and efforts throughout the year.

The distinction holders were awarded shields. The Headmistresses Nargis Iqbal and Mehr Raza of the O levels boys and girls branches gave Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to the high-achievers.

Furthermore, to recognize and value the efforts of the teachers, highest GPA scoring teachers were given recognition awards. The ceremony was a huge success considering the positive parental feedback.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan offering fatiha for departed soul of former Vice Chancellor Peshawar University Professor Ajmal Khan.

PHC grants status quo against taxes to steel mills

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted status quo against sales tax and further tax in electricity bills to 19 steel mills in the newly merged district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while ordering Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) along with other respondents for submission of reply, on Wednesday.

The counsel Shumail

Ahmad Butt advocate argued that Income Tax and Sales Tax Department had issued notices for submission of returns respectively while the 19 steel mills had already submitted their tax returns in this regard.

The concerned didn't accepting the tax returns and demanding submission of wealth returns, the counsel argued. He argued that the concerned departments imposing law on the steel

mills despite federal government had exempted the region of erstwhile Fata from it.

The counsel argued Supreme Court of Pakistan as well as PHC had declared imposition of such taxes in the premises null and void. He added that provision such notices to traders will create problems as the area is already terrorism and unemployment.

The steel mills submit-

ting taxes as per but issuance of notices for income and further taxes beyond the conscious, Shumail advocate argued. He requested for declaring of notices as null and void.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali stopped FBR from any adverse action against the petitioners while adjourned further hearing to be fixed.

Govt's strategy succeeds in arresting dollar rate: KP Minister

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Food, Livestock and Environment, Asif Rafiq has said that the rate of dollar has been controlled due to the best strategy adapted by the government, while prices of the petroleum products have also been cut down.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting here in the Food Department, said an official

handout issued here on Wednesday. Besides, Secretary Food, Zarf Almani, District Food Controllers from the across the province attended the meeting.

The provincial minister said that steps are being taken to pass-on the positive impacts of these achievements to the general public. He ruled out any compromise on the provision of quality edibles and zero tolerance against hoarding and artificial price

hike.

He directed the District Food Controllers to further improve their performance and asked the concerned authorities to timely address challenges and resolve problems faced by them. He further directed to expedite the process of reward and punishment to improve the delivery of services to the people. He said the aim of their efforts is the provision of best quality edible at suitable rates to the people.

Regarding the District Price Review Committee, the provincial minister issued directives for adaptation of people-friendly and uniformed procedure across the province. He said that most of the price review meetings become victims of delay, which directly affect the people.

Minister condoles over death of Ajmal

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Information, Barrister Feroz Jamal Kakakhel has expressed grief over the death of renowned educationist and former Vice Chancellor, Professor Ajmal Khan.

In a condolence message issued here Wednesday, Barrister Jamal said Professor Ajmal was a respected educationist and his service to promote education would always be remembered.

He prayed for the eternal peace of departed soul and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear the loss with patience and equanimity.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Provincial Minister Irshad Qaisar offering dua after inaugurating Women Crisis Center.

Dr. Farid nominated for World's Top 2% Scientists list

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prof. Dr. Farid Ullah Khan, Department of Mechatronics Engineering, UET Peshawar has been nominated for the prestigious World's Top 2% Scientists list, published by Stanford University, USA and Elsevier, a global information analytics company. The Top 2% Scientists list is a respected resource for recognizing the most prominent scientists in their fields globally.

The list is based on data

from Scopus, the world's largest abstract and citation database and includes scientists from all fields of research.

The selection is based on a composite indicator called the c-score, which considers several factors, including the number of citations a scientist has received, the h-index, and the field-normalized citation impact. The c-score is a comprehensive measure of scientific impact than traditional metrics, such as, the total number of citations for a particular

research publication.

Prof. Dr. Farid Ullah Khan is the founding director of the "Sensor and Energy Harvesting Systems Research Lab".

An eminent academic expert and administrator, Dr. Farid has expertise in energy, energy harvesting, renewable energy, mechatronic systems and machine health monitoring.

The inclusion of Dr. Farid Ullah Khan in the list is a significant achievement for UET Peshawar. It is a testimony to the high quality, cutting edge research



performed at the University and commitment of its researchers.

Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company on Wednesday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar University Grid Station on 21st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Subsequently, it said consumers of University Campus, Canal Town, Malakandher, Engineering, Regi, Taj Abad, Taj Abad 2, Agriculture, Mera Achini, HMC, Ring Road, Danish Abad, Ghrib Abad, Rahatabad 1, CMB and

Abdara feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, it said that power supply will remain suspended from Rehman Baba Grid Station on 19th and 23rd October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of Kachori, Shalozai, Safdar Abad, Khanmust, New Hazar Khwani, Surizai, Phandu Baba, Umar 2, Hazar Khwani, Yakatoot, New Chairman Daftar, Jameel Colony, Ring Road, Beri Bagh, Rashid Ghari, Surizai, Akhon Abad, Ring Road 2,

SIDB feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will also remain suspended from Kohat Road Grid Station on 19th and 23rd October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Sonehri Masjid, Bana Mari, Civil Quarter, Nodia, Murshad Abad, Abasin, Old Deh Bahadar, Deh Bhadar, Wazir Abad, Ameen ColonyJ Bara, Nodhya Payan, Murshid Ababad, Dora Road, Nodiya Bahadar, Lundi Arbab 1,2,3,

Sheikh Muhammadi, Pishtakhara, Swati Gate, Gulbarg, Scheme Chowk and Chairman Daftar feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City Grid Station on 22nd and 25th October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of Sikhandar Abad, Zaryab, Phandu Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Umar, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G. Nishtarabad, NHA feeders will face inconvenience.



In brief

FC holds free medical camp F.P. Report

GHALANAI: Frontier Corps (FC) North arranged free medical camp at Nawa Kaly in Mohmand while 531 patients were treated from different areas, on Wednesday. According to details, FC remains committed to extending vital healthcare services to underserved communities in Mohmand district. In this noble endeavor, FC North recently conducted a free medical camp in Nawaklay, Mohmand. Dedicated medical professionals, including doctors and nursing staff, generously provided free health check-ups for a total of 531 patients, distributing essential medicines. The patients comprised 169 men, 211 women and 151 children, reflecting the camp's inclusive approach to healthcare. Additionally, laboratory screenings were performed for 72 patients, ensuring comprehensive healthcare support. The local community expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the senior officials of Frontier Corps North for their proactive efforts in organizing this essential medical camp. They acknowledged that as the seasons change, such initiatives play a vital role in safeguarding the community against common seasonal diseases.

Jl hold protest against Israel F.P. Report

LARKANA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) protested against Israel's aggression and barbaric measures against Palestinians. A rally was taken out from Pakistan Chowk, which took the form of a sit-in at Jinnah Bagh Chowk, passing through different routes. In the sit-in, slogans were written against Israel was expressed by raising a 50-feet tall Palestinian flag, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's portrait and the Israeli flag. Saeed Sheikh, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Unit of Larkana District, Qari Abu Zubair Jakharu, Muhammad Ashiq Dhamraha and others said that since last week, the Israeli army has been continuously bombing and attacking the Palestinian state of Gaza, destroying the facilities of the people there, food, drinking, internet. The facility has been terminated, which is the worst war crime in human history by brutalizing innocent Palestinians, due to which the Muslim countries of the whole world have protested against non-Muslims. Efforts are being made to raise voice against the atrocities on Palestine and to collect medicines and other relief materials for the injured Palestinians.

DRC commits for speedy justice F.P. Report

BUNER: Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) elected former Nazim Salarzai Wali Rehman as chairman of the council in its first ever meeting, on Wednesday. DRC's, journalist Abid along with SHO police station Jowar in consultation with members approved two penal for the local members from Salarzai and third separate penal among the local members from Gadezai with the aim to let them easily deal the disputes in Salarzai and Gadezai respectively. However, they agreed the main office would be at police station Jowar and the sub office in police station Pir Baba. They agreed upon that chairman would visit the sub office too and the members from Salarzai and Gadezai would cooperate each other in case of need so as to resolve disputes between parties.



MARDAN: Federal Secretary Power Division, Ministry of Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial offering dua after inaugurating PESCO Customer Service Centre. - F.P. photo

ANP rejects imposition of taxes in Malakand

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Awami National Party (ANP) Dir Lower has rejected the imposition of taxes and crack down on non-custom paid vehicles in Malakand Division and declared full resistance against it.

This claimed by District President of ANP former MPA Haji Bahadur Khan along with Senior Vice President Malik Sajjad Khan, Tehsil Timergara President Malik Ulfat Hayat and Malik Ikram while holding a press conference at the District Press Club said that the Caretaker Government is holding clean and transparent elections but it is sad to say. That he has decided to impose tax on poor people in the division without public mandate and to crack down on non-custom paid vehicles, which is an illegal and unconstitutional measure.

ANP leaders said that ANP is the only political party which never compro-

mises on the rights of Pakhtuns and the rights of the Pakhtun nation. He said that the caretaker government should take practical steps to ensure the safe conduct of the general elections and not tax the poor people by making suggestions from their powers. Enforcement and action against non-customs paid vehicles ANP leaders made it clear that if the caretaker government does not stop forceful tax enforcement and harassment of NCP vehicle owners in Malakand division, then ANP will resist fully. and will not allow any tax to be imposed here.

Blood donation camp held: Al-Khidmat Blood Society Dir Lower organized a blood camp at Government Post Graduate College Timergara to find out the blood grouping of students in educational institutions.

Addressing the camp participants Principal Professor Wazir Akbar of Government Post Graduate

College Timergara, Vice President of Al Khidmat

Haji Majidullah, Haji Montazer Khan, Director of Al Khidmat Hospital Timergara Majeed ullah, Muhammad Zeib and Information Secretary of Al Khidmat Foundation Lower Dir Ahmad Ali Ghorri and others said that the purpose of determining the blood group in educational institutions is that the students know their blood group so that in case of any emergency, the students can attend to the patients in time. require a lot of blood and people are rushing for blood due to which they face various problems.

In order to provide timely blood donations and save people's lives, he said that Al-Khidmat Blood Society has also created a blood WhatsApp group for donating blood and submitting blood donations to raise awareness among the public to donate blood on this occasion. A walk was also organized.

Govt for provision of quality health facilities

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Provincial Minister Primary and Secondary Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that on the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, all big and small hospitals are being inspected to address problems of hospitals and to improve treatment facilities for people whereas District Headquarter Hospital is amongst the best hospitals of the Punjab because district administration and health department are providing better healthcare facilities to the people despite limited resources.

This he said while talking to journalists after visiting DHQ hospital Hafizabad, on Monday. Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warrach, Medical Superintendent DHQ hospital Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Shahid, DHO Dr. Faiq Ali Tarar and AMS Dr. Jahanzeb Ali were also present on this occasion. Minister said that 1045 doctors will be recruited in the hospitals of the province after receiving permission from Election Commission of Pakistan.

The minister said that labs, X-ray, CT-Scanne and MRI departments of the hospitals of the province were improved while numbers of beds in small hospitals were increased throughout the Punjab. He claimed that after recruitment of doctors and nurses, problems of shortage of doctors would be mitigated and all standard and better medical facilities would also be available to patients in the hospitals.

Replaying to a question, he said that the Punjab government led by caretaker Chief Minister of the Punjab was talking all possible measures to provide free of cost and the best treatment facilities to the people at their doorsteps. Responding to a query, he said that objective of outsourcing the CT Scan department of Trauma Centre to ensure uninterrupted provision of CT Scan facility to patients and in case of any fault in the machine, the private management would be responsible to get repair CT Scan machine without any delay and patients would not be confront any difficulty for CT Scan tests.

Power theft poses a grave challenge to energy reliability

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Federal Secretary Power Division, Ministry of Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial said that as power theft continues to be a growing concern, authorities and energy providers are escalating their efforts to combat this illicit practice, which not only burdens the electrical grid but also poses a serious threat to energy reliability and economic stability.

Addressing the participants and media during the inauguration of 'Zero-theft Zero-Loadshedding' initiative in Mardan, Secretary Power Division said that power theft, often involving unauthorized connections, meter tampering, and illegal diversions, has been a persistent issue affecting both urban and rural areas. He said that these illegal activities not only lead to substantial revenue losses for power companies but also have a significant impact on the overall energy infrastructure, leading to frequent power outages and loadshedding.

He said that in response to this critical issue, government agencies, in collaboration with district administrations, police and energy providers, have launched a comprehensive campaign to address power theft at its roots. This initiative includes public awareness programs, enhanced monitoring of electricity distribution networks, and stricter penalties for those found guilty of power theft.

The Secretary for the Power Division emphasized the importance of community involvement in eradicating this menace. He said, "Power theft not only results in financial losses but also compromises the quality of life for law-abiding citizens. We urge residents to report any suspicious activity or illegal connections in their neighborhood."

The economic repercussions of power theft are also significant. Frequent loadshedding and power outages resulting from unauthorized usage not only disrupts daily life but also undermines the growth of businesses, discouraging potential investors and job creation. Energy providers are investing in modern technologies and improved monitoring systems to detect and deter power theft. These efforts aim to ensure that electricity

resources are efficiently and fairly distributed, benefiting the community as a whole.

Government agencies and energy providers are taking strong measures to combat this problem, but public support and vigilance are crucial in the fight against power theft. Eliminating this illegal practice will not only help ensure a stable energy supply but also contribute to the economic well-being of the region. Secretary Power said that loadshedding can be eliminated with the support of the people, it likely suggests a call for public cooperation and efforts to reduce electricity theft and conserve energy.

Loadshedding, the deliberate reduction of electricity supply during peak demand, can often be caused by various factors, including power theft and overuse, said Rashid Mahmood Langrial. He said that PESCO staff would be increased and that public awareness and cooperation can play a crucial role in ensuring a stable and reliable power supply.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry said that it is good that the people of Mardan supported the incumbent government in elimination of power theft. He said that the government will support PESCO and the public in this regard. Chief Executive Officer PESCO, Qazi Muhammad Tahir, said that the initiative has been started from Mardan and will extend to the whole province. He said that the people of Mardan are fully supporting the elimination of power theft and urged people to support PESCO throughout the province, which would benefit WAPDA and the public as well.

Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Mardan, Ayesha Tahir briefed the audience on the ongoing operation on power theft and recovery in Mardan. President Chamber of Commerce Mardan also spoke on the occasion. IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai and Deputy Commissioner Mardan were also present on the occasion. Later, Secretary Power Division inaugurated PESCO Customer Service Center Mardan at PESCO office to facilitate the people.

Safety wall to flood affected villages inaugurated

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Provincial Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Habib Malik Orakzai and Head of German Red Cross for Pakistan Asif Aman Khan Wednesday inaugurated the safety wall constructed to protect flood-affected villages of Rysan, Green Lasht and Zait in Upper Chitral.

Pakistan Red Crescent with the financial support of the German Red Cross constructed the safety wall. The protective embankments constructed to safeguard the villagers from the flood called the community and elders of the area and gathered information about their problems.

Addressing the local community on this occasion, Habib Malik and Asif Aman Khan said that due to climate change, the world is moving towards the edge

of disaster and various countries of the world, including Pakistan, are under its deadly and destructive effects and in the severity of this threat. It is increasing day by day which is very alarming, they said. They said that the Pakistan and German Red Cross community should protect the community from the effects of these disasters by providing training and by building protective embankments and other structures in the vulnerable areas to protect the villages from floods.

Immediate rescue is required while the construction of protective embankments at the places of Rysan, Green Lasht and Zait in Upper Chitral is a continuation and link of the same. The local community leaders thanked the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the German

Red Cross for the safety walls for the protection of the village from the flood.

They said that the floods in these areas have wreaked havoc for the last two decades and the construction of these protective structures will ensure complete protection of their villages from floods. Regarding the awareness among the community members about natural disasters would also help them to cope with its severity.

Later, the students of Government High School Rysan also demonstrated the provision of first aid during natural disasters. Meanwhile, the parade organized by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society distributed non-food items among the community members in both Upper and Lower Chitral. PRCs District Secretary Ajaz Zur Rahman was also present on the occasion.

Graphic designing training concluded



Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Empowerment through Creative Integration (ECI) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) successfully concluded their 15-day Graphics Designing training program at the National Incubation Center (NIC) Kohat University of Science and Technology.

This collaborative effort aimed to empower and nurture aspiring talent in the realm of design and creativity. Over the course of the program, more than 40 enthusiastic individuals, including students, fresh graduates, and young professionals, immersed themselves in an immersive curriculum designed to pro-

vide comprehensive knowledge and practical expertise in the field of graphics designing.

The participants engaged in hands-on learning, gaining exposure to the latest industry trends and tools, with a focus on equipping them with essential skills for financial independence through employment opportunities and freelance ventures. Representatives of ECI and KPITB emphasized the transformative power of skills training to enhance employability and entrepreneurship among students and graduates.

By providing such training and mentorship opportunities, we are enabling the youth to carve their paths to financial independence and contribute meaningfully to society." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Empowerment Training Programme will continue throughout the Kohat Division, empowering youth with vital digital skills and paving the way for a brighter future in the digital era.

cantly to the job market and thriving in the digital landscape. Shafi, a representative of ECI, stated, "We believe in the transformative power of skills training to enhance employability and entrepreneurship among students and graduates."

By providing such training and mentorship opportunities, we are enabling the youth to carve their paths to financial independence and contribute meaningfully to society." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Empowerment Training Programme will continue throughout the Kohat Division, empowering youth with vital digital skills and paving the way for a brighter future in the digital era.

Residents hold protest against proposed crackdown on NCP vehicles

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Members of Civil Society and Transport Union organized a protest rally against the Government decision regarding a crackdown against Non-custom Paid (NCP) vehicles. The rally was led by Pir Mukhtar Nabi, chairman of Tehreek Tahaffuzi Huqooqi Chitral, former President of the Transport Union, Mohammad Saber, President Driver union Ghulam Mursalin, Fazal Nasir and other leaders.

The rally started from Krop Rasht Bazaar and passed from Attalaq Bazaar to Jaghur and backed on Danin road, later on gathered in square on By Pass Road Kruprasht Bazar. Civil society members also protested against the government's decision regarding imposition of custom on NCP vehicles. These members properly recorded their protest against the government's decision of implementation of tax and registration fees.

Addressing the rally, Pir Mukhtar Nabi, chairman of the TTH Chitral, said

that Chitral is a backward district as well as a disaster area. He said that the people here are mostly poor and unemployed and they are earning their livelihood for their children on NCP vehicles, on which the government want to charge its registration fee. He said that under the agreement, Chitral is a tax-free zone for a hundred years, which was an independent state and merged in Pakistan estate of Pakistan should keep the agreement.

The Chairman of the TTH Chitral appealed to the government to register NCP vehicles in this tax-free zone without charging registration fee or any other tax and set a nominal fee annually which could pay by poor drivers and transporters of Chitral. These vehicles should be enlisted inside Chitral for registration without creating any hardships or any problem for its owners. He warned that if the government not withdrawn their decision of tax implementation people of Chitral will also held protest following of Malakand people and would also be standing side by side

with them.

A large number of vehicles owners and drivers participated in the rally against the implementation of crackdown registration tax against NCP vehicles. Talking to the local media on this occasion, Pir Mukhtar Nabi and former President of the Transport Union, Mohammad Saber, appealed to the government to keep in view Chitral's backwardness and be exempted it from tax for fifty years more, and to declare it tax-free zone as per agreement. They said that after the recent floods in Chitral, mass destruction was widespread in which people faced great financial loss, but people whose homes were destroyed in the floods have not yet received enough help to reconstruct their damaged houses again. The speakers said that it is not justice to take tax from the poor people and spend it on the luxuries of the Afsar Shahi. They demanded from government for provision of relief to those poor people who are forced to commit suicide by poverty and unemployment.



BEIRUT: Protesters waving Palestinian national flags and shout slogans in solidarity with the people of Gaza outside the US Embassy in Awkar, Lebanon.

Putin, Orban reaffirm bond ahead of Beijing summit

BEIJING (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban have underscored their countries' strong ties ahead of an international forum in Beijing, saying that continuing "geopolitical tensions" due to the war in Ukraine do not affect their relationship. "Despite the fact that in the current geopolitical conditions, the possibilities for keeping contact and developing relations are very limited, it cannot but cause satisfaction that our ties with many European countries are maintained and developed," Putin said, according to Russian news agencies.

"One of those countries is Hungary," Hungary, which is a member of the European Union and NATO but also has close ties with Moscow, has had its allegiances put to the test over the war in Ukraine. Since Russia's invasion, Budapest has blocked weapons from passing through its territory to reach Ukraine and deepened energy ties with Moscow despite EU sanctions on Russian oil. Budapest is expected to play a decisive role in Ukraine's bid to join the EU, positioning itself as a potential opponent to a December vote on accession talks. The EU is

considering releasing billions of dollars in aid to Hungary that has been blocked over alleged rule-of-law violations in order to win Hungary over on the vote, which requires unanimous approval from EU members. Hungary is expected to use the Beijing summit as an opportunity to shore up close energy ties with Russia, from which it receives at least 80 percent of its gas.

During Putin and Orban's meeting, the leaders discussed gas and oil shipments and nuclear energy issues. Orban's press chief Bertalan Havasi told the Reuters news agency. Orban also reportedly stressed the need for an end to sanctions on Russia and the fighting in Ukraine. The two leaders are joining numerous Southeast Asian and African leaders in Beijing for a two-day event celebrating the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road Initiative, a mammoth infrastructure development strategy that spans more than 150 countries. Putin, one of the highest-profile leaders to attend the summit, said he hopes to link up with China's efforts through an alliance of former Soviet Union nations to "achieve common development goals."

Meanwhile, Russian President

Vladimir Putin rejected comments by US President Joe Biden, saying in an interview in Beijing that Moscow's interests could not be suppressed, and that US politicians should learn to respect others. Putin was responding to comments by US President Joe Biden in an interview with CBS News, where he said: "Imagine what happens if we, in fact, unite all of Europe and Putin is finally put down where he cannot cause the kind of trouble he's been causing."

In a brief interview aired on state television during a summit in the Chinese capital, Putin said: "This is not about me personally. This is about the interests of the country. And it is impossible to suppress the interests of Russia. They have to be taken into account." Putin said that both Biden, with whom he has had an antagonistic relationship since the US president took office in 2021, and the wider American political elite needed to learn to "respect" Russia. He said: "This applies not only to President Biden, but also to the US political elites as a whole. You must learn to respect others, and then there will be no need to suppress anyone."

‘We only wanted to leave’: One Palestinian family’s attempt to flee Gaza

GAZA (Agencies): Sabreen Abd Rabu, her husband and their three children had only recently arrived at the Rafah crossing on the southern border of the Gaza Strip when the missile hit. The blast struck just a hundred metres away from where the family stood, carrying little more than their luggage and the clothes on their backs. They were among the hundreds of Palestinians attempting to flee into Egypt when an Israeli air strike occurred.

"We only wanted to leave," Sabreen, an art teacher and resident of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, told Al Jazeera. "Even escape seems to be denied for people like us, the Palestinians." As the Israel-Hamas war stretches into its second week, bombs have continued to fall on Gaza, a narrow strip of coastal land that is home to more than 2 million Palestinians. The danger has prompted many families, like Sabreen's, to look abroad for safety. An Israeli blockade on Gaza has left basic supplies scarce, and the Israeli army ordered 1 million people to evacuate last week, ahead of an anticipated ground invasion. But displaced

residents are finding access to border crossings limited - and perilous. At the time the bomb exploded at the Rafah crossing, Sabreen's husband Ahmed had been arranging the paperwork for their travel. They had never left Gaza before, and they were focused on the journey ahead, rather than the danger about to rain down from above.

"The ground shook, and we were suddenly enveloped in unconsciousness amidst the swirling sand," Sabreen said. Both she and Ahmed fell to the ground. The seconds they spent lying flat felt like an eternity. Scrambling back to their feet, they began the frantic search for their children amid the smoke. "I couldn't even tell if I was injured or not. All that mattered to me was ensuring the safety of my children. But even that simple task seemed impossible after the air strike," Sabreen recalled. Chaos spread in the wake of the blast. Children and infants outnumbered adults, according to witnesses, and families rushed to get their paperwork completed, so they could escape the missile barrage by crossing into Egypt.

Ahmed noticed that some bystanders were slightly injured. But, he added, he was "thankful to God that no one was killed". After the bombing, he and Sabreen said they were turned away from the border crossing.

"The authorities tried to [tell us] that it was for our safety and that they would reschedule our travel later. But we think we could have gone through," Sabreen said. "We were told to go back to Gaza, which means back to the horror and fear and death that we had thought of escaping," she continued, her voice brimming with desperation. "Whose fault is that? We did not even have the psychological strength to argue." It was a setback for their plans to cross into Egypt and, from there, travel to Istanbul, where Sabreen's brother lives. "My brother had sent us tourism visas to lift us from the constant fear and struggle for safety," she said. "When he learned a war had just struck Gaza, he called me and said it is time to get out." Now, Sabreen, Ahmed and the children are back where they started: in Khan Younis. The family is staying at the home of their relatives, where space is at

a premium. "We are over twenty people in the same apartment," Sabreen said, "holding onto each other's hands and praying for our safety, right where we are." Their family has deep roots in Gaza. For three generations, the Abd Rabus had grown up living under the same roof, in the same city. "Even if we could travel, our Palestinian identity would remain unwavering," she said. "We would eventually return to Gaza because it is our home, it is our everything." She sees the current conflict as part of a greater effort to expel the Palestinian people from their homeland.

"We understand that Israel, through various means, seeks to displace the Palestinian people from Gaza," Sabreen said. "However, our determination to live here, to exist here and to build our futures here remains unyielding." Despite the dire circumstances, Sabreen remains optimistic that her family's struggle will not be in vain. "Today or a hundred years from now, the Palestinian people will endure," she said. "Resilient and persistent, we refuse to bow to the occupation's tactics of terror and oppression."

Police detain climate activist Greta Thunberg at London protest

LONDON (Agencies): Greta Thunberg has been detained by UK police at a climate protest outside a London hotel hosting a major oil and gas industry conference. Thunberg was among dozens of protesters who chanted "oily money out" and sought to block access to the Energy Intelligence Forum by sitting on the pavement by the entrance.

Video footage showed Thunberg standing calmly as two police officers spoke to her. One was seen holding her arm. Still images showed her being searched and placed in the back of a police van. Protesters held aloft banners and chanted "oily money out" and "cancel the conference," while some lit yellow and pink smoke flares.

Two activists from the environmental group Greenpeace absented down from the roof of the hotel to unfurl a giant banner reading, "Make Big Oil Pay." The group said hundreds of demonstrators had gathered in front of the venue to protest against the influence of the fossil fuel industry on UK and global climate politics. London's Metropolitan Police said six people were initially arrested on suspicion of obstructing a highway during the protest. The force said a further 14 were detained on suspicion of disrupting public order, and one other person was detained for criminal damage. Police said they engaged in conversations with the protesters on allowing people to access the venue safely and prevent

serious disruption to the hotel and guests, but some of the activists refused to move from the road.

No charges have been issued yet. The protesters accuse fossil fuel companies of deliberately slowing the global energy transition to renewables in order to make more profit. "The world is drowning in fossil fuels. Our hopes and dreams and lives are being washed away by a flood of greenwashing and lies," Thunberg told reporters before she was detained. "It has been clear for decades that the fossil fuel industries were well aware of the consequences of their business models, and yet they have done nothing." "We cannot let this continue. The elite of the oil and money conference, they have no intention of transition," she added.

"We have no other option but to put our bodies outside this conference and to physically disrupt. And we have to do that every time, we have to continue showing them that they are not going to get away with this." Police said those detained were taken into custody and that officers remained on site. Environmental groups say they will continue to protest throughout the planned forum, which is expected to last three days. Thunberg inspired a global youth movement demanding stronger efforts to fight climate change after staging weekly protests outside the Swedish Parliament starting in 2018. She was recently fined by a Swedish court for disobeying police during an environmental protest in Sweden.

British tourist among 3 dead in Uganda

KAMPALA (BBC): A British tourist is among three people killed in a "cowardly terrorist" attack at a national park in south-west Uganda, authorities say. Uganda's police said the trio were were killed, and their vehicle burnt, in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. It said joint forces were pursuing suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebel group.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority said the victims were two tourists and a guide. The tourists were from the UK and South Africa while their guide was Ugandan, it added. The ADF is a rebel ground which began in Uganda but not also operates in the east of neighbouring DRC. It has links to the Islamic State group. Police spokesperson Fred Enanga said on X, formerly known as Twitter: "We have registered a cowardly terrorist attack on two foreign tourists and a Ugandan in Queen Elizabeth National Park. "The three were killed, and their safari vehicle burnt." He added the police are "aggressively pursuing" the suspected rebels, and expressed "our deepest condolences to the families of the victims".

The police force also posted a photograph of a green four-wheel-drive vehicle on fire. Bashir Hangi, spokesperson for the Uganda Wildlife Authority, said the attack took place. The Uganda Wildlife Authority said in a statement all parks remain open, adding: "We urge the public to remain patient and allow the investigative process to run its course." The UK Foreign Office has updated its travel advice for the country, warning the "attackers remain at large". It said: "If you are in the area you should remain vigilant and follow the advice of the local security authorities and/or your tour operator." Ugandan authorities have advised anyone in Queen Elizabeth National Park to stay put overnight."

Armenia says it is ready to make peace

TBILISI (Reuters): Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said he was ready to sign a peace deal with Azerbaijan by the end of the year, even as Baku accused Yerevan of undermining the process of normalising their relations. Russia's state-run TASS news agency cited Pashinyan as telling the European Parliament in Strasbourg that Armenia was ready to end more than three decades of hostilities, and to guarantee the safety of ethnic Azeris in Armenia.

But in a statement later on, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry accused Pashinyan of undermining the peace process with "aggressive rhetoric". It said Armenia as a country had a reputation for "blunt falsification of facts and history". The two countries have in recent weeks stated their willingness to sign a treaty to end decades of intermittent conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a breakaway region that Azerbaijan recaptured last month, prompting most of its population of some 120,000 ethnic Armenians to flee to Armenia.

Armenia describes the Karabakh Armenians' flight as ethnic cleansing driven by the threat of violence after a nine-month blockade of essential supplies, the latest chapter in a conflict between Christian Armenians and Turkic Muslim Azeris that goes back more than a century. Azerbaijan says the Karabakh Armenian civilians were welcome to stay and be integrated in Azerbaijani society, but left voluntarily. Beyond Karabakh, the two countries' shared border is riddled with small exclaves surrounded by the other side's land - sovereign territory that is in effect occupied by the other side - complicating a final peace deal. Exchanges of fire across the frontier, sometimes fatal, are a regular occurrence. Russian President Vladimir Putin last week said he believed a peace deal was achievable if both sides showed goodwill, playing down the difficulty of reaching an agreement on their shared border.

American trapped in Gaza says he feels like ‘second-class citizen’

WASHINGTON (Agencies): When an Israeli air raid hit the building next to the house where he was staying in Gaza, Zakaria Alarayshi felt like he experienced death while still alive. "We were confused and huddled together. It was death, death. You feel like you've died from the impact and the fear. I am a grown man, and I cried from the fear. Imagine what the children are going through. We had no idea what to do," he told Al Jazeera in a phone interview.

Alarayshi and his wife Laila Alarayshi are two of the hundreds of United States citizens trapped in the Gaza Strip amid the fighting between Israel and Hamas, which has killed thousands of people and levelled entire neighbourhoods in the Palestinian territory. The Alarayshis had only planned on stopping in Gaza for several weeks to visit family. Now, their stay is indefinite, as the ongoing hostilities make travel perilous and border restrictions limit their options for escape.

Last week, the couple - residents of Livonia, Michigan - filed a lawsuit against the administration of President Joe Biden to compel the US government to evacuate Americans from the besieged strip. Alarayshi, who said he voted for Biden in 2020, hopes the lawsuit will urge the US president to treat all Americans equally, no matter which side of the Gaza border they are on. The US has evacuated thousands of its citizens out of neighbouring Israel, including on a cruise ship. "I worked three jobs. I built a business. I pay taxes. I did everything right to build a better future for myself and my family and live honourably. But now I feel like a second-class citizen. President Biden should take care of everyone," he said.

Biden is arriving in Israel on Wednesday, where he is expected to reiterate unwavering support for the US ally. Nabih Ayad, a lawyer and founder of the Arab American Civil Rights League (ACRL), a Michigan-based advocacy group involved in the lawsuit, said the US government has a duty to protect its citizens abroad. "The fact that you are evacuating US citizens of Israeli descent but not US citizens of Palestinian descent creates a problem," Ayad told Al Jazeera. The lawsuit accuses the US government of violating constitutional provisions that ensure equality under the law. Ayad acknowledged that the security situation in Gaza is dire, but he said the US has leverage over Israel and Egypt, two allies that border the Palestinian territory and can help with evacuations. "Again, who's doing the bombing? What weapons are they using? It's Israel, our friend, that's going to be doing the bombing, using United States

weapons, and they have control of all those borders," he said.

Israel has ordered more than 1 million Palestinians to leave the northern part of Gaza, but that has not spared the strip's southern region from a steady stream of bombardment. Israeli air raids have killed dozens in the southern cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah this week. Khan Yunis is where Alarayshi and his wife currently reside, in order to be closer to the Rafah crossing, a vital thoroughfare into Egypt. But while Alarayshi has approached the border several times, he said US citizens have yet to receive safe passage across. The couple remain stuck. Meanwhile, in Khan Yunis, they not only contend with daily air strikes, but the humanitarian situation is horrendous, Alarayshi said. "There is no life. I go to the shop; there is nothing to eat," he told Al Jazeera.

"We eat once every 24 hours. We get cookies. We get a sandwich with a slice of cheese to eat. We used to buy water. Now there is no water, so we have to drink salty [tap] water. I have diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol. I'm in a dreadful state," Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, who represents a Michigan district, spoke about the couple's suffering during a briefing with reporters. "I was on the phone with him at 1am making sure that he could get to the Egyptian border. They waited there for six hours, and nothing," Tlaib said. The US State Department said it "has no higher priority than the safety and security of US citizens overseas". "US citizens in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank in need of assistance should complete the crisis intake form on travel.state.gov," a State Department spokesperson told Al Jazeera in a statement.

"We will continue to provide updates to US citizens, including departure assistance, as information becomes available." The statement did not address Al Jazeera's question on whether the US has a plan to get Americans out of Gaza. Mariam Charara, the executive director of the ACRL, said the group has received the "same boilerplate responses" from US officials but no concrete action. Charara, who has been in close touch with the Alarayshis, described them as an "amazing" family living the American dream. But for now, the couple is not sure if they will survive. The home where the Alarayshis were staying in Gaza City was bombed after they left it. "When the bomb drops, it shakes the entire neighbourhood, and its sound makes you jump out of your body. It's very bad. My wife and I are not sure whether we will make it out of Khan Yunis."

Ukraine uses ATACMS long-range missiles

KYIV (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has confirmed that Kyiv used US-supplied long-range ATACMS missiles on the battlefield against Russian forces. "Today, special thanks to the United States. Our agreements with President Biden are being implemented. Very accurately - ATACMS proved themselves," Zelenskyy said in his nightly address.

The comments come after Kyiv's military said Ukrainian forces struck airfields in Russian-held territory in eastern and southern Ukraine, destroying helicopters, knocking out an air defence missile launcher and damaging runways. Ukraine said it carried out "well-aimed strikes on enemy airfields" near the eastern city of Luhansk and the southern city of Berdiansk overnight, but gave few details.

The country's Special Operations Forces said nine helicopters, an air defence missile launcher and other equipment had been destroyed, runways had been hit, and heavy losses had been inflicted on Russian forces. Russia's Defence Ministry did not

mention the attacks. Vladimir Rogov, a Russian-installed official in the Zaporizhia region that is partly controlled by Moscow, said on the Telegram messaging app that Russian air defences had ensured the attack on the Berdiansk airfield was not successful. A Ukrainian lawmaker said the US-supplied ATACMS missiles were used in the attack on the airfield in Berdiansk.

For months, Ukraine has pushed the US to provide it with ATACMS as it seeks to expel Russian forces from its territory. The US had previously held off on providing Ukraine with the long-range missiles, fearing their use could risk an escalation of the conflict. Several US news outlets reported that ATACMS had been sent to and deployed by Ukraine. Politico reported that Washington had "secretly shipped" them over the last several weeks. Washington had previously hesitated to send the long-range missiles to Ukraine, partly due to concerns that they could enable Ukrainian strikes within Russian territory. Russia itself had warned against sending longer-range mis-

siles, with the Russian foreign ministry calling them a "red line" that would make the US "party to the conflict" in September 2022.

Kyiv, for its part, insisted that ATACMS could play a vital role in its efforts to disrupt Russian supply lines, air bases, and rail networks within occupied Ukrainian territory. The Biden administration's apparent reversal signals continued US support as Ukraine fights to make progress in a counteroffensive launched in June. The counteroffensive has made only gradual gains through vast Russian minefields and heavily entrenched Russian positions, and Kyiv says Moscow is attacking in some areas ahead of the second winter since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. The Ukrainian military said that Russia was hoping to advance as far as possible towards the town of Kupiansk in northeastern Ukraine before winter, and that fighting continued around the town of Avdiivka on the eastern front. Kyiv says its forces are holding their ground, including around Avdiivka and Kupiansk.

‘Pentagon releases footage of aircraft’

WASHINGTON (AP): The Pentagon has released footage of some of the more than 180 intercepts of US warplanes by Chinese aircraft that have occurred in the last two years - more than the total amount over the previous decade and part of a trend US military officials called concerning. The photos and video were released in advance of a soon-to-be issued annual report by the Pentagon on the China's military power and the security threats it may pose to partners in the Indo-Pacific.

The Pentagon has tried for years to posture itself to be ready for a potential conflict with China over Taiwan even as it now finds itself supporting allies in two hot wars, Ukraine in Europe and

Israel in the Middle East. Admiral John Aquilino, head of US Indo-Pacific Command, said at a Pentagon press briefing that despite the US surging carrier strike groups and amphibious ships to support Israel, and now almost 20 months of war in Ukraine, the command has what it needs to deter China. "I haven't had one piece of equipment or force structure depart" his command, he said, referring to ships, aircraft and military units. "We have been taking a number of steps to strengthen our commitment to the region, strengthen our deterrence in the region and we will continue to do that."

The officials said the Chinese flights were risky and aggressive in nature, but stopped short of calling

most of them unsafe - a specific term that is used only in the most egregious cases. Still the officials said it was important to release the footage and call out the behavior because they said it was part of a larger trend of regional intimidation by China that could accidentally lead to conflict. "All of these examples we've released today underscore the coercive intent of (China) by engaging in behaviors particularly in international airspace," said Ely Ratner, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs. "The bottom line is that in many cases, this type of operational behavior can cause active and dangerous accidents" and can lead inadvertently to conflict, Ratner said.

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Humanitarian dimension of Gaza conflict

THE humanitarian and security situation in Palestine has become dire after the Israeli rogue Army made a record of brutality killing around 3,000 people including children, through continuous bombardment and air strikes on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since October 7. According to the Palestinian health ministry, more than 12,500 Palestinians have been wounded since Israel started bombarding Gaza in retaliation for Hamas's large-scale incursion into Israel. 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 short, and a few days' stocks have been left in the markets and Bazars. Meanwhile, Israel's indiscriminate shelling and air strikes continue on civil targets including residential complexes, hospitals, markets, schools and other places being used as shelters by unarmed civilians. Israel has issued an ultimatum for more than 10 million Gazans to evacuate Southern Gaza before an impending ground attack launched by the Israeli military. An Israeli airstrike on a hospital on Tuesday killed more than 500 people including children, which amounts to no less than a war crime against innocent civilians.

Historically, the surprise attack by Hamas and brutal response by Israel have left the world aghast, as either side has used extreme measures and demonstrated resolute resistance against each other. A fresh and complex crisis has erupted in occupied Palestine, which will have wide-ranging consequences for the MENA region and the world at large. The tragedy is further compounded by fears of mass evacuation from Gaza, large-scale ground attack by Israeli troops, and safety of fleeing civilians, while a real risk of drawing regional foes into long-running conflict in the Middle East region remains all times high. Unfortunately, the UN Security Council (UNSC) whose sole task is the maintenance of global peace and security, has failed to achieve its one-point agenda, particularly in respect of the Palestine dispute. During its previous session, the 15-member body could not reach a consensus on a Russia-sponsored resolution while the forum is expected to decide on a second draft resolution shortly. A global diplomatic outreach of major nations including the United States, Russia, China, the UK, France, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran, Egypt is currently underway to control heightened hostility. A majority of nations have condemned the Hamas surprise attack, and also declared Israel's inhumane actions against innocent civilians unlawful, a violation of the Geneva Convention that amounts to warcrimes against humanity.

Amid such devastations and heart-wrenching scenarios, the Biden administration has dispatched two aircraft carriers to the Middle East while thousands of US troops have been deployed in Southern Israel to deter any potential threat against the Jewish state. Amid such high-level military mobilization and mass economic and military assistance to Israel, the Biden administration has formed an air corridor between Washington and Tel Aviv to carry out shuttle diplomacy and smooth transition of solidarity trips by top US leadership including US Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Commander CENTCOM and others. Interestingly, the Biden administration was mulling over the prospects for President Biden's visit to Israel and Jordan to offer his sincere support to the Israeli government and the public and to censure Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for his inability to control Hamas during his short trip to Amman. After Israel's brutal attack on a Hospital in Gaza, the Jordanian government has expressed its inability to welcome Biden at this point, which is a clear displeasure of Arab nations over US policies in the Middle East.

In fact, the recent Hamas-Israel conflict has exposed the fragility of the Middle East strategy of the successive US administrations including Republicans and Democrats which has been centered on expanding the Abraham Accord in favor of Israel and completely ignoring the Palestinian dimensions that caused various grievances among the Arab nations and prompted reaction from the Palestinian armed groups. Historically, the cabal of US strategists at the State Department, Pentagon and Langley along with scores of think tanks and foreign policy institutes failed to identify and comprehend genuine US interests in the Middle East and sabotaged the US diplomacy in blatant pursuit of Israel's ambitious designs in that region. Presently, the situation in Palestine is worsening rapidly and the risk of the outbreak of a large-scale multinational conflict is very high. The global community and Western nations must employ serious efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire in Gaza before it gets too late and human disaster occurs in that region.

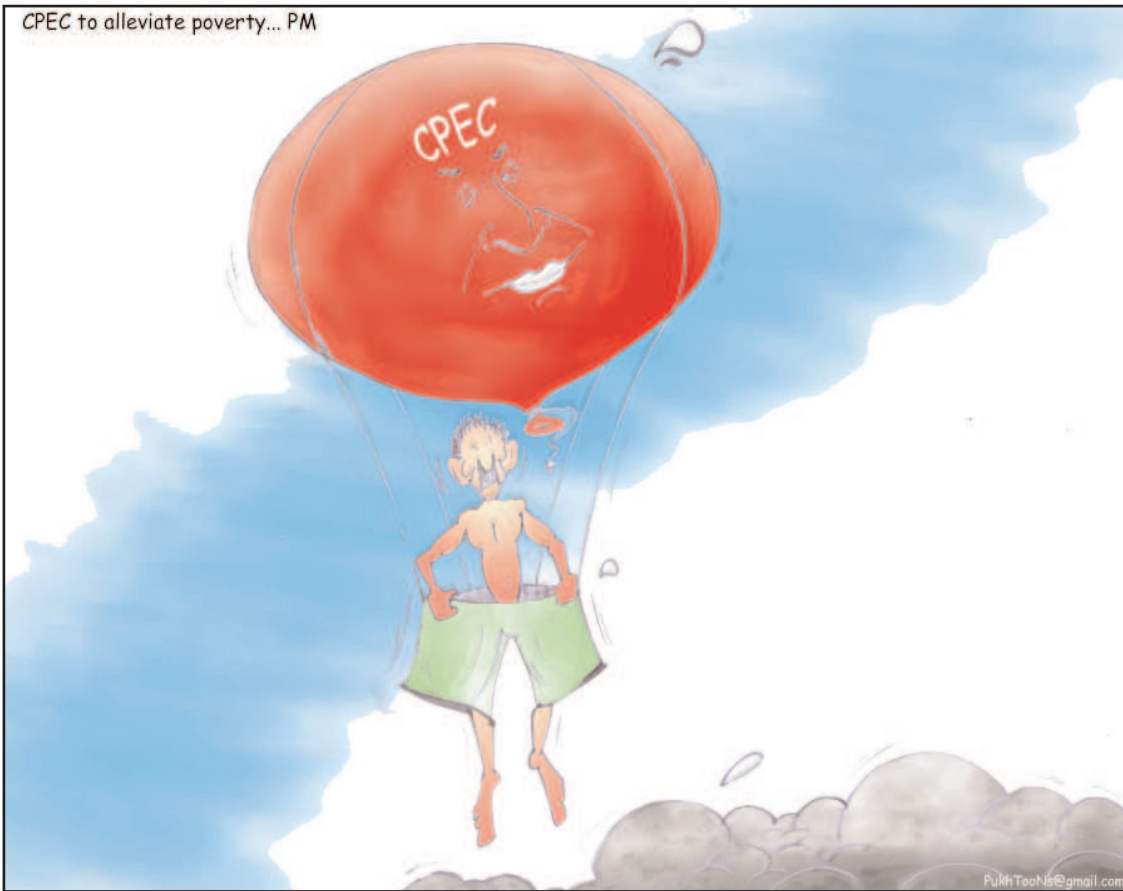
Pro-public legacy of KP govt

THE caretaker government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vowed to implement the principles of good governance with a primary focus on the welfare of the people and providing them relief during this miserable time. Following a significant decline in oil prices nationwide, the provincial government is swiftly implementing measures to pass on the benefits to the people, and efforts are being made to slash transport fares by at least 12 to 13%. The interim rulers aim at implementing this plan at the district level through local administrations and the formation of inspection committees to ensure strict adherence and effective implementation throughout the province.

Pakistan has been struck into acute economic frailty coupled with persistent political instability and ever growing global energy crisis that led to an unprecedented upsurge in the prices of petroleum products and common commodities. The headline inflation had touched to 43% in the past months due to sharp depreciation of the Pakistani rupee vis-a-vis US dollar and other foreign currencies while one litre petrol had been sold for Rs. 330 during this time. All those external fiscal and domestic management and regulatory challenges have pushed one-third of the country's middle class into poverty while making it harder for the masses to arrange three meals a day for their families. After months of hardships and miseries, there has been significant improvement in the country's economic position after US dollar nose downed against Pakistan rupee and petrol prices witnessed a sharp reduction in the past week. Unfortunately, the blessing of this positive economic outcome could not be delivered to the masses as transporters, shopkeepers, garments manufacturers and other services providers did not reduce their charges/rates despite using cheaper oil, low production cost and reduction in import price after rupee gained ground against its competitors. In fact, neither ruling elite nor bureaucrate baboos are much loyal to the public and have a sense of public service by taking action against commodity hoarders and scrubbing hard on illegal profiteers. The KP interim government took the lead in service to the nation, hopefully the center and other provinces would join the KP government in this public endeavour in the coming days.

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The mask is off: Gaza has exposed the hypocrisy of international law

Wesam Ahmad

THE mask that has long obscured the true nature and purpose of "international law", the supposed foundation of the current global order, is finally off. As Palestinian cries for help from Gaza remain unanswered, the sinister truth is now undeniably out in the open: international justice, more often than not, is used as a tool to advance imperial interests, and not justice.

This was, of course, long known by anyone who has ever examined, even superficially, the history of imperialism, from the European scramble for Africa to more recent United States interventions in Latin America, and traced how that dark past has helped shape the way the world functions at present. Sure, at first glance, international law appears to be a noble concept, promoting peace, universal application of human rights, cooperation and justice among nations. However, scratch beneath the surface, and a different narrative emerges, shaped by the ghosts of imperialism past.

Just look at how international law was eagerly used, and is still being used, to defend, heal and deliver justice to the Ukrainian people in the face of Russian aggression. Now compare that with how the same laws, norms and principles were reduced to mere footnotes and suggestions in the West's response to the ongoing Israeli assault on the Palestinians. The West, led by the United States, clearly only champions adherence to international law and the rules-based global order when it suits its agenda. So how did we get here?

For centuries, colonial expansion and exploitation, driven by a thirst for resources and geopolitical dominance, defined Western history. A handful of European states carved the world up between themselves, conquering lands, stealing resources, and brutally subjugating and enslaving peoples. Throughout this period of colonial dominance, Western states acted as if sovereignty and self-determination were their natural right and privilege and no one else's. The two world wars, which devastated European powers and sped up the deterioration of their control over most of their

colonial territories, dislodged this unjust and untenable status quo.

In the late 1940s, with European states struggling to rebuild and national independence movements in Africa and beyond gaining pace, a new rules-based international order began to take shape and concepts like human rights and right to self-determination of nations started to be codified in law. With the formation of the United Nations, and establishment of bodies like the International Court of Justice and the UN Security Council, an illusion was created that these

century, toppling democratically elected governments, arming murderous militias and propping up dictators favourable to its agenda. Not only did it never face any sanction for these actions that blatantly broke international law, ridiculed the concept of national sovereignty and violated the basic human rights of millions, as embodied in Operation Condor. The ongoing siege of Gaza under the umbrella of Operation Iron Swords, and the Western world's support for it, is the latest - and perhaps the most obvious - example of the hypocrisy at

the region. Prior to 1948, it was oil interests in the Iraq Petroleum Company spanning from Kirkuk, Iraq to Haifa, Palestine. Today it is the developing Mediterranean natural gas interests of Chevron and British Petroleum. These may not be the sole reasons, but important variables for consideration in making sense of current geopolitical positions. The parallels between historical events and contemporary actions are striking. The Palestinian Question has long served as a wrench in these imperial ambitions and now they see an opportunity to dictate their own final solution. So, now, the mask is off. The Western powers can no longer claim that "international law" is supreme, and applies equally to everyone. As they shamelessly greenlight an unlawful and inhumane assault on Gaza, they cannot stop the conscientious citizens of the globe from questioning the integrity of the international legal system and challenging the notion that it is an impartial arbiter of justice. They can no longer hide the fact that international law is a tool created to serve imperial interests - a tool that allows them to act with impunity.

The Palestinian struggle is not just a struggle against occupation, apartheid and colonialism; it is a struggle against imperialism. We need and deserve a new, just and equitable international order - one that truly upholds the principles of fairness, equality and respect for the rights of all nations, regardless of their size or geopolitical significance.

Only by acknowledging the true nature of international law, and its utter uselessness in delivering any sort of justice to people trying to resist imperial dominance, can we hope to dismantle the current global order and start building a world where justice prevails over power, and humanity triumphs over politics. It is a daunting task, but one that is essential if we are to create a future where the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of their nationality, are respected and protected - a future where international law applies to everyone and is not weaponised by powerful states against their rivals.

Aljazeera

An initial test of international law and the institutions established to preserve it, came in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company case before the International Court of Justice in early 1950s. When the results did not serve imperial interests, the US and UK initiated Operation Ajax. The US also wreaked havoc in Latin America throughout the latter half of the 20th century, toppling democratically elected governments, arming murderous militias and propping up dictators favourable to its agenda.

new set of rules applied to everyone - both the powerful Western states and their (former) colonies - equally and permanently.

While promoting the idea of national sovereignty and human rights on the surface, however, Western powers continued their habit of controlling, stealing from and exploiting other nations. They started to use this newly crafted "rules-based" order to covertly further their colonial policies and hinder similar efforts by their rivals. An initial test of international law and the institutions established to preserve it, came in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company case before the International Court of Justice in early 1950s. When the results did not serve imperial interests, the US and UK initiated Operation Ajax. The US also wreaked havoc in Latin America throughout the latter half of the 20th

the core of international law.

Israel, which has been illegally occupying Palestinian land and subjecting Palestinians to apartheid for decades, is now keeping over two million Palestinians, half of them children, under total blockade in Gaza, and indiscriminately bombing them. In the face of such blatant violations of international law, and the declared intent to commit many more, how did the Western leaders of the international community, the self-assigned defenders of human rights across the world, respond?

They announced their unwavering support for Israel. Why is this? The strategic location of the region, rich in oil and gas reserves, has always served as a magnet, attracting the attention of those who seek to secure their energy interests, and historically influenced Western policies in

Core values and realities in the new war

Kerry Boyd Anderson

FOR anyone who cares about Israelis and Palestinians, the last week has been heart-breaking. The suffering of so many people, especially children, is devastating. Furthermore, such moments often highlight and exacerbate the worst in human nature, as so many people - including political leaders and media commentators - retrench into group mentality and respond by oversimplifying and dehumanizing the "enemy."

Humans are "groupish," as social psychologist Jonathan Haidt says. We have a strong tendency to identify with our group, especially when our group is attacked, and to collectively brand everyone in the other group as hostile and responsible for our group's pain. The Oct. 7 attack by Hamas and other militant groups stemmed from their belief that all Israelis are responsible for the repression of Palestinians; Hamas justifies murdering civilians, taking hostages and committing atrocities by arguing that all Israelis are culpable for Palestinians' suffering. Several Israeli leaders have, in turn, suggested that all Palestinians in Gaza bear responsibility for Hamas' attack; with this logic, they justify the widespread killing of civilians in Gaza. This cycle of collective blame and dehumanization will only feed more violence.

In the face of such extreme violence, it is difficult to maintain our humanity and core values. How can one blame a parent who has lost a child, for example, for raging at all people on the other "side"? That is exactly why political and military leaders and media figures must take on the responsibility of upholding core values at times of intense anger and hurt. In all conflicts, two key principles should drive policy, reporting and discussion. First, all lives matter, regardless of nationality, religion, race, ethnicity and so forth. In this case, Israeli and Palestinian lives all matter. Second, targeting civilians is always wrong. Decades of repression and occupation do not justify targeting civilians. Responding to a horrific attack does not justify targeting civilians. The Hamas attack included the intentional murder of Israeli civilians and the taking of Israeli civilians, including children, hostage. This must be condemned. Israeli attacks that target Palestinian civilians must equally be condemned. A corollary to this principle is that operations against military targets must take genuine steps to limit collateral damage to civilians.

When it comes to the specific Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the war today, leaders and media figures also should recognize three essential realities. First, two peoples - Israelis and Palestinians - want the same land. Both believe that they have a legitimate claim to the same

land. Second, neither Palestinians nor Israelis are going anywhere. In a speech last week, US President Joe Biden told a story about meeting Golda Meir, who was then the prime minister of Israel, in 1973. Biden said she told him that Israelis "have no place else to go." Indeed, after surviving genocide in Europe, establishing the state of Israel and living in it for decades, Jewish Israelis have developed a unique identity and are not going to return en masse to Europe or the many other places from whence they or their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents came.

Similarly, Palestinians have nowhere else to go. Some Israelis still try to argue that "Palestinian" is not a real identity, but this is a ludicrous view. Palestinians are not just "Arab," capable of moving to Egypt or any other Arab country with relative ease. Their families and communities have roots in the land that go back many generations. Furthermore, after decades of conflict, Palestinians have developed a distinct identity based on shared trauma and common experiences as a stateless people. The Palestinians of Gaza have nowhere else to go. More than half of them are already refugees from previous wars and have no interest in becoming refugees again, despite the hellish experience of living in Gaza. Even those who might choose to leave cannot do so.

Calls from Israeli authorities for Palestinian civilians to leave Gaza were disingenuous, as Israel will not allow them to cross into Israel and it knows that Egypt will not allow thousands or millions of people to flow into its territory. As if to prove the point, Israel bombed the Rafah crossing into Egypt. Furthermore, telling more than 1 million people to evacuate through a war zone in one of the world's most densely populated areas is hardly a form of responsible protection of civilians. Third, there is a fundamental imbalance of power in this conflict. Israel is by far the more powerful player, in terms of military and economic might. That is no excuse for the extreme brutality of Hamas' attack. Rather, the power imbalance is a reality that foreign powers must acknowledge in order to support any viable peace.

The Oct. 7 attack launched a new phase in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and it will be extremely bloody. The current war reminds the world that the conflict has not been resolved, despite many efforts to sweep it under the rug. Leaders in Washington, Europe, Arab states and elsewhere who want such suffering and instability to end must start by acknowledging the humanity of Palestinians and Israelis and, crucially, accepting that neither is going anywhere. The only path to peace is to find a way for Israelis and Palestinians to live in the same land with equal rights, safety and hope for the future.

Arab News

How can Palestinians get on the road to freedom?

Daoud Kuttab

FOR years, I have asked Israelis that I have engaged with if they could give me a credible and effective way that Palestinians could achieve freedom from the foreign occupation they are living under. No one has ever been able to articulate a process or methodology that could credibly produce the desired goals, while many ineffective and disproven ideas were regularly thrown into the discussion.

The simple question remains, haunting all of us: Can anyone give the Palestinians a solid, credible way to bring about the end of the 75-year refugee crisis, the 56-year occupation of the West Bank, and the 16 years of the siege of Gaza?

Palestinians were told to recognize Israel and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and that would be the road to freedom. Palestinians did exactly that in 1993. Result: The number of illegal Jewish settlements and settlers has more than

tripled and Palestinian liberation is even further away now than it was before.

Some argued that the road to liberation was through nonviolence. Palestinian non-violent activist Mubarak Awad preached that idea, and he was deported by Israel. The effort to apply nonviolent boycotts within the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, inspired by the South African model, was delegitimized as antisemitic. Tens of laws were passed in US states, while national legislation is being studied in the UK, punishing citizens for supporting the boycott of a country - Israel - that is violating international law.

Israelis said that the Palestinians must have a democracy for Israel to allow the existence of a neighboring independent country, although this was never a condition on either Egypt or Jordan. Free and fair Palestinian elections (supervised by the Carter Center and others) were held a few

times until Hamas supporters won, and then the very same countries that pushed for elections and democracy privately advised President Mahmoud Abbas against it for fears that the moderates would lose. Politically, Palestinians were told Palestine would be free if they put aside armed resistance and cooperated on security with Israel. Again, this was carried out totally to the satisfaction of Israeli security officials despite public opposition. Result: Abbas was seen as weak and unable to protect his own people from settler violence and even pogroms. And instead of politically engaging with Ramallah and the Abbas leadership, Israel paid more attention to appeasing Hamas.

International legal experts told Palestinians that the International Criminal Court was the best channel. That also was tried. War crimes, especially the ongoing illegal settlements and the well-doc-

umented case of the killing of an American-Palestinian journalist, were presented to the ICC. But despite their importance and meticulous research and documentation, these charges are collecting dust in The Hague while the more recent Russian war crime allegations are given top priority.

Hamas' operation against Israel on Oct. 7 was carried out on the basis of the internationally sanctioned right of people to resist. Sure, there were atrocities committed by Hamas and others, including by some Palestinians in Gaza who have been cooped up like animals for 16 years. When they suddenly saw the fence down and the roads open, with Israeli soldiers not around, some went on a rampage, killing and looting. Over the years, Israel has continued this unauthorized siege on Gaza, of which the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has called "an

open prison." Did Hamas members who broke out of the siege carry out war crimes? Possibly. Did their leadership publicly condone it? No. But now the Israeli government - a member of the UN - is not only committing war crimes, but its officials are also publicly saying that they are denying food, water and electricity to 2.2 million Palestinian civilians, most of whom are not members of Hamas.

Palestinians were always told that the balance of forces is tilted against them, that even their Arab brothers and sisters are abandoning them, and therefore they should take whatever bread crumbs Donald Trump or Benjamin Netanyahu offer. Over the years, the one possible compromise that both Israelis and Palestinians appeared to be able to live with was the often-repeated two-state solution. While the idea of an independent state on June 4, 1967, borders is a possible solution, there has been little political effort to make this a

reality. The world has recognized one side of the two-state solution, i.e., Israel, since 1948, but most Western countries (apart from Sweden) have refused to recognize the state of Palestine, despite 138 out of 193 UN member states having done so. Even the offer by Palestinians at the UN of the need to recognize Palestine as a state under occupation has been rebuffed with the threat of a US veto in the Security Council.

The current onslaught on Gaza must stop immediately and lives must be saved. Once a ceasefire is declared and enforced, the one question mentioned earlier remains valid and must be asked to Israelis and the international community, including US President Joe Biden. If there is global consensus on the two-state solution, what is now needed is a roadmap to bring about the end of decades of carnage and allow the peoples of the area to live in peace.

Europe seeks peace, not war. But will it be ready if war comes to Europe?

IN 2003, the philosophers Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida published a joint article in Germany's and France's leading newspapers. In it, they criticised the American invasion of Iraq and called on Europeans to "assume a reflexive distance from themselves", in particular their imperialism and colonialism.

The pair's criticism of George W Bush's imperialism was justified; and their suggestion that Europe could lead the world towards a post-imperial future was a nice idea. Today, however, confronted with Russia's genocidal invasion of Ukraine, the question is whether such a post-imperial world can be achieved through the means that the two philosophers proposed. The Europe they imagined was a Europe of dialogue, of conversation and the embrace of differences. This is, certainly, a dignified idea. The problem is that it is powerless when one is faced with evil.

Europe's conception of itself after the second world war focused on the self-evidence of peace. It asked how peace could be enlarged territorially, but not how peace should be defended. It was attracted to the idea of removing borders for the circulation of the good (as a moral concept, as well as goods as an economic concept), but not how to strengthen borders against evil. It relativised the question of evil, thinking that all evil could be reintegrated simply by the attractiveness of the good. This formed Europe's (primarily Germany's and France's) long-lasting affair with Russia. In this relationship, Europe took Goethe's Faust literally by testing the idea that one can make a deal with the devil. But it forgot how the story ends. There are two ethical systems on which Europe has been built, two ways of determining attitudes towards others.

One is the ethics exchange, of the agora. In the agora (market-place in ancient Greece), we give away something to get more than we had. We exchange goods, objects, ideas, stories and experiences. The agora is a positive-sum game: everyone wins, even though some try to win more than others. The other ethical system is that of agon. Agon is a battlefield. We enter agon not to exchange, but to fight. We dream of winning but are also prepared to lose - including to

Volodymyr Yermolenko

lose ourselves, even in the literal sense of dying for a great cause. This is not the logic of a positive-sum game; there can be no "win-win", because one of the sides will certainly lose.

Europe has built itself as a combination of agora and agon. It bears the image of both the knight and the bourgeois. Europe's cultural legacy is unthinkable without the ethics of agon: whether it is

chance to talk enough to each other. If the agora logic is applied universally and infinitely, we would lose a sense of where to stop in our passion for exchange. We cannot and should not talk to a killer at the moment he is about to kill us; and we cannot and should not "exchange" the lives of our loved ones or fellow citizens for something else.

Truth and justice thus emerge as

Here, exchange and dialogue are the answers to all questions. War and conflict are considered consequences of human insanity and the only reason people fight is that they did not have the chance to talk enough to each other. If the agora logic is applied universally and infinitely, we would lose a sense of where to stop in our passion for exchange. We cannot and should not talk to a killer at the moment he is about to kill us; and we cannot and should not "exchange" the lives of our loved ones or fellow citizens for something else. Truth and justice thus emerge as a balance between our readiness to exchange and our understanding that some things are unexchangeable and irreplaceable. For example, human lives.

medieval novels with their cult of chivalry and loyalty, or early modern dramas whose characters stand to die for their principles and passions. But Europe is also unthinkable without the culture of the agora, of conversation, compromise, of softness, of Voltairean meurs douces. Both these ethical systems contain profound human values. But taken to their extremes, they are dangerous and need to be balanced by the other.

The ethics of the agon teach us to see all humans as potential adversaries, and to consider all interaction as a latent fight. This can lead to war of all against all. Radical agora ethics, on the contrary, absolutise exchange and compromise. Here, exchange and dialogue are the answers to all questions. War and conflict are considered consequences of human insanity and the only reason people fight is that they did not have the

a balance between our readiness to exchange and our understanding that some things are unexchangeable and irreplaceable. For example, human lives. Despite their philosophical disagreements, Habermas and Derrida shared something important. This was the idea that agora should replace agon, and consign it to oblivion.

The problem they failed to see is that agora is impossible without agon. You cannot have infinite dialogue inside a city-state unless you build a fortress protecting your city against would-be destroyers. The Europe of Habermas and Derrida was built on the naive belief that all enemies were gone and security was no longer anything to worry about. They chose to ignore the possibility that our enemies would only leave after they had killed our kids. The hypocrisy inherent in the conception of Europe as a continent of "eternal peace" and "infi-

nite agora" is that it has only been made possible under the security umbrella of Nato. While Europe was building welfare states, the US was building a security framework, providing the conditions under which Europe could continue to be a social paradise. The US was not from Mars, and Europe from Venus, as Robert Kagan believed; the US just filled the gap of agon (ie the walls of defence) that Europe had left, believing too much in the self-evidence of peace and the self-reproduction of agoras. If our goal is to build a more just post-imperialist world, it is important to point to the parallels between the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008, Ukraine in 2014, Syria in 2015 and Ukraine again in 2022. Yet there is a crucial difference.

The war in 2003 was the result of a democracy cheating itself, hiding its imperialism behind an alluring democratic rhetoric. It was partially caused by the fact that the "western" world still felt strong, so strong that it thought it could risk doing whatever it wanted - a direct path to tyranny. The events of 2003 were the result of an anachronistic self-confidence - born of the idea of "the end of history" - not knowing how to react to the shock of 9/11. Twenty years on, we are living in a different reality. Democracy is no longer turning into an empire; it is being attacked by empire. This empire and its authoritarian allies see that democracies are weak and unprotected. That they have lost the spirit of agon. That they mock the knightly culture of the past. And that they can therefore be attacked and eventually destroyed. The ongoing Russian war on Ukraine is an attack on Europe. Russia is at war with Europe. It is time to accept this fact fully and draw all the necessary conclusions. The agora is not enough. There are times when to defend it you need to revive the agora as an element of your identity. It's not because you want war. It's because sometimes war comes to you. In order to defend your peace, you must become a warrior - or at least align with the warrior as much as you can. Sometimes it is not enough to avoid evil. Sometimes you need to confront it, face to face.

The Guardian

Suffering in Gaza is a stain on world's conscience

Ashok Swain

THE Gaza Strip, home to 2.3 million civilians, is currently facing a dire situation due to the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. This conflict, marked by relentless air strikes, ground operations, and a total blockade, has led to significant loss of life and a deepening humanitarian crisis. The international community must prioritise efforts to bring an immediate ceasefire and finding ways about lasting peace in the Middle East, with a focus on ending the cycle of violence in Gaza and addressing the dire humanitarian situation.

Since hostilities began on Oct. 7, the Gaza Strip has witnessed a devastating toll on its civilian population. The use of white phosphorus munitions, considered a violation of international humanitarian law by experts, further compounds the suffering of the already beleaguered population. Gaza, with nearly half of its residents under 18 years old, has endured severe restrictions and blockades for years, leading to extreme suffering. The closure of the Rafah crossing to Egypt following the escalation of the ongoing war has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Adding to the crisis, Israel has ordered over a million people in northern Gaza to evacuate and move to the south. Despite the evacuation order, it is almost impossible for older persons, pregnant women, children, and persons with disabilities to flee from the area. As described by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Israel's evacuation orders for hospitals in northern Gaza amount to a death sentence for the sick and injured. Due to the blockade and relentless bombings, Gaza is facing a lack of clean drinking water, electricity, severe shortages of food and medicine, and more than half a million people have already been displaced. Despite the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the narrative surrounding the conflict is deeply concerning.

Western leaders have

shown strong support for Israel and its military operations, citing Israel's "right to defend itself," while largely omitting mention of the suffering in Gaza. As Martin Griffiths, Chief of the UN's Relief Agency, aptly describes, "The past week has been a test for humanity, and humanity is failing." Even in times of war, there are rules and regulations that must be followed. The international community must uphold human rights and international law and recognise the suffering of Palestinians through collective punishment. Palestinians in Gaza have endured decades of suffering, with the blockade in place since 2007 constituting a violation of international law. They face constant confinement, surveillance, and punishment, including the imprisonment of children in solitary confinement. The Gaza Strip has experienced five major wars up to Oct. 7, 2023, with nearly 80 per cent of its population relying on humanitarian assistance. More than two million people live in abject poverty, with nearly 80 per cent of the youth facing unemployment. Last year, international agencies appealed for funds to provide essential services like food, water, sanitation, and health care in Gaza, but only 25 per cent of the funding was received. The ongoing carpet bombing and mass evacuation orders from Gaza City have exacerbated the humanitarian catastrophe for more than two million people.

The escalation of the conflict in Gaza and the lack of any significant effort to achieve a ceasefire have the potential to further destabilise the region. The suffering in Gaza has become a symbol of Palestinian hardship, fuelling anger and frustration across the Middle East and beyond. Millions of Palestinians in Gaza are now facing death while trapped in a cycle of poverty, unemployment, and despair. The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza not only has regional implications but also threatens

global peace and security. The international community, including key regional and global players, must work to achieve an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and renew their efforts to facilitate dialogue and negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. The Middle East peace process remains a crucial platform for diplomacy, but it requires renewed commitment and creativity. International mediation efforts should focus on addressing the root causes of the conflict, including the status of Jerusalem, borders, security, refugees, and the future of settlements.

A two-state solution that ensures security and self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians remains a viable path to peace. Moreover, humanitarian organisations and donor countries should step up their efforts to provide much-needed aid and support to Palestinian population. The global community must unite behind initiatives aimed at ending the war and then rebuilding Gaza's infrastructure, revitalising its economy, and improving living conditions for its residents. The ongoing war is a humanitarian disaster with far-reaching implications. The interconnectedness of regional conflicts, the potential for wider destabilisation, and the humanitarian impact demand urgent international attention and action. It is incumbent upon the international community to prioritise efforts to halt the war as quickly as possible and bring about lasting peace in the Middle East. The suffering in Gaza is not just a tragedy for its people; it is a stain on the conscience of the world.

The time has come to redouble the international community's efforts to end this cycle of violence and despair. Only through sustained diplomatic engagement, international cooperation, and a commitment to justice and human rights can the world hope to bring about lasting peace and stability in this troubled land. Palestinians deserve nothing less.

Gulf News

BRI pioneers green infrastructure in Africa

Alpha Mohamed Jalloh

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative is a vast, ambitious infrastructure and economic development project spanning across continents. As for China-Africa Belt and Road cooperation, one of its most significant and promising facets is its emphasis on green infrastructure projects, renewable energy development, and ecological conservation measures. At a time when the world is grappling with environmental challenges, Sino-African Belt and Road cooperation represents a beacon of hope for sustainable development in Africa.

If we delve into the key aspects of this cooperation, we can see its potential benefits, as well as some other aspects, which need to be further improved. Green infrastructure is an essential component of the China-Africa Belt and Road partnership, and focuses on projects that prioritize environmental sustainability. These projects encompass a wide range of initiatives, from transportation networks to urban development.

In improving transportation and connectivity, China has played a pivotal role in helping build modern transportation infrastructure in Africa. Roads, railways and ports are being developed with an emphasis on minimizing the environmental impacts. For example, the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya, built with Chinese collaboration, uses electric locomotives, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In terms of urban planning, African cities are experiencing rapid growth. However, sustainable urban plan-

ning is essential to preventing environmental degradation. The Belt and Road Initiative encourages the development of eco-friendly cities with efficient public transportation, green spaces and waste management systems.

Access to reliable and clean energy is crucial, too, for Africa's development. That's why the Belt and Road Initiative promotes renewable energy projects as a sustainable solution to Africa's energy problems. To be sure, solar power projects have been the focal point of China-Africa cooperation. China has invested in large-scale solar farms across Africa, including the Benban Solar Park in Egypt, which has one of the world's largest solar photovoltaic panel installations. These projects not only provide clean energy but also create job opportunities.

On the other hand, hydropower projects such as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam are being developed with Chinese investment. And although these projects may have triggered controversy because of the West's indiscriminate dissemination of misguided information, they have had a positive impact on society and the environment. The projects also promise substantial clean energy generation, potentially benefiting multiple African nations. Wind energy is another area where Sino-African cooperation is flourishing. For instance, the Lake Turkana wind power project in Kenya, supported by Chinese investment, contributes significantly to the country's renewable

energy capacity.

And while the ecological conservation measures taken under the framework of China-Africa Belt and Road cooperation are aimed at safeguarding Africa's unique biodiversity and natural resources, preservation of wildlife is especially important. Since poaching and habitat loss threaten Africa's iconic wildlife, joint efforts are underway to combat them by strengthening law enforcement, and better protecting the wildlife habitats, with community engagement if and when possible and necessary. Addressing the rising concerns about desertification in many African countries, the Belt and Road Initiative has launched programs to promote reforestation and afforestation projects, so as to mitigate the adverse effects of deforestation on climate, soil erosion and local livelihoods.

Besides, sustainable management of water resources is crucial in arid regions of Africa. As such, the Belt and Road Initiative supports projects that improve access to, and storage and distribution of, water, while minimizing waste. So what are the benefits of China-Africa Belt and Road Cooperation in broad terms? By focusing on green infrastructure and renewable energy, the partnership promotes sustainable development in Africa, reducing the continent's carbon footprint and dependency on fossil fuels, while the development of such projects creates employment for local communities, fostering economic growth and reducing poverty.

Similarly, renewable energy projects help improve access to electricity in remote, less-developed and underserved areas, having a positive impact on education, healthcare and overall quality of life. Moreover, the measures aimed at conserving biodiversity help better protect Africa's rich biodiversity, preserving the continent's natural heritage for future generations.

But while China-Africa Belt and Road cooperation has immense potential, it can also make more careful planning and mitigation strategies to better protect ecosystems and communities. It is equally important to make sure that local communities benefit from and have a say in Belt and Road projects, in order to get their acceptance and ensure their success. Furthermore, since the involvement of multiple international players in development plans and projects in Africa can lead to geopolitical tensions, diplomatic efforts are required to manage to address them.

In conclusion, China-Africa Belt and Road cooperation, with its emphasis on green infrastructure, renewable energy development, and ecological conservation, represents a paradigm shift in international development. It offers a unique opportunity for African countries to leapfrog into sustainable, environmentally friendly development while addressing crucial challenges such as access to energy and biodiversity conservation. Ultimately, the partnership holds the potential to be a beacon of sustainable development and cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world.

Ukraine's new American missiles may have devastated the Russian airforce

Hamish De Bretton-Gordon

WHILE the world focuses on Gaza, and Putin visits his allies in China, we may be missing one of the most significant developments in the nearly two years of war in Ukraine. Some weeks ago, the US Government confirmed that long-range precision artillery - the "Army Tactical Missile System", or ATACMS - would be making its way to Ukraine's armed forces.

Reports are now coming in of what appears to be a significant Ukrainian strike deep into occupied territory. Russian military bloggers are gloomily reporting that "one of the most serious blows of all time" has been dealt to the country's air-force. If the strike - and the use of ATACMS - is confirmed, it will be a major development. The airfields that have reportedly been targeted are deep behind the front-line, supposedly safe from attack. But the ATACMS system can strike targets with pin-

point accuracy at a range of up to 300kms. Not so safe after all. We've already seen the havoc wreaked by the British Storm Shadow precision missile. Its range of 180kms has made the Black Sea fleet all but irrelevant, as it has had to scuttle back to ports deep in Russia. ATACMS now means that Russia will have to move its key air assets far back from the front lines. Its attack helicopters, which have done so much damage to the Ukrainian armoured forces, may now be out of range entirely.

Likewise, command posts will have to move so far back from the front-lines that they may become entirely ineffective in controlling the close battle. If the untrained, poorly armed and underfed conscripts in the trenches felt isolated before, their leaders will now be so far away that - to use the British army adage for absent commanders - they will have to send their

washing forward. Soldiers without leaders are rabbles, and these Russian rabbles don't even want to fight. Without their leaders forcing them at gun point, they may not - particularly if they don't have air cover and artillery support. It won't just be helicopters and jets receiving gifts this Christmas courtesy of ATACMS.

Russian artillery and its precision guided missile systems may all now be in range. If the flow of battlefield intelligence from the US, UK and Nato continues, we can expect a long string of successful attacks on high value Russian targets. This won't just be a morale boost for the Ukrainian military. It could well take the brakes off the counter-offensive. If the Ukrainian tanks don't have to worry about attacks from the air, they can push on with greater urgency, break through the remaining Russian lines, and steam into Crimea.

As Putin schmoozes with President Xi, and makes himself out as the "honest" broker in the Middle East, he may find that he needs to focus instead on saving his own skin. There have been many claims of "game-changers" in this most dreadful and unnecessary conflict, and of course no single piece of military hardware ever is.

But the sum of the parts can change the game, and ATACMS is a very large and important piece in this nearly finished tactical jigsaw. Without air superiority, Russian forces will be unable to manoeuvre, and without effective artillery they will be unable to continue to slow the advance of the Ukrainian tank formations. It may well be now that the "silver bullet" - the arrival of F-16 fighter jets - may not be required to defeat the Russian hordes, but instead to keep them on the Russian side of the border where they belong.

The Telegraph

Western nations are sick and tired of woke racism

Helen Dale

IT'S difficult to spoil an Australian election. And by spoil, I don't mean "undermine its fairness". I mean its public appearance and role in the country's civic life. Voting in in all elections - including referendums - is compulsory. Australians vote a lot and are an unusually well-informed electorate. Elections, always held on a Saturday, are beautiful, carnivalesque celebrations of democracy. Australians stream out of their houses and workplaces, buy snacks (including the famous "democracy sausage") and drinks at polling places, collect glossy how-to-vote cards - advisory only - from booth-workers who stand outside and represent different political parties, and then vote in a spirit of general bonhomie.

Saturday's referendum on whether "to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice" came the closest I've seen to compromising that distinctive and rather lovely tradition. No-one chatted in the long line outside Australia House on the Strand as I queued up to vote, while friends voting in Oz complained the atmosphere at their local polling place was grim. "I want this to be over," said one. "It's ruining race-relations in this country." That said, given this was the first time Australia's extraordinary electoral arrangements had been put to the test over a divisive, culture war issue, the system itself passed with flying colours. By way of background, it's important to remember how the country protected itself from bad behaviour during 2017's same-sex marriage plebiscite. Peter Dutton (now leader of the opposition, but then a government minister) arranged for the gay marriage poll to be conducted entirely remotely, by post. Long before Covid, Australians were doing things from home. At the time I was annoyed at his lack of faith in the electorate, and I'm pleased to report there were no - so far as I'm aware, we're all still in the

fog of electoral fallout - punch-ups at polling places over the Voice.

The process, however, has left the country bitterly divided. Australia is a proud constitutional bowerbird. A Westminster system with a bicameral parliament, yes, but the country also enshrines a federalism so intense it shocks many Americans. Australia also - when developing its constitutional arrangements in the late 19th century - copied the Swiss in changing its founding document. Section 128 provides that the Constitution can only be amended by referendum. It also requires a "double majority": a majority of the total population plus a majority in at least four of the six states. The two territories also vote, but their ballots only go towards the national total.

Saturday's proposed amendment to the Constitution would have added the following Chapter and section: "Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia: (1) there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice; (2) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; (3) the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."

When first proposed in September last year, support for the Voice polled between 60 and 70 per cent. Labor PM Anthony Albanese thought he was onto a winner. However, as time passed, support drained away, cratering on Saturday to below 40 per cent. Some of this was Albanese's (and Labor's)

fault: they took control of the campaign and micromanaged it to suit themselves, most notably by abandoning any idea of a constitutional convention or bipartisan parliamentary process. Labor also refused to disclose the architecture for the voice: that is, set out how it would function post-referendum. As public support drained away, the Yes campaign began to reek of condescension. It seemed to believe anyone not convinced was a cretin. Since the result on Saturday evening, this petulance has become worse: there's talk of disinformation, forgetting that by the end of the campaign, Yes were condemning every argument against the Voice not merely as wrong but as deliberate duplicity. However, the bulk of the failure has roots in the fact that the Voice - if passed into law - looked like awarding a group of people political rights based on their race. Aware that this was No's strongest argument, Yes tried to rebut it by pointing out that there is only one human race, which means distinctions based on race can't exist. The distinction, Yes claimed, is one only of ancestry, and refers to "inherent rights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold as the original inhabitants of the Australian continent."

Lawyers call this sort of argument "trivially true". Biological race does not exist among humans. We are not genetically distinct enough. Chimpanzees possess biological race (biologists use the term "sub-species"). It also led to a situation where people who voted against a proposed law intended to distinguish between groups of Australians based on ancestry and cultural practice were accused of racism. I'm afraid those who support race-based policies designed to ameliorate "structural disadvantage" or "inequity" - of which the Voice is one - need to understand that to most people, they just look like more racism. Meanwhile, as Chief Justice John Roberts of the US Supreme Court has noted, "the way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race."



ICCI calls for focusing on export of manpower

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday urged the government to make strong efforts to explore new markets for increasing the export of manpower across the globe. They said it would help improve the foreign exchange and the overall economy as the remittances of the Overseas Pakistanis are the backbone of the national economy.

The remittance accounts for more than the total exports of goods and services annually and contributes significantly to improving the country's foreign reserves.

Faad Waheed, Acting President, while talking to Muhammad Jawad Sohrab

Malik, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development said that Pakistan is the 5th largest country of the world in terms of population with a large pool of human resources.

He urged the government to equip its manpower with the latest skills and knowledge to improve their prospects of their export to potential markets.

He said that Bangladesh has exported over 1100,000 workers during the year ending June 2023, but Pakistan's export of manpower during the 11 months of the outgoing fiscal year remained just around 372000, which is not an impressive figure.

He said that many countries in the Middle East, Europe, South East Asia are in high demand of skilled labor and the government should provide the demand-driven skills to its workforce that would increase their export and strengthen the economy.

Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development said that the government is determined to harness the potential of a substantial Pakistani workforce to realize the goal of fast economic revival.

He said that during a recent meeting with the Saudi Ambassador, he proposed the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia to employ a substantial number of Pakistani workers to contribute to the Saudi Vision 2030.

He said that Pakistan has the ability to export one million workers every year to various potential markets and all possible efforts are being made to realize this goal to strengthen the economy.

Asad Hafeez Kiyani Chairman, Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi Vice Chairman and Faheem Iqbal Chaudhry former Senior Vice Chairman, of the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association, also spoke on the occasion and shared useful ideas to explore the possibilities for creating new employment opportunities for Pakistanis around the world. They assured of their full cooperation with the government in achieving this goal.

100-index of PSX loses 99 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday shed 99.53 points, a negative change of 0.20 per cent, closing at 49,431.48 points against 49,531.01 points the previous day.

A total of 332,606,956 shares valuing Rs 8.824 billion were traded during the day as compared to 368,340,627 shares valuing Rs 10.404 billion the previous day.

As many as 347 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 141 of them recorded gains and 185 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 21 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Pak Refinery with 75,718,044 shares at Rs 16.87 per share, K-Electric Ltd with 37,461,346 shares at Rs 3.08 per share and Pak Int. Bulk with 23,634,000 shares at Rs 4.67 per share.

Bhanero Tex XD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 36.50 per share price, closing at Rs 959.00, whereas the runner-up was Premium Tex XD with a Rs 26.85 rise in its per share price to Rs 404.85.

Mehmood Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 37.50 per share closing at Rs 462.50, followed by Nestle Pakistan with a Rs 12.41 decline to close at Rs 7,300.00.

Rupee sheds Rs3.25 against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed Rs 3.25 devaluation against the US Dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs 280.28 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.03.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280 and Rs 282 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.47 to close at Rs 296.48 against the last day's closing of Rs 292.01, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen gained 02 paisa to close at Rs 1.87, whereas an increase of Rs 4.81 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 341.93 as compared to the last closing of Rs 337.12.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal surged by 88 and 87 paisa to close at Rs 76.30 and Rs 74.72 respectively.

contributions to the insurance industry and his remarkable leadership qualities.

Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) bestows the Lifetime Achievement Award to individuals who have made extraordinary and long-lasting contributions to the advancement of the insurance sector in

Pakistan. The recognition of Mr. Hasanali Abdullah's accomplishments further strengthens EFU General's position as a leader in the industry and serves as an inspiration to the entire insurance community, motivating them to strive for excellence and make a meaningful impact in their respective roles.

Gold rates up by Rs.6,400 to Rs.206,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.6,400 and was sold at Rs.206,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.200,100 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased



FAISALABAD: Vendors displaying coal to attract customers at their workplace as demand increased during winter season.

Kashif for alliance among all chambers

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar said on Wednesday that collaboration among all chambers of commerce and industry would be highly beneficial for business communities, enabling them to explore new trade and investment opportunities.

He was talking to a delegation of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) that visited Lahore Chamber, where LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Acting President of SCCI Mian Umair Ali and Vice President Muhammad Irfan also spoke on the occasion.

The LCCI President informed the delegation that Lahore chamber has completed 100 years of its existence and he is the 100th President. "I have declared my two-year tenure as Business Compliance and Facilitation

years."

Kashif Anwar emphasized that collaboration between all the chambers would be highly beneficial for business communities, enabling them to explore new trade and investment opportunities.

He added that imports are closed because of L/C (Letter of Credit) issues that must be resolved.

He also called for bringing down the policy rate.

Kashif Anwar said that measures to control smog and environment should be taken in consultation with the stakeholders, adding that LCCI is organizing seminars and awareness sessions for its members in this regard.

He said that several help desks of federal and provincial departments are working under one-window smart services in the premises of Lahore Chamber. All business details are now available on FBR portal so

tax returns should be filed carefully.

President Sahiwal Chamber Mian Umair Ali praised the harmony between LCCI and SCCI, asserting that it would further bolster inter-chambers interactions.

He said that facilities should be different for the taxpayers and non-tax payers. He also pointed out that industrial land is expensive, suggesting that chambers should be allowed to buy land and establish industrial zones that would bring down the land cost besides generating job opportunities.

He invited LCCI President to visit SCCI along with a delegation and said that the members of SCCI need to learn from LCCI's experience and urged the LCCI to invite them in every significant event which will take place in LCCI.

Later, the delegation visited LCCI one-window operation.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The movements of ships was reported at the port where five ships namely, Maersk Santosa, MSC Maria Elena, Sea Treasure, Chem Harvest and Al-Deebal scheduled to load/offload Containers, Furnace oil, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Gas Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Neutron Gas carrier 'Al-Zubarah' left the port on today morning, while four more ships, Maersk Santosa, MSC Maria Elena, Cap Andreas and Xin An Ping are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 193,448 tonnes, comprising 131,346 tonnes imports cargo and 62,102 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 5,066 Containers (3,477 TEUs Imports and 1,589 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 Santosa & two more ships, MSC Maria Elena and Al-Deebal Carrying Palm oil, Furnace oil, Containers and LNG are expected to take berths at LCT, FOTCO, QICT and GPGCL respectively on Wednesday, while two more Container ships, Navios Constellation and Navios Lapis are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Thursday.

Benchmark interbank gold prices higher

BEIJING (APP): China's benchmark prices for spot interbank gold transactions were higher Wednesday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System.

The benchmark price for gold that is 99.95 percent pure or above stood at 462.60 yuan (64.43 US dollars) per gram, up 0.86 yuan from the previous trading day, while the price for gold that is 99.99 percent pure or above gained 2.37 yuan to 462.61 yuan per gram.

Spot transaction prices on the interbank price inquiry market are allowed to rise or fall within 15 percent from the benchmark prices each trading day.

Court Notice

In the Court of Tazeen Wisal Civil Judge VII /Judicial Magistrate/Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No 16/12/2) Institution 4/2/2021. Date of hearing, 23/10/2023. Mst Parveen Hamed VS Sultan ul Mulk Khan etc. Notice no 48/4, Zaref s/o Shahasan resident of Elai tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will /shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 23/10/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

ICMA Pakistan celebrates Global Ethics Day 2023



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Global Ethics Day 2023 was celebrated nationwide on all campuses of ICMA on Wednesday, 18th October. Global Ethics Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide to raise awareness about the importance of ethics in our personal & professional lives. Student-

led activities were arranged where students of ICMA participated in discussions on the important topics of ethics & sustainability, leadership & especially with reference to the profession of accountancy.

Mr. Zia ul Mustafa, Chairman Strategic Board ICMA was the keynote speaker at ICMA Lahore Campus. Mr. Zia Mustafa

explained the objectives of Global Ethics Day and its importance in promoting dialogue and discussion about ethical issues and challenges that affect individuals, communities, and societies on a global scale.

Students actively participated in the event & appreciated the efforts of ICMA in creating awareness about the event.

Tokyo stocks close slightly higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks ended flat Wednesday as investors weighed developments in the Middle East and US data that revived talk of another Federal Reserve interest rate hike.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index inched up 1.96 points to 32,042.25, while the broader Topix index gained 0.14 percent, or 3.26 points, to 2,295.34.

Traders were keeping a close watch on the Israel-Hamas crisis as oil prices surged following a deadly blast at a Gaza hospital, with each side blaming the other and worries growing of a region-wide conflict.

Meanwhile, a forecast-beating jump in US retail

sales fanned speculation the Fed might have to hike borrowing costs once more as officials battle to bring inflation under control.

Some investors were also disheartened that "the Shanghai market did not rebound even after stronger-than-expected Chinese GDP figures for the July-September quarter were released", said Shuji Hosoi, senior strategist of Daiwa Securities.

"Investors are seemingly awaiting Japanese corporate earnings as well as US earnings... so trade volume is thin," he added.

The dollar stood at 149.64 yen, against 149.82 yen seen on Tuesday in New York.

On Wall Street, the Dow and the S&P 500 ended flat while the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell on rate hike worries.

Among major shares in Tokyo, energy developer Inpex surged 4.52 percent to 2,219 yen on higher oil prices, and Mizuho Financial Group added 2.10 percent to 2,579.5 yen thanks to a jump in US Treasury yields, dealers said.

Central Japan Railway climbed 3.04 percent to 3,354 yen, reflecting expectations of a recovery in tourism. SoftBank Group sank 1.44 percent to 6,450 yen, Panasonic slipped 0.82 percent to 1,572 yen and Toyota ended down 0.45 percent to 2,669 yen.

Hasanali recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Hasanali Abdullah, Vice Chairman - EFU General Insurance Ltd. has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP). This prestigious accolade is a testament to his exceptional

contributions to the insurance industry and his remarkable leadership qualities.

Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) bestows the Lifetime Achievement Award to individuals who have made extraordinary and long-lasting contributions to the advancement of the insurance sector in

Pakistan. The recognition of Mr. Hasanali Abdullah's accomplishments further strengthens EFU General's position as a leader in the industry and serves as an inspiration to the entire insurance community, motivating them to strive for excellence and make a meaningful impact in their respective roles.

Tractor production increase 44.98 per cent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 44.98 per cent to 11,586 units during the first three months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 7,991 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-September, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 946 units as compared to 391, showing a decline of 58.66 per cent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 35.80 per cent to 5,827 units during the months under review from 9,077 units during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The production of buses witnessed a decline of 60.48 per cent from 248 units to 98 units during the fiscal year 2024, the PAMA added.

Meanwhile, the production of passenger cars also declined to 15,993 units against the production of 31,417 units during July-September, the data

revealed.

The manufacturing of motorcycles and three-wheelers in the country plunged to 266,050 units from 296,775, showing a decrease of 10.35 per cent, it added.

Ambassador meets Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Syria, Dr. Ramiz Al-Rira Wednesday called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik and discussed exchange of students, experts and matters of increasing trade between the two countries.

The minister welcomed Dr. Ramiz recently appointed a permanent ambassador to Pakistan, said a press release issued here. The ambassador sought Pakistan's help in the field of agriculture and expressed hope to strengthen ties with Pakistan in the sector.

by Rs.5,487 to Rs.177,040 from Rs.171,553 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.162,287 from Rs.157,257, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,550 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,186.21.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$36 to \$1,959 from \$1,923, the Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,550 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,186.21.



In brief

CM inaugurates cricket center

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi inaugurated a cricket Center at Shehbaz Nagar here on Wednesday. During his visit to Shehbaz Nagar, the chief minister inaugurated the cricket center by hitting a ball at Indoor Practicing Hall whereas Caretaker Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Bilal Afzal and others were also present. The CM Punjab also visited various parts of high performance cricket center in addition to gymnasium and swimming pool. He also checked facilities arranged for the visitors. He directed the center administration to improve the facilities and said that this center would play a key role in producing new talent in the cricket field besides providing practicing facility to the local cricketers.

KP Full Contact Karate distribute belts

PESHAWAR (APP): All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Open Promotion Belt Test organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Full Contact Karate Association was held at Karate Headquarters Government TVC Gulbahar in which more than 100 players from Baghbanan, Sarfaraz, Shabbaz Centers and Peshawar Headquarters. More than 100 players and coaches from Charsadda, Swat, Haripur, Abbottabad, Malakand, Lower Dir and other districts participated. International Referee and Judge (Shehan) Sahibzada Al Hadi performed the duties of Supreme Judge and Chief Organizer while Muhammad Yasin Yasir, Khairul Anam, Shamsul Arafin, Raees Khan, Dawood Shinwari, Yousaf Khan, Hamza Khan, Nooral Haq, Abdul Samdawat Muhammad Umair performed the duties of assistant examiner. The newly elected President of Peshawar District Shiraz Khan attended the ceremony as a special guest. He distributed the certificates among the successful players. Karate Headquarters got the first position. Sarfaraz Center got the second position and Swat and Baghbanan got the third position.

Taekwondo Championship

KARACHI (APP): The registration process of 463 players from 16 countries including Pakistan has completed. As many as 16 countries, including Pakistan, have confirmed their participation in the 5th COM-BAXX Asian Open Taekwondo Championship to be held at Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex, under the auspices of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, said a news release on Wednesday. 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. The registration process of 268 athletes has been completed. According to the President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Lt. Col. (Retd.) Waseem Ahmed Janjua, before the mega championship, under the auspices of the Asian Taekwondo Union in collaboration with the PTF, 5-day Kyugri and Poomsae education courses will be held from October 27th to 31st at the Islamabad Sports Complex, in which international coaches and managers from different countries including Pakistan will participate.

World Cup 2023

New Zealand continue unbeaten run after thrashing Afghanistan

CHENNAI (Agencies): New Zealand continued their winning run in the World Cup with a thumping 149-run win over Afghanistan in Chennai.

The Black Caps slipped from 109-1 to 110-4 but were revived by a stand of 144 between Glenn Phillips, who made 71, and captain Tom Latham's 68.

Both were dismissed by Naveen-ul-Haq in the 48th over before Mark Chapman's 12-ball 25 propelled New Zealand to 288-9.

The bowlers then completed a clinical performance as Afghanistan were all out for 139 in reply.

Afghanistan were left to rue a sloppy fielding performance that saw them drop five straightforward catches and miss a stumping, with opener Will Young dropped on one before going on to make a half-century.

Latham was dropped twice before reaching his fifty, allowing his side to blitz 62 from the final five overs.

With a competitive score to defend, Trent Boult and Matt Henry's economical opening burst got rid of Afghanistan's openers before Mitchell Santner's spectacular diving catch got rid of cap-

tain Hashmatullah Shahidi to leave them wobbling at 43-3.

Rahmat Shah and Azmatullah Omarzai recovered with a stand of 54, but as the run-rate spiralled the middle order eventually buckled under the pressure and lost their last seven wickets for 42 runs.

Santner added 3-39 to his fielding efforts while Lockie Ferguson troubled Afghanistan with his pace to take 3-19.

The margin of victory boosts New Zealand's net run-rate significantly and takes them to the top of the table, above India who are also unbeaten having played one game fewer.

Clinical New Zealand punish Afghanistan mistakes

Afghanistan came into the game full of confidence after their shock victory over England, but as the catches fell to the ground and chances were missed, that result seemed a distant memory.

A rare lapse in discipline saw New Zealand lose three quick wickets, including the set pair of Young and Rachin Ravindra in the same over.

But Afghanistan could not capitalise and instead, the gulf in class continued to grow.

Under pressure, eventual player of the match Phillips reined in his attacking instincts to play calmly alongside his captain, soaking up the pressure before setting a platform for a big finish.

They achieved that goal, but should not have: an early six from Phillips sailed over the head of Azmatullah, but would have been a simple catch had he been stationed correctly on the boundary rope, while simple chances were spilled with Latham on 35 and 38.

Naveen's brilliant spell of 2-48 gave Afghanistan a chance to pull back some control in the final overs but Chapman immediately found form to strike a six and two fours in his brief stay.

And with the ball, Latham's men were ruthless in their own classy style, the combination of Boult and Henry bewildering the top order before Santner's unwavering accuracy and Ferguson's hostility mopped up the rest.

Few spoke about New Zealand as contenders before the World Cup started but they set the tone by sweeping England aside with ease, with a semi-final spot now firmly in their sights.



CHENNAI: Mohammad Nabi wasn't chuffed about being Mitchell Santner's 100th ODI wicket.

Babar Azam continues to lead ICC ODI Batting Rankings

DUBAI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan captain Babar Azam managed to hold on to his number-one position in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI Batting Rankings.

Babar, who scored an anchoring half-century against arch-rivals India on Saturday, got the reward for his performance as he kept India's batting prodigy Shubman Gill at bay.

The right-handed Indian batter is ranked second with 818 rating points, in touching distance with Babar Azam, who occupies the top position with 836 points.

Meanwhile, Pakistan opening batters Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq, who were recently among the Top 10 batters, are now ranked 13th and 10th respectively.

In-form South African opener Quinton de Kock, who scored back-to-back centuries in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023, pipped his teammate Rassie van der Dussen to claim the third position in the rankings.

Indian captain Rohit Sharma made a big leap of five places to sixth after amassing 131 runs against Afghanistan then backing it up with an imperious 86 from 63 balls against arch-rivals Pakistan.

Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz — jumping 19 spots to 18th — and Netherlands captain Scott Edwards — climbing 16 places to 27th — made notable surges in the batting rankings.

In the ICC ODI bowling rankings, however, experienced New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is in touching distance to occupy the top spot following a destructive spell against Bangladesh.

He is a mere one rating point behind leader Josh Hazlewood after ascending a place in the latest update.

Boult, who returned figures of 2/45 against Bangladesh after also dismissing Towhid Hridoy, also completed 200 wickets in ODIs.

Pakistan 'under extra pressure' in India with no fans

BENGALURU (Agencies): Pakistan paid a heavy price for being "under extra pressure" in their World Cup defeat by arch-rivals India, said batsman Saud Shakeel, who Wednesday lamented the absence of the team's passionate supporters from the tournament.

Pakistan were thrashed by seven wickets on Saturday at Ahmedabad's 132,000-capacity stadium where there was only a handful of Pakistani supporters. Babar Azam's team slumped from a solid 155-2 in the 30th over to be dismissed for a paltry 191.

"I think we were under extra pressure so we tried to get out of that and wanted to play shots," Shakeel told AFP on Wednesday.

The smattering of Pakistani fans at the game were expatriates from the United Kingdom and United States.

Supporters from across the border are effectively banned after a failure to gain visas. The Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) on Wednesday lodged an official complaint with the world governing body over the visa delays which have also kept many members of the country's media at home.

The PCB also complained over what they described as the "inappropriate behavior" of Indian fans toward the Pakistan squad at the Ahmedabad game. "When you have your crowd then you get the support. We did not get that and it was not in our hands," added Shakeel.

Despite an eighth loss in eight World Cup meetings with their arch-rivals, Pakistan are still well-placed in the tournament after wins over the Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

Middle-order batsman Shakeel scored 68 against the Netherlands before making 31 in the game with Sri Lanka. He was out for just six against India.

Next up for Pakistan is another high-profile duel, this time with five-time

champions Australia in Bengaluru on Friday.

"The mistakes we committed in the last game, we must overcome them. That match is gone. If we win against Australia then our position will get better," added Shakeel. "Australia are always good in the World Cup. They are a very good side. We know our strong areas and we must play good cricket."

"We had a good start to the tournament with two wins. We want to go match by match and not commit the mistakes we did against India." On Wednesday, all the Pakistan players with the exception of Mohammad Harris trained in Bengaluru.

Harris is still suffering from a fever which laid low many of the squad when they arrived from Ahmedabad. Star fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi and opener Abdullah Shafique were the worst hit but were present in the nets at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Bangladesh face 'scary' India with worry over Shakib fitness

PUNE (AFP): Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha accepts his side will face a "scary" India when they take on the in-form World Cup hosts in Pune on Thursday.

India head into the game looking to extend their perfect record this tournament to four wins out of four.

Bangladesh, by contrast, have lost their last two matches after starting the World Cup with a six-wicket win over Afghanistan.

India captain Rohit Sharma has already scored over 200 runs in three matches, with paceman Jasprit Bumrah taking eight wickets at a miserly average of just over 10. "They (India) have every area covered," Hathurusingha told a pre-match press conference on Wednesday. "They have strike bowlers up front and Bumrah has almost come (back) to his best."

"They have good, experienced spinners for the middle overs, their top-order is firing. They are scary." Bangladesh may have had a faltering start to the World Cup, but they defeated India 2-1 on home soil in a one-day international series last year and enjoyed a six-run success against them during last month's Asia Cup in Colombo.

"We had success in the recent past against India but it is a different ball-game in the World Cup," insisted Hathurusingha. "We are hoping to have a complete performance."

Inspired

The former Sri Lanka batsman took heart from the way Afghanistan had already overpowered defending champions England at this World Cup, with non-Test nation the Netherlands defeating South Africa as well.

"We are all motivated to win every game from now on," he said. "Because of what happened in the last week, the World Cup is really opening up. We are all inspired by that. We have six games to go, we still think we can win those games."

But Bangladesh's task could become significantly more difficult if skipper Shakib Al Hasan is ruled out, with the star all-rounderset to have a fitness test just hours before Thursday's match. Shakib, 36, is battling to overcome a thigh injury suffered during Friday's eight-wicket loss to New Zealand in Chennai.

Now in his fifth World Cup, he scored 40 then completed a return of 1-54 with his left-arm spin before hobbling off the field. "He (Shakib) had a good batting session yesterday," said Hathurusingha. "He did a bit of running between the

ly opening up. We are all

inspired by that. We have six

games to go, we still think

we can win those games."

But Bangladesh's task could become significantly more difficult if skipper Shakib Al Hasan is ruled out, with the star all-round-

er set to have a fitness test just hours before Thursday's match. Shakib, 36, is battling to overcome a thigh injury suffered during Friday's eight-wicket loss to New Zealand in Chennai.

Now in his fifth World Cup, he scored 40 then completed a return of 1-54 with his left-arm spin before hobbling off the field. "He (Shakib) had a good batting session yesterday," said Hathurusingha. "He did a bit of running between the

wickets as well.

"We are waiting for the result of the scan we did today. "We haven't tried his bowling yet. We will assess him tomorrow morning, and make a decision."

"If he is not ready to play, we won't risk it. If he is ready, there's a chance of him playing." But he later suggested Shakib would have some input into the decision as well following a "green or red light" from medical staff.

"If they think it is not risky, the player is given the choice of playing the game or not," Hathurusingha said. "It comes to the captain and coach whether they want the player or not and if he is wanted in one or both disciplines."



In brief

Taxila police arrest 3 dacoits

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang and arrested three dacoits besides recovering Rs 78,000 cash, three motorcycles, 10 mobile phones, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Taxila Police arrested three accused namely Asadullah, Alam Zaib and Khalal Khan, who were allegedly involved in various dacoits, and street crime cases. He informed that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Taxila Police Station on the directives of SP Potohar, Muhammad Waqas Khan conducted a raid and managed to net the criminals who were record holders. The arrested accused had been shifted to jail for identification parade, he added. The SP said that the Police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against lawbreakers and criminal gangs.

10 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a motorcycle lifter and recovered 10 stolen motorcycles and spare parts from his possession during a crackdown here on Wednesday. The accused was identified as Shah Jahan. Pirwadhi police have registered separate cases against him and further investigation is in progress. SP Rawal Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of police team and the arrested accused will be booked with concrete evidence and will be punished. The protection of life and property of citizens is the first priority, he added.

IRSA releases 122,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 122,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 102,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.92 feet and was 130.92 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 37,200 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1211.50 feet, which was 161.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 15,200 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 54,900, 48,800, 48,800 and 16,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 14,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 26,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

49 more power thieves held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday apprehended 49 more power pilferers during the ongoing anti-theft and recovery campaign. The IESCO spokesperson said that the power pilferers were charged over 66,00 units besides imposing a fine of Rs 2.9 million. The spokesperson said that a total fine of Rs 133.7 fine has been imposed on 2,145 power pilferers so far. Some 435 FIRs have been registered against the power thieves and police have arrested 358 power pilferers so far. He requested the consumers to inform power pilferage in their respective areas at toll free number 118.



ISLAMABAD: Mir Changez Khan Jamali, Provincial President PPP Balochistan called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Aneeq attends 'World Fatwa Conference'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday participated in 8th World Fatwa Conference being held at the Egyptian Fatwa House under the umbrella of General Secretariat of Fatwa Houses and Bodies in the world in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference, organized under the auspices of President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, brought together scholars, ministers and Muftis from 100 countries, said a statement issued here.

During the conference, he extended his sincere gratitude to Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, for his warm invitation and hospitality. He emphasized the importance of discussing the topic of 'Fatwa and the Challenges of the Third Millennium' in recognizing the unique and multifaceted challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in this era.

He said the third millennium had brought about unprecedented changes in the way people live, communicate, and navigate

their faith.

"Fatwa, a guidance tool for Muslims on various matters, including matters of faith, practice, and daily life, was a central topic of discussion as it provides clarity and guidance to Muslims in navigating the complexities of life while upholding their religious principles," he added.

Quoting from the Holy Quran, Minister Aneeq referenced Surah An-Nahl, 16:43: "So ask the people of the knowledge if you do not know," highlighting the importance of seeking knowledge and guidance.

He stressed the paramount importance of the fundamentals of Islam in the methodology of issuing Fatwas. He said the Holy Quran and the Sunnah, the teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, must remain the bedrock upon which Fatwas were based.

Furthermore, Minister Aneeq said the objectives of the Islamic state, as outlined in Islamic jurisprudence, played a pivotal role in shaping the methodology of issuing Fatwas as these objectives include the

preservation of faith, life, intellect, and property, ensuring that Fatwas contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

Addressing contemporary challenges, he discussed the rapid advancement of technology and the internet, emphasizing the need to provide guidance on issues related to online behavior and ethics.

He specifically mentioned issues like online harassment and cyberbullying, urging scholars to issue guidance in accordance with Islamic principles.

Shedding light on economic challenges, Islamic finance, global trade, and economic justice, he said Fatwa committees could provide guidance on financial instruments and investment practices to ensure the compliance with Islamic principles. Minister Aneeq called for a focus on governance issues, emphasizing good governance, accountability, and transparency in Muslim-majority countries. He said countering extremist ideologies and radicalization was another significant aspect of the conference.

Japan to provide \$5.3m for reconstruction of educational facilities in flood-affected areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 794 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 5.3 million USD/ around 1,530 million PKR) for reconstructing educational facilities in flood-affected areas in Sindh.

A signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad on Wednesday and attended by Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro, Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony.

In the signing ceremony, Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro stated, "I hope that the project this time will further contribute to creating an environment where children can continue to receive education even after the floods in the

future".

Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) KINOSHITA, while speaking at the event said "We believe that the new grant aid project will build not only school buildings, but also it will build brighter and more resilient future for the next generation of Pakistan".

It is pertinent to mention here that this is the fourth grant aid through which the Government of Japan supports the improvement of educational facilities in Sindh province. It has been reported that the school buildings assisted by Japan in the past projects suffered less damage and destruction from the rainfall and flooding in 2022 because they were designed and constructed based on analysis of the 2010 floods.

The new project will also incorporate the concept of "Build Back Better" to reduce the vulnerability of the target schools to future disasters

and build resilience in communities where the schools are located.

This project aims to establish a safe and disaster-resilient learning environment through the reconstruction of elementary schools that were heavily affected by the flood and heavy rain in 2022. The assistance contributes to improving the school enrollment rate and gender equality in the target areas, contributing to SDGs Goals 4 (Quality education) and 5 (Gender equality).

Since June 2022, heavy monsoon rains have intermittently caused flooding that has submerged one-third of the country, resulting in more than 1,700 deaths and 33 million people affected.

Damage in Sindh province has been severe, accounting for 66% of the total damage in the education sector. As medium- and long-term measures, the rapid reconstruction of damaged educational facilities is important to ensure that children have safe learning opportunities.

ANF recovers 466 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 466 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation at Pakistan International Container Terminal Karachi, ANF recovered 12 kg heroin from a container booked for Maldives. Heroin was being smuggled in salt packets. A resident of Karachi was also arrested during the operation.

In the second operation, ANF foiled a drug smuggling attempt from Quetta to Sukkur and recovered 450 kg hashish from two vehicles intercepted near the Yaro area in Quetta.

Hashish was concealed indoors, in

bumpers, back seats and floors of the vehicles. Three accused residents of Quetta were arrested during the operation.

In the third operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, 84 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger.

The accused, a resident of Waziristan, was leaving for Dubai by flight number PK-217.

In the fourth operation in Dera Ghazi Khan, 3.6 kg of hashish was recovered from an accused travelling in a passenger bus. The accused, a resident of Ziarat was trying to smuggle charras from Quetta to Punjab. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process.

Islamic calligraphy exhibition held at PAC

RAWALPINDI (APP): A joint exhibition of Islamic calligraphy works of young calligraphers was organized at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) here on Wednesday. More than 80 artworks of calligraphy have been placed in the exhibition consisting of Quranic verses, Names of Aasmah Al-Hasna and Names of Prophets (AS).

The special guests of the exhibition were Major (R) Aamir and Naheed Manzoor. Major (R) Aamir in his address said that creation was attributed to Allah and all that was between the earth and the heaven was created by Allah. He said that artists have captured the beauty of nature in colours and colors speak their language. Aamir further said that artists always played a positive role in society and attracted the young generation towards art along with narrative education.

Naheed Manzoor said that combining different themes in an exhibition was also an art. The Arts Council has always provided a platform to the youth so that they could present their work to the world. He said that the Punjab government's initiatives for the welfare of art and artists were exemplary, adding the Punjab government was aware of the financial difficulties of artists and was helping them with Artist Support Fund and Time Grants. Director of PAC Waqar Ahmad on the occasion said that the calligrapher has also written the Quranic verses in the works of art so beautifully that the viewer wakes up in awe.

JI Emir urges for an international fund to help people of Gaza

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has asserted that the Israeli government is engaged in war crimes, specifically targeting hospitals and schools in Gaza.

Speaking at a workers' convention on Wednesday, he emphasized that the visit of the US president to Israel, during a time when occupying forces were ruthlessly taking the lives of innocent civilians in Palestine, stood as a stark challenge to the civilized world, aiming at conveying to the Muslim nation that no one could hold Israeli accountable for her actions.

Highlighting the significance of unity within the Muslim Ummah, he emphasized its necessity in liberating the holy land from the unlawful Jewish state. Haq claimed that Hamas had refrained from targeting any children or women during its raids on

Israel. He criticized the western media for propagandizing and attempting to justify the brutal acts of Israel while noting the global recognition of the Palestinian struggle.

Advocating for the establishment of an international fund to aid the people of Gaza, he praised the efforts of the al-Khidmat Foundation, which had already dispatched assistance to the people in Gaza. He appealed to the nation to generously contribute to the fund, which was specifically created to assist the children and women in the Gaza Strip.

Haq commended the unity demonstrated by the Pakistani nation on the issue of Palestine and stressed the imperative need for similar unity at the governmental level within the Islamic world. He urged Muslim leaders to act as genuine representatives of the sentiments of the Ummah.

Furthermore, he told the gathering that he had established the al-Quds Committee during the national conference on Palestine in Islamabad on Tuesday. This committee, he said, aimed to raise awareness about the ongoing crisis in Palestine by organizing meetings with the ambassadors of various countries.

Pointing out the use of chemical weapons by Israel, he highlighted the dire situation in Gaza, where thousands of civilians were trapped and in urgent need of food and water. He announced Pakistan's intention to send ten million signed petitions to the UN Secretary-General in support of Palestine and called for a nationwide boycott of Israeli products. Expressing optimism, he believed that Palestine would soon gain freedom from the oppression of hostile Jewish forces.

HEC deliberates on capacity building policy for affiliated colleges of Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), under its Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project, conducted a one-day consultative seminar on 'College Faculty Professional Development Policy Dialogue' in collaboration with the Higher Education Department (HED) Punjab.

The Directors Colleges from respective Punjab Divisions and selected principals serving in Rawalpindi Division attended the seminar. Project Coordinator HED Punjab Dr Mahmood-ul-Hasan Butt, in his keynote address, emphasised the need for a well-structured policy for the professional development of college faculty, highlighting the importance of faculty development in improving standards of teaching and inculcating creativity among students through quality teaching.

Deputy Secretary (Reforms and Training) Nadeem Asghar, who represented HED Punjab, appreciated HEC in general and HEDP in particular for assisting HED Punjab in formulating the college faculty professional development policy.

The inaugural session was followed by focused group discussions led by the Deputy Secretary with Directors Colleges and Principals to formulate the details of upcoming capacity-building exercises.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Education Testing Council (ETC) Iftikhar Mahmood, along with his team and key HEDP staff, delivered sessions on Assessment, Affiliating System and Quality Assurance.

The seminar was the preliminary outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by HEC. Under the HEDP project, an MoU was earlier signed with the Punjab Higher Education Department (HED), Government of Punjab, to build the capacity of teachers at Affiliated Colleges. As per the MoU, HEC will assist the Punjab Government in faculty professional development and staff training policy of HED Punjab. This includes providing technical support around conducting training need assessments, developing SOP for delivery of training, evaluating the learning outcomes, and periodically reviewing the training policy. However, the Punjab Government will provide necessary local access to premises and resources and designate a focal person(s) to HEC for this activity. Under the policy, various kinds of professional trainings will be identified along with timelines to be mandated with proper assessment.

The training performance will be reflected in the career growth and promotion of faculty and staff. The Affiliated Colleges across provinces are primarily offering undergraduate degrees but have limited capacities/resources and are not as well versed with the latest trends of teaching and learning methodologies as compared to large universities and thus need support. Several HED Punjab initiatives are focused on supporting the tertiary education system of Pakistan composed of Affiliated Colleges across the country.

Pakistan Sweet Home offers free education, career opportunities to over 6,000 Students

ISLAMABAD (APP): More than 6,000 students at Pakistan Sweet Home will be imparted free education up to graduation with the opportunity to take the CSS exam and access excellent job prospects in federal, provincial, and autonomous institutions, Pakistan Baitul-Mal Managing Director Malik Amir Fida Paracha said on Wednesday.

In an interview with APP, he pointed out that the initiative marked the first instance of providing job opportunities in the history of Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM).

Pakistan Baitul Mal's management observed that after completing their matriculation, children were returning home and entering the workforce instead of continuing their education.

This presented a disheartening situation where ten years of Pakistan

Baitul Mal's efforts seemed to be in vain, and the prospects for the children's futures appeared grim.

Considering these challenges, PBM had resolved that children enrolled in the Pakistan Sweet Home program would have the opportunity to graduate from leading educational institutions and the country's top universities, with all expenses supported by it, he added.

He stated that following their graduation, our children could seek employment through various Public Service Commissions, including those at the federal and provincial levels such as Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They will have access to high-quality job prospects in both federal and provincial institutions, with the

added opportunity to participate in the competitive CSS examination. The primary objective of this initiative is to secure a better future for orphaned and underprivileged children and integrate them into the national mainstream.

He said a total of 51 Sweet Homes were situated throughout the country, with 11 in Islamabad and Azad Kashmir Region, 9 in Lahore, 5 in Multan, 3 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 11 in Sindh, 8 in KPK, and four in Balochistan. In these facilities, orphaned and homeless children are provided with a wide range of complementary services, including standard accommodation, meals, education, uniforms, books, medical care, skill development programs, laundry services, religious education, and counseling.



ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged bus stop shed at Islamabad Expressway needs the attention of concerned authorities.

3,000 immigrants returned

KABUL (Agencies): Officials reported on Wednesday that 3,165 Afghan immigrants have returned to their home country from Iran through the Islam Qala border crossing in the past 24 hours. The returnees include both individuals and families who have been repatriated both voluntarily and forcibly. Abdul Mutallab Haqqani, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, stated that 304 of these returnees were identified as vulnerable and in need of assistance.

The Frontier Post

Rabi-us-Sanni 02, 1445 — Thursday, October 19, 2023

Enrollment process started

HELMAND (Agencies): Helmand education department officials said that about 47,000 children are expected to enroll in schools in the province this year. "The enrollment process is ongoing. We have reached the level of last year and the process will continue for another two months. God willing, it is hoped that 47,000 learners will be enrolled in schools this year," Mohammad Ismail Saadat, deputy director of education in Helmand, says.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

Deadly Gaza hospital strike: Condemnation not enough, says IEA

KABUL (Agencies): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) said on Wednesday it condemns in the strongest terms the bombardment of a hospital in Gaza by Israel and deems this act "barbaric and a crime against humanity."

At least 500 people have been killed in Tuesday's attack on al-Ahli al-Mammani hospital in Gaza, according to reports.

"The IEA calls on the people & governments of

the world, so-called human right bodies, the United Nations & the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to prevent the continuation of Israeli atrocities immediately and not suffice with mere condemnations," the foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We underscore that if this brutality & horror is not stopped urgently, the situation in the region may become even more volatile, paving the way to reactions spiraling out of control &

ending up adversely affecting the region & beyond."

The statement said that the "open support of some countries for the Israeli atrocities and the silence of others have spurred the Zionist regime to continue its brutality."

"We stand in solidarity with the Palestinians, and with countries and organizations calling for the immediate end of the ongoing genocide and bringing its perpetrators to justice," it said.

Japan's new envoy meets with Afghan Minister

KABUL (Agencies): The new envoy of Japan to Afghanistan, Taka Yoshi Kurumiya, met with Acting Minister of Economy of Afghanistan Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, on Wednesday.

The meeting was also attended by the former envoy of Japan, Takashi Okada, who completed his three-year mission in Afghanistan.

The former envoy of Japan Takashi Okada expressed his condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Herat province and informed the acting minister about Japan's humanitarian and emergency aid to the affected areas.

Takashi Okada said that Japan had sent blankets, food, and medicines to the quake-hit regions and pledged humanitarian aid worth 4.1 million dollars through the UN's WFP and IOM offices and the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The former envoy of Japan Takashi Okada also appreciated the achievements of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in governance and economy in the past two years and urged the opening of schools and higher education institutes for female students.

He highlighted Japan's support for the construction and repair of 165 schools worth 25 million dollars in Afghanistan.

The Acting Minister of Economy of Afghanistan Qari Din Mohammad Hanif thanked Japan for its longstanding and historical friendship with the Afghan people and its assistance in implementing development projects in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

The Acting Minister of Economy said that these projects had created job opportunities for the people and called for good interaction between the two countries.

Turkish Embassy pledges cooperation in treating drug addicts



KABUL (Agencies): The deputy minister of interior for counter-narcotics affairs, Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund, met with the charge d'affaires of the Turkish embassy in Kabul

on Wednesday.

According to a statement from the interior ministry, the deputy minister commended Turkey for its positive relations and activities in Afghanistan, especially

in the fight against narcotics.

He also asked for Turkey's support in treating drug addicts.

The charge d'affaires of the Turkish embassy

expressed his appreciation for the counter-narcotics department's efforts in the eradication of drugs in the country and assured his full cooperation in this field.

IEA approves Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee's procedures

KABUL (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, approved the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee's procedures, the office said in a statement.

At the Economic Commission meeting held in Kabul, it was said that: "This committee's establishment aims to streamline the process of attracting both domestic and foreign investments, foster coordination among relevant ministries and departments in investment planning stages, create an investment-friendly environment, and ensure effective management while offering essential information to potential investors about projects in

Afghanistan."

According to the statement, following a thorough discussion, the plan for constructing Jahan Park in Kabul's eleventh district by the public-private partnership received initial approval.

The Kabul Municipality was tasked with reopening negotiations with the contracting company to deter-

mine the contract period and address other significant concerns. According to this plan, the private sector will invest 960 million AFN in 150 jeribs of land, with 35 percent of the revenue allocated to the Kabul Municipality.

The Park is expected to be completed within three years, in compliance with city regulations and

equipped with all necessary amenities, the ministry added.

In addition, the meeting saw a decision to promote domestic salt production to meet the country's needs. The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum was instructed to reduce the royalty on raw materials for domestic salt production and processing factories.

Int'l Eradication of Poverty Day: Economic challenges in Kabul voiced



KABUL (TOLOnews): On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, some residents of the capital complained about their economic challenges and asked the aid institutions and the Islamic Emirate to eradicate economic challenges from the country.

"Millions of Afghans unfortunately face the same problem: a lack of decent work opportunities. ILO Afghanistan is doing everything possible to support and empower them by creating jobs that provide fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for growth and development," said ILO Afghanistan.

"The government of Afghanistan itself needs to make an economic plan to attract foreign investors to provide them with a work-

ing environment," said Abdul Naseer Reshtia, an economist.

The Ministry of Economy said that the ministry is trying to reduce poverty by implementing policies and long-term plans in the country.

"Our effort is to design a strategic plan that includes macroeconomic projects, and development of medium and small industries in the agenda of the Islamic Emirate to eradicate poverty in the social structure of Afghanistan," said Abdul Latif Nazari, the deputy minister of the economy.

Earlier, various international institutions warned about the expansion of the scope of poverty in the country.

Badakhshan women entrepreneurs hail improved market condition



FAIZABAD (Pajhwok): Some women entrepreneurs in northeastern Badakhshan province have been thrilled with the reopening improved business condition of small markets in the Eshkashim district on the border with Tajikistan.

They said their business had improved despite the absence of support from international and national organisations.

Shema Naeemi, director women entrepreneur market in Eshkashim district,

said the sale of women handicraft items improved by 30 percent in the markets on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

She said the supply of women entrepreneurs' products such as handicraft item, food and dairy products had improved market condition in the district.

A few months before the political change in the country, this market was reopened for business women to supply their and still remained opened on

the face of tourists, women and girls in line with the principles Islam and Sharia, she said.

"Initially we were able to hire 60 women for work in the markets but with the passage of time women's interest in the market declined due to curbs, ban on men to visit the market, but fortunately, situation had improved after the reopening of shared market on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan."

She said handicrafts and ornaments prepared by women are displayed for sale by men in the common market for one day (Saturday) in a week.

Naeemi said that women were happy about the market condition now comparing to the past and added some NGOs and organization observed their activities closely but no institution provided support to them.

She asked aid providing institutions to support them and urged government to develop more joint markets for the promotion of their products.

Shaesta, one of the women shopkeepers, said that the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan' should reopen schools on girls and facilitate the provision of development projects for women.

Mawlavi Saifurrahman, head of the provincial Commerce and Industry Department, acknowledged some challenges faced by the businesspersons in the province and said What they want for the development of Badakhshan local handicrafts has not yet been fulfilled, but efforts are

underway to develop Badakhshan local industries.

He added with the reopening of joint markets on Afghanistan, Tajikistan boarder where products made by women are supplied for sale the business situation had improved.

The Commerce Department head said with the reopening of Topkhana Port in Zibak district with Chitral region of Pakistan, the production of local handicrafts such as Gelam, Carpet, Namad, all kinds of jackets and ornaments will be institutionalized in this province and the market for its sale will be provided.

Referring to the demands from women entrepreneur in Eshkashim district, he said the matters would be discussed with the IEA officials to further facilitate women entrepreneur.

He acknowledged no NGO or government organization provided financial support to men or women entrepreneur in the province but efforts were underway to introduce individuals who from the core of their heart want to help business to relevant institutions.

Forgetting Afghan Women's suffering is a profound tragedy: PWMA

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Powerful Women's Movement in Afghanistan (PWMA) stresses the importance of seeking justice for survivors of the Herat tragedy and the Balkh explosion. They want to ensure that Afghan women's problematic situation is not overlooked.

Through the issuance of a statement, this movement has emphasised that the Taliban administration has marginalized human rights and women's rights, restricting them with "violent" tools and decrees, which have pushed half of society to the margins.

It is worth noting that the

forces of the Taliban authorities arrested Neda Parwani, one of the women protestors, along with her child and husband approximately a month ago in Kabul. About ten days later, Julia Parsi, a senior member of the "Spontaneous Women's Protest Movement of Afghanistan," was also detained along with her child by these forces in Kabul.

In the statement issued by the Powerful Women's Movement of Afghanistan, they state that "alongside seeking justice for the survivors of the Herat earthquake and the suicide attack in Balkh, this move-

ment emphasizes that forgetting the dire situation of women is a deeper and more painful tragedy that leads society towards decline."

On the other hand, Munisa Mubariz, a women's rights activist, says that the recent conflicts between Israel and Hamas have drawn the attention of the global community and caused Julia Parsi and Nida Parwani to be overshadowed and forgotten in the interim government's prisons.

Ms Mubariz further states to Khaama Press News Agency, "While the

international community, especially the United States, has turned its back on Afghanistan and is not paying attention to its human rights situation, the recent Israeli-Palestinian conflicts have diverted attention from the violation of women's rights by the Taliban."

The Taliban administration has consistently suppressed street protests by women, and women activists have previously experienced imprisonment in the interim government's prisons.

The Powerful Women's Movement of Afghanistan has called on the United

Nations to seriously follow the cases of Neda Parwani and Julia Parsi and break the silence for the freedom of these imprisoned women.

Despite nearly a month since these two women's rights activists were detained, the Taliban administration has not provided any information regarding the reason for their detention and their whereabouts.

The interim government believes that Afghan women's rights are ensured within the framework of Islamic laws and sees no need for demands for rights.





ISLAMABAD: General Ziya Cemal Kadiolu, Commander Turkish Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

FIA arrests 5, involved in Hawala, Hundi business

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Investigative Agency on Wednesday arrested five persons for smuggling foreign currency and running illegal hundi-hawala money exchange business.

The FIA's Commercial Banking Circle arrested two accused from Peshawar Saddar and recovered Rs0.6 million from their possessions. They were found involved in hundi-hawala and illegal currency exchange activities. FIA officials also arrested a suspect from torkham boarder and recovered more than two lakh rupees and 67 thousand Afghan currencies from his possession.

Similarly, an accused allegedly involved in illegal currency exchange was also held and seized thousands of Pakistani currency from his possession. Meanwhile, during checking on torkham boarder, a suspect identified as Islam uddin resident of Nangarhar, Afghanistan. Three Thousand US dollars were recovered from his possession. The evidence related to hundi-hawala transactions were also confiscated from the suspects, and legal proceedings initiated against them.

Biden arrives in Tel Aviv

(Continued from Page 1)

strong explosion and the ceiling fell on the operating room".

"Hospitals are not a target," he said. "This bloodshed must stop. Enough is enough." The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby represents the Anglican church, which runs the Ahli Arab Hospital.

He said the hospital was one of several medical facilities in northern Gaza subject to evacuation orders and that it had already been hit by "Israeli rocket fire" on October 14, which wounded four staff. According to World Health Organisation figures, there have been more than 100 attacks on hospitals, ambulances and other health care assets since October 7.

News of the hospital's destruction brought swift international condemnation. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said "responsibility for this crime must be clearly established" and the "perpetrators held accountable". United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" and warned Israel against "the collective punishment of the Palestinian people". Across the region, the response was quick and furious as protesters tried to storm the Israeli embassy in Jordan, a country home to millions of Palestinian refugees.

In Lebanon, demonstrators clashed with security forces outside the US embassy. Stones were hurled and a building was set on fire. The US State Department authorised the departure of "some non-emergency" personnel from the Beirut embassy, citing the "unpredictable security situation". In Lebanon, Hezbollah vowed a "day of rage" on Wednesday, one of many countries across the region where street protests were expected. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said the cancelled four-way summit in Amman would be held "when the decision to stop the war and put an end to these massacres has been taken". The White House confirmed late Tuesday that Biden's visit would go ahead to Israel, where he was expected to express solidarity over the Hamas attacks, in which 31 Americans were among the dead. — Aljazeera

Commander Turkish Air Force visits Air HQs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by General Ziya Cemal Kadiolu, Commander Turkish Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office on Wednesday. The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to geo-strategic situation, progress of current joint ventures and exploration of further avenues of collaboration in the aviation industry.

The discussion also involved an exchange of insight from both dignitaries on the operational training of their respective air forces in the backdrop of PAF's on-going mega aerial exercise, Indus Shield 2023 which is being witnessed by dignitaries from around the globe. Both the commanders also agreed to explore further avenues of bilateral cooperation including collaboration for joint production of military hardware with special focus on unmanned aerial platforms.

On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented guard of honour to General Ziya Cemal Kadio?lu. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers. During the meeting, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force,

shared the framework of PAF's comprehensive modernization strategy involving procurements of technological equipment from allied countries, bolstering critical infrastructure and a comprehensive restructuring of its training set-up, in order to address contemporary air warfare challenges.

The Air Chief highlighted that both the brotherly countries enjoy long-standing religious and historic ties which are manifested through unprecedented strategic partnership. Appreciating the participation of Turkish Air Force in Exercise Indus Shield, the Air Chief reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral relations in military-to-military cooperation, strategic alliance and the training domain. The Air Chief further remarked that PAF pilots are playing an active role in providing basic and tactical level training to Turkish aircrew. He reiterated Pakistan Air Force's commitment to provide training and capacity-building assistance to the Turkish Air Force.

General Ziya Cemal Kadio?lu, Commander Turkish Air Force, who is on his maiden visit to Pakistan, commended the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in the aviation industry. He also expressed keen interest in the National Aerospace Science and Technology

Park and appreciated the unwavering commitment of the Air Chief in making this project a huge success. The visiting dignitary further affirmed that the on-going exercise Indus Shield hosted by PAF, would be a way forward to further consolidate the existing bond of brotherhood and military ties between the two countries in addition to enhancing the operational readiness of the participating air forces.

During his visit, the Turkish Air Force Commander also visited various installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad including PAF's National ISR and Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF's Cyber Command. General Ziya Cemal Kadio?lu also visited National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, which is a major landmark in Pakistan's journey towards progress and is all set to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's aerospace industry, fostering strategic partnerships and contributing to the economic growth of Pakistan.

The visit of Turkish Air Force Commander to Pakistan signifies a resolute commitment from both nations to reinforce their strategic partnership through fostering collaboration and promoting robust relations between their respective Air Forces.

PHC to decide pleas against LG Act amendments on 31st

Hamayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Shakeel Ahmad observed that a writ against the Local Government (LG) Act Amendments Bill will decided on next hearing on 31st October while ordering the provincial government to submit reply, on Wednesday.

The counsel Babar Khan Yousafzai advocate argued that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had made several amendments

in the LG Act which had curtailed powers and jurisdiction of local bodies representatives. He added that no funds have been released to LG from two years.

Neither the previous government nor caretaker government provided developmental funds to elected councils of LG across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Babar Khan Yousafzai argued. He added that caretaker government is spending development funds but didn't providing to LG councils.

Additional Advocate General requested for

adjournment because Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will argue the personally, however, Babar Khan Yousafzai advocate argued that provincial government had caused adjournment for multiple times.

In the meantime, Justice Ijaz Anwar remarked that the court is providing last chance and further adjournment wouldn't be accepted on next hearing while directing Additional Advocate General to proper for arguments if Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa doesn't appear before PHC.

Maryam Nawaz deplores global spinelessness

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-N (PMLN) chief organizer, Maryam Nawaz, has strongly condemned the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people. She expressed her solidarity with the Palestinians and sorrow over their killing by the Israeli forces. She said its height of barbarism that children, women and hospi-

tal were bombed by the Israel. People are very sad due to the Israel's act of barbarity, she added.

The PMLN vice-president, said the innocent children and women are being killed because they are Muslims. Its neither a human ideology nor honor of the international law. She said the Israel is committing a war crime by killing the innocent people and silence of the interna-

tional community is tantamount to help the killer. Discrimination between Muslim and Non-Muslim by the international community will lead world toward disaster, she said adding rubbles in Gaza are exposing the timidity of the international community. She urged the Muslim countries to play their moral, religious and legal role to bridle the Israel atrocities.



GAZA: People shifting an injured person to hospital after airstrikes of Israeli forces.

President for enhancing cooperation with Morocco

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for increasing cooperation with Morocco in the fields of trade, investment and economy.

The president, in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Morocco Muhammad Samiur-Rehman, who called on him, asked him to work for enhancing Pakistani exports to Morocco. Talking to the ambassador, the president said that relations between Pakistan and Morocco were marked by common history and shared interests.

He said the two sides needed to increase the exchange of high-level visits to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. President Alvi said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been constituted to provide a single platform to facilitate and attract investment and Morocco could benefit of Pakistan's business friendly environment.

Earlier, Pakistan's Ambassador/ Permanent Representative-designate to the United Nations in Geneva, Dr Bilal Ahmad, also called on President Alvi. Talking to the ambassador, the president urged him to continue Pakistan's positive engagement with the UN system to advance county's national interest and priorities.

He underlined that Pakistan needed to increase its engagement with the World Health Organization and International Labour Organization to build capacity of its public health system and uphold labour standards. The president urged the Permanent Representative-designate to use the OIC platform in Geneva to project the perspective and voice of the Muslim Ummah on issues such as Islamophobia and the plight of the Kashmiri and the Palestinian people.

Court allows Imran to talk to his sons

ISLAMABAD (INP): A court established under the Official Secrets Act has ordered superintendent Adiala Jail to allow PTI chairman to talk to his sons on phone. Special court judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain conducted hearing of the PTI chairman's plea seeking directions for superintendent to allow him to talk to his sons on phone.

After the break as the proceedings started, Judge Abul Hasnaat said according to SoPs the accused was not allowed to talk to someone on phone. He however said the court would see the matter keeping in view the jail manual. Defence counsel Sheraz Ranjha said as per Official Secrets Act the accused was allowed to talk to his family over the phone. The accused, under the Prisoners

Rules could avail facility to meet his family in jail, he said. The other accused were also allowed to talk to avail facility of phone. The judge asked the defence counsel to show the court permission for an accused to talk to his family members abroad.

Upon that, Ranjha said Jail Manual did not allow accused to do so, but Federal Shariat Court (FSC) had issued a ruling in this regard. He also submitted the FSC ruling in the court. Judge Zulqarnain then ruled that PTI chairman should be allowed to talk to his sons on phone. He directed the superintendent Adiala Jail to let PTI chief talk to his sons over phone under his own supervision.

Court issues warrants for Safdar

ISLAMABAD (PPI): A court of judicial magistrate in Gujranwala Wednesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PML-N leader Capt (r) Safdar in the sedition case.

Judicial Magistrate Faisal Al-Islam issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Capt (r) Safdar over not appearing before the court. The court ordered the police to arrest Capt (r) Safdar and produce him before the court on October 24. It is to be noted here that a case had been registered against Capt (r) Safdar on October 3, 2020, at the Satellite Town police station in Gujranwala during the tenure of the PTI government on the charge of sedition and inflammatory speeches against the institutions.

Russia attempts to seize mily, diplomatic initiative against Kyiv

MOSCOW: Russia sought to break out of its diplomatic isolation, resupply its dwindling weapons stockpiles, and take back the military initiative it lost this year in the 86th week of its war in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to celebrate the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road initiative, which aimed to develop rail, road and port infrastructure across Eurasia to facilitate the export of Chinese goods. Xi is one of Putin's few allies, but while there he also met Hungarian premier Viktor Orban, in a symbolic gesture of support for the Kremlin from one of Ukraine's purported allies.

"Hungary has never wanted to confront Russia," Orban said. "Hungary's goal has always been to establish and mutually expand the best contacts," he said. More ominously, Putin has been receiving substantial shipments of ammunition from North Korea, the White House said. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on October 13 that as many as 1,000 containers' worth of North Korean weapons may have reached Russia between September 7 and October 1.

The Washington Post's analysis was that shipments had begun earlier, after high-level meetings between Russian and North Korean officials in mid-August, and that the shipments were greater than what Kirby suggested. Satellite images the Washington Post published on October 16 suggested that two Russian ships had successfully transported cargoes from the North Korean free trade zone port of Rason to Russia's port of Dunai several times since August.

"This will have a very serious effect on the trajectory of the war [in Ukraine]," Jack Watling, senior research fellow for land warfare at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), told the newspaper. "North Korea has the ability to manufacture a lot of ammunition, and it has significant stockpiles," he said. North Korea reportedly manufactures 122mm Grad rockets and 122mm artillery rounds.

Kirby also said Russia may have reciprocated in kind. Pyongyang has sought "fighter aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, armoured vehicles" and "ballistic missile production equipment" from Russia, he said, and there was evidence that Russian containers had flowed towards Pyongyang. Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have been wooing each other for some time.

Putin met Kim at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's far east on September 13. Kim was reportedly interested in Russian satellite technology, and pledged to stand with Russia in the "fight against imperialism". North Korea failed to launch spy satellites in May and August because of second- and third-stage flight

issues. The relationship appears to be warming.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in Pyongyang on October 18 in apparent preparation for a trip by Putin. Russia said it could decide to provide the same long-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile technology Kim is interested in to Iran. A 2015 ban on the transfer of such technology expired on October 18. "Supplies to and from Iran of products falling under the Missile Technology Control Regime no longer require prior approval by the UN Security Council," Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Ukraine also received military technology during the week. On Tuesday, October 17, the Pentagon confirmed that all 31 M1 Abrams tanks it had pledged were on Ukrainian soil. On the same day, Ukraine fired the first 18 Army Tactical Missiles (ATACMS) sent by the US, with 160km (100-mile) range. The missiles apparently landed on airfields in the Russian-occupied port of Berdyansk and Russian-occupied Luhansk city.

Russian forces launched a new effort to capture the eastern city of Avdiivka on October 10. They have long succeeded in forming a pincer to its north and south, but Ukrainian defenders have held them at bay. Russian forces attacked with armoured assault units, helicopters and concentrated artillery in 10 or 12 directions at once, said the head of the city's military administration, Vitaliy Barabash. Artillery barrages were so continuous as to prevent rescue crews from recovering the bodies of those killed.

"They are striking with everything they have. Bouts of shooting, artillery, multiple rocket launchers, mortars and a lot of aircraft," Barabash, told national television. "Operations cannot take place in such conditions. It is frightening to leave because the road is under fire. And no easier to stay as there is no place, no basement that can withstand the strikes." Russian forces had captured 4.52sq km (1.75sq miles) around Avdiivka and were 5.25km (3.2 miles) and 3.32km (2.06 miles) away from key Ukrainian supply routes to the north and south, respectively, assessed the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

At the same time, Russian forces were attempting to break through Ukraine's defences in the Lyman-Kupiansk area, at the northeastern end of the front. The commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Oleksandr Syrskiy, said there had been a sharp increase in fighting. "The enemy is preparing, seriously preparing for offensive actions, bringing in staff," Syrskiy said in the footage posted on the Telegram messaging app. "The main goal is to break through our troops' defences and recapture our territory." — Aljazeera

Pakistan committed

(Continued from Page 1)

supported President Xi's vision that aimed at ensuring regional connectivity and benefiting nations across the globe.

After the BRF event, PM Kakar will participate in the high-level forum on 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' and also address the occasion. In the afternoon, he will meet his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang and witness the signing of several memorandums of understanding. The other official engagements of the prime minister include meeting with Secretary of the Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline, Li Xi. He will also interact with the heads of Chinese business companies.

PM urges UN Secy General to ask Israel to stop violence against Palestinians: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar urged the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to play a role in stopping Israel's violence against Palestinians.

The prime minister and the UN's top diplomat met in Beijing on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum. "We demand an end to this indiscriminate targeting and urge the international community to act swiftly to stop the violence and hold those responsible accountable," the prime minister posted on social media platform X after his meeting with Guterres. PM Kakar strongly condemned the Israeli attack on Al-Ahly Al-Mamaday Hospital in Gaza, causing immense civilian casualties. He termed targeting a hospital, a sanctuary for those in need, an "indefensible act of inhumanity". International humanitarian law gives protection to hospitals and medical personnel, he added.

Pakistan as initial beneficiary appreciates, supports BRI: Pakistan has consistently expressed great appreciation and strong support for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and was willing to learn from China's development experience, Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said talking to the Chinese media.

Kakar, who was invited to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, said that the Pakistanis valued the great

vision embodied in the BRI, which advocated bringing peace and prosperity through economic development. The Pakistani delegation, comprising top-level officials from the economic, industrial, security, and other departments, was eagerly anticipating bilateral discussions with Chinese officials during the visit, engaging in dialogue and interaction with Chinese think tanks and media as well, he said.

Emphasizing the significant accomplishments of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an exemplary project of the BRI, Kakar said the CPEC has brought great development and bright prospects to his hometown of southwest Balochistan province. Launched in 2013, the CPEC was a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

Noting that Pakistan would further strengthen policy communication and coordination with China in the new phase of high-quality development of the CPEC, Kakar said his country would introduce new technologies in fields such as food security and agriculture from China, encourage enterprises to expand trade and further tap bilateral cooperation potential with China. Pakistan will further improve the Special Investment Facilitation Council in a bid to encourage and facilitate Chinese enterprises to invest in sectors such as mining, agriculture and information technology, and create favorable conditions for Chinese businesses operating in Pakistan, he said. Kakar also emphasized that Pakistan places high importance on the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and is willing to further improve security mechanisms for Chinese citizens, making every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan. Expressing his hope for the two peoples to increase their understanding of each other's language and culture and further strengthen the friendly relations, he said that Pakistan cherishes the ironclad friendship with China and believes that cooperation with China is full of opportunities.