

Qureshi moves IHC for bail

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday moved Islamabad High Court for post-arrest bail in all cases registered against him. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the plea with objections. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq said the petitioner had not attached documents in order which resulted in raising objection.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting of federal cabinet.

## Israel attacks northern Gaza from east and west

### Gaza death toll reaches 8,306

GAZA (AFP): On Monday, Israeli forces launched an assault on the primary northern city of Gaza from both its eastern and western flanks. This action comes three days after the commencement of ground operations within the Palestinian territory, which has escalated international pressure to safeguard civilian lives.

Israel's military reported targeting over 600 objectives in the past few days as it expanded ground manoeuvres in the Gaza Strip. This escalation occurs as Palestinian civilians face urgent requirements for essential resources such as fuel, food, and clean water, with the conflict now entering its fourth week. "Dozens" of tanks entered the Zaytun district in south of the Palestinian territory's main city, cutting a key road from the north to the south of the Gaza Strip for more than an hour, witnesses told AFP journalists in southern Gaza by phone.

"They have cut the Salahadin road and are firing at any vehicle that tries to go along it," said one resident who did not want to be identified. Israeli jets bombed a section of the road leaving large craters, another resident said. At least 8,306 Palestinians have been killed, including 3,457 children, in Israeli strikes on Gaza since October 7, the health ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza said on Monday. The death toll in the West Bank rose to 329 Palestinians since January, including 121 deaths since October 7, the Palestinian health ministry in the Israel-occupied West Bank also said in a statement. The military stated, "IDF troops engaged with and neutralised numerous terrorists who had taken refuge within buildings and tunnels, attempting to mount attacks against the troops." Notably, four key Hamas figures were among those dealt with during these operations.

Rocket alert sirens sounded in Jerusalem on Monday, accompanied by several audible explosions within the city, according to reports from AFP correspondents. These events occurred in the midst of the ongoing conflict with Hamas militants in Gaza. The sirens were activated at approximately 2:29 pm and were succeeded by at least five explosions. This marked the 24th day of the conflict since the initiation of hostilities by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7.

Israeli artillery and jets are currently carry-

ing out a "holocaust" in the Tal al-Hawa neighbourhood, which is located south of Gaza City, as per the Palestinian civil defence in Gaza. Fierce air and artillery strikes rang out in Gaza early on Monday as Israeli troops backed by tanks pressed into the Palestinian enclave with a ground assault that prompted more international calls for civilians to be protected. Israel's military said it had struck more than 600 Hamas targets over the past few days as it expanded ground operations in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian civilians are in dire need of fuel, food and clean water as the war enters its fourth week.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, five Palestinians were killed in the West Bank during Israeli raids on Monday. The casualties occurred during an Israeli early morning raid in Jenin. The raid involved a significant Israeli military presence, including more than 100 military vehicles and two bulldozers. The operation aimed to target Jenin and its refugee camp, which are known strongholds of Palestinian armed groups and have been the subject of frequent military incursions.

Additionally, the Israeli military stated that they uncovered explosive devices planted under roads during the Jenin raid. This operation took place amidst heightened violence due to Israel's conflict with Hamas in Gaza. The Israeli tanks approaching the outskirts of Gaza City have now retreated, according to the head of the Hamas government office in Gaza. "There's absolutely no ground advance inside the residential neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip. What happened on Salah al-Din Street was the incursion of a few occupation army tanks and a bulldozer," Salama Maarouf said in a statement, Al Jazeera reported. "These vehicles targeted two civilian cars on Salah al-Din Street and bulldozed the street before the resistance forced them to retreat. "There is currently no presence of occupation army vehicles on Salah al-Din Road, and citizen movement has returned to normal on the road." A video on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer obstructing the main north-south highway through central Gaza, which the Israeli military had earlier instructed Palestinians to use as an escape route from the escalating ground offensive.

## Caretaker govt has no political agenda: Solangi

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that the caretaker government was strictly adhered to its constitutional role of holding free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

"We are not a political government, and we do not have any political agenda. Political parties do not need us for establishing contacts with each other. The Election Commission is in contact with all the political parties," the minister said while addressing a press conference after a meeting of the Federal Cabinet presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Solangi was flanked by ministers for Interior, Culture & Heritage, and National Health Services. Sharing the major decisions taken by the Federal Cabinet, the minister said the forum approved the Repatriation Order under sections 3 and 14B of the Foreigners Act of 1946 on the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior. It was aimed at sending back illegal immigrants to their countries, he added.

Solangi said the prime minister had issued special directives for ensuring repatriation of illegal immigrants in a dignified and respectful manner. Women and children would also be provided special care during the repatriation process, he said, adding directives had been issued that no state agency would exceed its authority at any stage of the process.

The minister said the

prime minister had directed to establish a special system for not only preparing the database of individuals being repatriated under the Repatriation Order, but also monitoring the entire process. He said the PM also accorded approval for presenting a work plan before the cabinet regarding the matter so that it could be ensured that all illegal immigrants left the country in a phased-manner.

The illegal immigrants could only return to Pakistan through legal means, he added. On the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior, he said, the cabinet approved police station status for 10 immigration check posts of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in accordance with the Passport Rules of 2021. He said on the recommendation of the Aviation Ministry, the cabinet approved international flight operations for Fly Jinnah airlines. Following this approval, the airlines could now conduct flight operations to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Solangi said the cabinet, upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, approved signing of a cooperation protocol between Tajikistan's Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs to enhance revenues and trade in the industrial goods and services sector. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, he

said, the cabinet gave its consent for the removal of Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation from the privatization programme, and directed the Ministry of Industries and Production to propose a future course of action regarding the matter.

The minister said the cabinet also granted an exemption to the Pakistan LNG Limited from rule numbers (1)13 and 35 of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 for procuring liquefied natural gas (LNG) from spot market from January 2024 to June 2024. On the Cabinet Division's recommendations, he said, the cabinet exempted the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited from rules 9, 13, 35, and 40 of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 for the procurement of 20,000 metric tons of spot LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) cargo from November 2023 to March 2024.

He said the cabinet also confirmed the decisions made during the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases' meetings held on October 6 and October 27. The cabinet also reviewed the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee made on October 23 and directed the concerned to review the changes in the natural gas prices, he said, adding the Economic Coordination Committee was told to convene a meeting today on the matter to get its decisions ratified on the same day. He said the cabinet approved the Hajj Policy 2024 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

## Audio leaks case: Govt granted one month to submit reply

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court on Monday granted one month to federal government to submit its reply in audio leaks case. Justice Babar Sattar was hearing a petition of former CJP's son Najam us Saqib pertaining to audio leaks.

Earlier, Attorney General Mansoor Usman in his arguments said that in his view a parliamentary committee won't have initiated proceedings against Najam us Saqib. "An audio tape of a private person was not related to the National Assembly," top state lawyer said. "A parliamentary body could not notice in the manner," AG further said. He asked the court to dismiss the petition as court petitions have become infructuous after dissolution of the assembly. "If the electronic surveillance is allowed? Who could do it," Justice Babar Sattar questioned. "PTA says it didn't allow anyone," the bench observed.

"The question is, how electronic surveillance is being done and who is doing it," Justice Sattar asked. "If somebody has been allowed it, then who allowed to whom," the bench posed question. "This is not on record that a government agency has recorded it," AG replied. "If it was on record then the question arises of who has allowed it," he added. "Are you saying some foreign agency has made the recording," Justice Babar Sattar asked. "Audios of Prime Minister House, prime minister, his family and the family of a chief justice have been leaked".

"I don't say it did by a foreign agency," AG said. "This act without taking the state into confidence is a very dangerous decision," court remarked. "Who is competent authority with regard to audio tape recording," the bench asked. "If the Attorney General is taking position that it was not the government and recorded without government authority," bench further questioned.

"Benazir Bhutto case is our history, when it was happened. How could it happen, what is check and balance, if the data is not being misused," court asked. The government constituted judicial commission but the question, who leaks these audios, was not included in its terms of reference, Justice Babar Sattar remarked.

## Elahi's remand rejected

LAHORE (PPI): A Lahore district and sessions court on Monday rejected the police request, seeking extension in physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Pervaiz Elahi in a case pertaining to illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly. The Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) had arrested Pervaiz Elahi on charges of appointing Muhammad Khan Bhatti as his principal secretary during his tenure as the chief minister.

The PTI President has been arrested several times in various cases after a crackdown was launched against the party in the aftermath of the May 9 violence.

# The Frontier Post

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that as per the government's policy and relevant laws, they were sending back all the illegal aliens and foreigners from the soil of Pakistan as the set deadline of October 31 under the repatriation process draws nearer.

He said that such a policy was not centric to only illegal Afghan nationals that had been staying inside the country but encompassed all those undocumented and illegal foreigners. In an interaction with the students of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) during a special session, the prime minister elaborated that Pakistan had hosted more than four million Afghan refugees on its soil for the last 40 years under the Geneva Convention, despite the fact that it was not a signatory to that. He said more than one million foreigners had been categorized as illegal who had been staying in Pakistan without legal and valid documents. They were being encouraged to return to their native countries, he said, adding if they wanted to return to Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas, there would be no restriction.

Replying to a question regarding an incident involving Afghan nationals, the caretaker prime minister said that he had already given direction to the relevant authorities of the interior ministry to ensure the dignity of the repatriated women and children as there might be vulnerable groups. The prime minister said that Pakistan had entertained on its soil for decades those Afghans who had been registered as refugees and compared the treatment meted out to immigrants' boats in the Mediterranean Sea.

To a query, he maintained that in various terrorist incidents, certain groups were involved and referred to a suicide attack in a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in which the suicide bomber was identified from DNA tests

as an Afghan national. He clarified that all Afghans were not terrorists but the involvement of certain groups in illegal activities was a part of the problem, adding it was the prime responsibility of the government to protect the lives of its people which was also a constitutional obligation.

The caretaker prime minister said that governments' policies were framed after institutional inputs from different institutions and departments. Replying to a student's question, he said that the caretaker government was a product of a constitutional order after the former leader of the house and leader of the opposition in the previous National Assembly adopted a constitutional procedure and agreed upon his nomination. He said that the previous parliament had passed a law in which the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was mandated to announce an election date. "It is the mandate of the ECP and not of the Caretaker Prime Minister to set a date for the general elections," he said, adding if he was mandated under the constitution, he would have given the same.

Prime Minister Kakar further said that the caretaker government would assist the ECP with the provision of finances and security for a smooth process and assured to fulfill their constitutional duty. About delay in Punjab and KP polls, the prime minister said that the matter did not pertain to the tenure of the interim set up and referred to Article 254 of the Constitution which said that any delay or failure to comply with the legal requirement as to time, did not render an act invalid or unconstitutional because it happened late.

Explaining his view in response to question by a student, the prime minister said that in Pakistan, democracy was in the transitional period and it had not been a settled one like that of a European country where the democratic system had taken a shape. He said that for reaching to their destination, well-defined principles should be

LHC issues notices to cops

LAHORE (INP: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday issued notices to police officers named in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed's contempt of court request. The court has asked the police officers to respond to the request by November 3, 2023. Justice Ali Baqer Najafi of the Lahore High Court heard Sanam Javed's contempt of court request.

## Deportation process applies to all illegal foreigners: PM

laid down beyond the political considerations.

There should be informed discourse, instead political dogfights on TV screens, he said and regretted that certain social and political trends, kind of hate and abuse on social media platforms, had become part of their lives. Encouraging students to take bold decisions and engage in informed discourse over various challenges being faced by the country, the caretaker prime minister stressed that they should first explore themselves and then search for what they believed.

To another query with regard to freedom of expression and rights, the prime minister mentioned that the state had its constitutional rights and pointed out Article 5 which demanded for unconditional loyalty with the state. He said that everyone had to follow sets of rules and regulations otherwise, it would lead to chaos and anarchy in a society. About May 9 incidents in Pakistan, he said that in the US too, the protestors involved in the Capitol Hill violent incidents were charged with and handed down different sentences.

"We have to accept the legal consequences of an action as there is due process," he said, adding that it were the functions of the parliament to frame laws and acts. The prime minister observed that the modernization phase in the world has been undergoing a huge transformation because it was an era of Artificial Intelligence.

Explaining the purpose of his LUMS visit, the prime minister said that he was visiting all the provincial metropolitans and looking for the solution-based answers to the problems faced by the country. He said they were looking for different approaches to these challenges and needed human resources, and in this regard the educational institutions could be the contributors towards ultimate solutions.

(Continued on Back Page)

## Two soldiers embrace martyrdom

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with terrorists in the general area Khoru, Awaran District of Balochistan, ISPR said on Monday.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) information, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell, while two got injured.

However, during an intense exchange of fire, Naib Subedar Asif Irfan (age 37 years, resident of District Okara) and Sepoy Irfan Ali (age 22 years, resident of District Sargodha) having fought gallantly, embraced 'Shahadat'. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. The security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the ISPR press release added.

## LHC orders unsealing of Lal Haveli

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench on Monday ordered unsealing of Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid's Lal Haveli.

Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of the LHC Rawalpindi bench conducted hearing of the case relating to sealing of Lal Haveli. Former interior minister Rashid was present in the court along with his lawyers Abdul Razzaq and Sardar Shehbaz. The court ordered authorities to immediately unseal the Lal Haveli. The court also declared the decision to revoke ownership deeds of Lal Haveli as null and void.

The court, while remanding back the decision of Evacuee Trust Board chairman, issued directions to the Board to hear the Lal Haveli case afresh.



GAZA: A man standing at his destroyed house after Israeli attacks in Khan Younus.

## Israel-Hamas war could shoot oil prices: WB

NEW YORK (Reuters): The World Bank's latest report forecasts that global oil prices could up to \$140 to \$157 a barrel in case of a "large disruption" scenario in the Middle East, resembling the impact of the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

The report read that global oil prices will average around \$90 a barrel in the fourth quarter of this year and decrease to an average of \$81 in 2023 due to slowing economic growth, which reduces demand for oil. However, the report also highlights a significant risk that an escalation of the ongoing Middle East conflict could cause a substantial spike in oil prices.

The report points out that since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, oil prices have increased by only about 6%, whereas prices for agricultural commodities, most metals, and other commodities have seen minimal changes. The report discusses three risk scenarios based on historical conflicts in the region, with varying degrees of disruption. In the event of a "small disruption," equivalent to the reduction in oil output

observed during the 2011 Libyan civil war (about 500,000 to 2 million barrels per day), oil prices could rise to a range of \$93 to \$102 a barrel in the fourth quarter.

A "medium disruption," roughly equivalent to the Iraq war in 2003, could lead to a reduction of global oil supplies by 3 million to 5 million barrels per day, resulting in prices between \$109 and \$121 per barrel. The "large disruption" scenario, resembling the impact of the 1973 Arab oil embargo, would reduce global oil supply by 6 million to 8 million barrels per day, initially causing prices to jump to \$140 to \$157 a barrel, an increase of up to 75%.

The report also highlights the potential consequences of sustained high oil prices, including higher food prices, particularly in developing countries. It further notes that China's oil demand remained surprisingly robust, despite challenges in the country's real estate sector, with a 12% increase in the first nine months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

The report mentions that oil production and exports from Russia have remained relatively stable, even with Western-imposed embargoes on Russian crude due to the Ukraine conflict. It notes a shift in Russia's crude oil exports from Western countries to China, India, and Turkey, which has partially compensated for the decline in Western exports.

The report also discusses the challenges of enforcing a price cap on Russian crude oil introduced in late 2022. The cap, which aims to restrict the use of Western-supplied services for Russian crude above a certain price, has been breached due to Russia's trading methods. In conclusion, the World Bank emphasises the potential impact of an escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict on global oil prices and advises policymakers in developing countries to prepare for the possibility of increased inflation. It also encourages governments to avoid trade restrictions like export bans on food and fertilizer, as these can exacerbate price volatility and food insecurity.





## IGP for strict security for anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Monday ordered police to ensure strict security measures for the five-day long anti-polio drive.

He said all the security steps for the drive should be made stricter with coordination at police stations level, according to spokesman for Sindh Police. The provincial police chief said security should be provided to polio teams on the basis of inner and outer cordon in possible sensitive union councils. He said special responsibilities should be assigned to police commandos in all such union councils. Along with the concerned police and commandos, plain clothed personnel should also be deployed in sensitive union councils. Riffat Mukhtar said during random snap checking, picketing and patrolling, strict vigilance should be maintained, suspicious activities should be monitored properly.

The IGP ordered that communication and information sharing should be ensured at all levels.

District SSPs should monitor the security measures themselves and make the concerned SHOs to be present in the areas.

## Governor takes notice of 11 drown in boat capsized

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh, Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday took notice of a boat capsized in which 11 people had drowned in Nara Canal. He directed the Commissioner Sukkur to utilize all resources to search for the drowned people.

## Five robbers arrested in Karachi

KARACHI (PPI): A police team claimed on Monday to have arrested five accused allegedly involved in a robbery committed in Shah Faisal Colony area of Karachi. According to the details, the robbers looted Rs 1,300,000 cash and mobile phones from an egg dealer shop located at Shah Faisal colony following which the law enforcement authorities managed to recover a total of Rs 950,000 cash from the possession of the robbers.

Meanwhile, some arms and stolen mobile phones of the citizens were also recovered. Earlier to this, the suspect who allegedly opened fire and injured two citizens over robbery resistance in Gulshan-e-Hadid was arrested.

According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Malir, the bandit, Shehzad, was arrested with the help of CCTV footage, meanwhile during the investigation, the culprit confessed to various robberies in Gulshan-e-Hadid and Shah Latif town.

The police officials recovered an illegal arm and multiple bullets from the possession of the accused robber. The incident was reported in the Steel Town police station last night, after which the local police officers conducted a raid and arrested the culprit.

# Registration of CNICs of transgender persons cannot be ceased

KARACHI (NNI): The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) was established under the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011 for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Province of Sindh. The Government of Sindh has constituted the SHRC under Section 3 (1) of the Act on 9th May 2013.

Under Section 2 (iv), the SHRC has an overarching mandate for the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and legal safeguards and protections described under the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011.

Under Section 4 of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011 (and 2023 Amendment), the SHRC has the powers and functions to "4 (iii) formulate, implement and regularly update policies with a view to protect human rights;" and (v) "review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;"

The SHRC has received a complaint from Sana Khan, a transgender activist, Hyderabad through a Committee Member of SHRC dated 16th October, 2023 that NADRA has issued a notification under letter dated 13th June 2023 and ceased issuing the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) to Transgender persons. However, the same notification was withdrawn on 25th September, 2023, but NADRA offices in Hyderabad were informed that the Central System is yet to be updated (copies of notifications enclosed). The transgender community in Pakistan is already marginalized and denied its constitutional rights. Ceasing the provision of CNIC cards to the transgender persons violates the various fundamental rights granted to the citizens. This includes the right to dignity (Article 14), right to life (Article 9), and the right to equality before law (Article 25). Additionally, it also effects the right to freedom of movement (Article 15), freedom of assembly

(Article 16), freedom of association (Article 17) and freedom of trade, business or profession (Article 18) as without the CNIC card, citizens cannot enjoy these rights.

NADRA has relied on a judgment by the Federal Shariat Court in the case of Hammad Hussain versus Federation of Pakistan and others (Shariat Petition 05-I OF 2020), which on 19.05.2023 ceased the operation of certain provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 "with immediate effect." These provisions included Section 2(f) (containing the definition of "gender identity"), Section 2(n) (ili), Section 3 (related to legal gender recognition), and Section 7 (related to inheritance) of the 2018 Act.

However, it must be pointed out that multiple appeals have been filed against the FSC judgment regarding the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, including Farhatullah Babar etc. vs. Hammad Hussain (Shariat Petition A.2/2023).

Article 203D of the Constitution of Pakistan stipulates the powers, jurisdiction and functions of the FSC. A proviso states that "Provided that no such decision shall be deemed to take effect before the expiration of the period within which an appeal therefrom may be preferred to the Supreme Court or, where an appeal has been so preferred, before the disposal of such appeal."

The Supreme Court (SC) has interpreted Article 203D in Kalsoom Begum V/S Peran Ditta and others (2022 SCMR 1352) on 27.01.2022 at Para 6 of the judgement and stated that: "...Since the appeal is pending adjudication, the said decision of the Federal Shariat Court (impugned therein) has not come into effect, because the second part to the proviso to clause (2) of Article 203(D) of the Constitution..."

Therefore, the SHRC under Section 4(iii) and 4(v) has taken cognizance and refers to your good office to facilitate the transgender persons in all NADRA centers of Sindh without any discrimination on the basis of gender identity (as guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan) under intimidation to the SHRC.

## PBSA attend S Korea Independence Day celebration

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Commissioner Pakistan Boys Scout Association (PBSA) Sardar Waqar Advocate said that both Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Korea had supported each other in every national event while people to people contact will be further deepen in future.

This he said during his visit to Korean Embassy on Republic of Korea Independence Day celebration. Park Kijum Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea honored Sardar Waqar

Shahzad Advocate to attend the reception.

Sardar Waqar Shahzad Advocate, forwarded personal warm wishes and the brotherly feelings from the people of Pakistan specially from Swat on

Independence Day and Armed forces of Republic of South Korea. Sardar Waqar Shahzad Advocate wished a prosperous and bright future for the brotherly country and people of Republic of Korea.



## All Pakistan PMS officer gathering held

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A gathering of All Pakistan PMS Officers was held in Islamabad. Officers from various provinces participated in the gathering. The coordination committee of PMS officers from various provinces was revived.

Fahad Ikram Qazi from PMS was announced as Coordinator for the All Pakistan PMS officers' coordination committee. The officers talked on various themes pertaining to civil service reforms, administrative federalism, issues faced by the officers in various provinces in terms of placement and promotions and the hegemony of Chief Secretaries at respec-

tive provinces.

For instance, in Punjab more than 100 seats are lying vacant and the Board is deliberately not being held for last 7 months. The speakers laid out the strategy for the PMS coordination council which will engage the Supreme Court to undo the unlawful Apportionment formula 93.

Engage the Political parties so Administrative federalism gets incorporated in elections manifestos of the political parties. Administrative struggle to constitutionalize the Civil service and bring about civil service reforms in Pakistan. Caretaker Govt will also be engaged to this effect accordingly.



LAHORE: Worker are buying and selling at various stalls at the cultural fair in a festival at Jilani Park.

# Minister wants protection of water

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that every member of the society has to take steps to protect water to achieve sustainable development. He said that we also worked on Laser Land Leveling to utilize minimum quantity of water in irrigation sector. He said that it is the need of the hour to raise awareness among the public about the importance of water and water safety, water security is the secret of our bright and successful future. He expressed these views while addressing the high level inaugural session of "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation

Pathways for Pakistan" organized at a local hotel in Islamabad.

British High Commissioner H.E. Jane Marriott OBE, Ambassador, Kingdom of the Netherlands H.E. Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of Poland H.E. Maciej Pisarski, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commissioner H.E. Danielle Cashen, Mission Director USAID H.E. Kate Somvongsiri and Director General International Water Management Institute (IWN) Mr. Mark Smith were also present on the occasion. Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that water is essential for human life, forests, agriculture and all living things, but despite this, many parts of the world today are deeply insecure. Climate Nexus Transformation

deeply intertwined with climate security, water risks are intensifying around the world as climate change tightens its grip and shocks the planet's hydrological system.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research said that that water conservation is indispensable for improving agriculture, food system and for economic development. He said that in the new era of water risk, governments, businesses, water users and people from all sectors related to water must use all resources and effective measures to protect water.

Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik said that due to the lack of immediate and bold measures, water security could lead to further deterioration.

## LDA seals another 36 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority on Monday sealed more than 36 dozen properties in New Muslim Town for non-payment of annual commercialization fee.

The operation was supervised by Director Town Planning Zone One Ayesha Mutahir. The properties sealed include private offices, private schools, bakeries, clinics, stores, etc. The sealed properties were defaulters of crores of rupees. Notices were issued several times to the sealed properties before the operation. Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa has said that indiscriminate operation is underway against illegal constructions/commercial activities, land grabbers mafia, encroachments and commercialization fee defaulters across the city.

## SSUET celebrates 'Sir Syed Day'

KARACHI (APP): A thought-provoking event was organized by Sir Syed University of Engineering and Aligarh Institute of Technology to mark the birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in which prominent scholars and researchers of the country participated and shed light on various aspects of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's personality and services.

Addressing the Sir Syed Day event, renowned writer and critic Zabe Azkar Hussain said that Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's period was an era of chaos. Observing the situation with the right perspective, Sir Syed saved the nation from adventurism. Sir Syed wanted the freedom of expression and thought. He drew the attention of the Muslims of the subcontinent towards scientific education and did a great deal in modern literature which his predecessors had not done.

Noted scholar Prof. Dr. Rais Ahmad Samdani said that Pakistan would not have been established without the efforts of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. He was a true supporter of humanity. Sir Syed laid the foundation for writing the preface. When he realized that his government job would be a hurdle in his mission, he resigned from the job. Dr. Salman Sarwat said that Sir Syed had a multidimensional personality and the most important aspect of his life was that he was a reformer and a leader. He was a social leader, not a political figure, who gave primary importance to modern education.

## 'Use of technology for innovation crucial for social advancement'

LAHORE (APP):

Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan Director General Shazia Adnan has said, the use of technology for innovation in today's fast-paced, globally-linked society is crucial for social advancement, economic growth and the research and development ecosystem. However, the activities and initiatives led by research and innovation encourage the culture of innovation and technology commercial-

ization.

She expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of a training seminar on 'Technology Search and Development of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) in Pakistan' jointly organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), IPO Pakistan and Higher Education Commission (HEC) here at University of Management and Technology (UMT) on Monday. Mr. Marco

Aleman, Section Head, Information Technology Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva Mussadiq Hussain, Head, Technology Information Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID), (WIPO), Geneva Haris Khan, HEC representative Islamabad, Prof Abid HK Shirwani, Co-Founder, Director-General, Head ORIC and Director TISC, UMT also addressed various themes of the event.

PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES ACADEMY Department of Health, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa <b>BS Nursing 04 Years Degree Program Admission Notice, Session Fall 2023-2027</b>	
Applications are invited on prescribed online admission form for BS Nursing (04 Years) degree program, available on PHSA official website <a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a> for the following Nursing colleges under PHSA Network. The closing date is <b>20/11/2023 5:00 P.M</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government College of Nursing Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Bannu.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Swat.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Mardan.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing D.I. Khan.</li> <li>Government College of Nursing Kohat.</li> <li>Post Graduate College of Nursing (PGCN) Hayatabad Peshawar.</li> </ol>	
<b>Eligibility Criteria:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F.Sc (Pre-Medical) or equivalent qualification with at least 50% Marks (Physics, Chemistry and Biology as compulsory subjects).</li> <li>KMU (CAT) Test is compulsory. Student failing to appear in KMU (CAT) Test for session 2023 are not eligible for the admission.</li> <li>The maximum age Limit for admission is 35 years on the closing date of admission submission.</li> <li>Candidates having domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and newly merged districts are eligible only.</li> <li>Admission will be on open merit basis with female to male ratio of 9:1, which will also be maintained in each Nursing College.</li> <li>Prospectus can be downloaded from PHSA official website (<a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>)</li> <li>Candidates shall deposit <b>Rs. 500/-</b> as processing fee in any National Bank of Pakistan Aitamaad Branch on account of DG Provincial Health Services Academy Account No. <b>PK03NBP2268003311456435</b>.</li> <li>All candidates and their parents/guardians are directed to read the prospectus carefully for all the details, terms and conditions. PHSA will not be responsible for any omissions, responsibility will lie on the candidate him/herself.</li> <li>The decision of central selection committee will be considered as final.</li> <li>The admission will be on provisional basis, subject to verification of original documents from the concerned board/office by the respective College of Nursing.</li> <li>Any candidate found to have submitted tempered or fake documents during or after interview will stand ineligible and shall be liable for legal action.</li> <li><b>Last date</b> for submission of online admission form is <b>20/11/2023 5:00 P.M</b>. No application will be entertained after the closing date whatsoever.</li> <li><b>List of all Applicants (General List)</b> will be displayed on <b>23/11/2023</b> on PHSA official website (<a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>). For any correction(s) in the already submitted online admission form, the written application can be given in PHSA office OR through email at <a href="mailto:admission@phsa.edu.pk">admission@phsa.edu.pk</a> from the same email address from which the admission form was uploaded. Correction(s) requested from any other email address shall not be entertained. Last date for correction(s) is <b>29/11/2023 5:00 P.M</b>.</li> <li>Separate lists of <b>Shortlisted Candidates (male and female)</b> will be displayed on <b>07/12/2023</b> on PHSA official website (<a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>), along with interview schedule.</li> <li>Only shortlisted candidates will appear in the interview at PHSA office, Budhni Road Duranpur, near Motorway northern bypass, Peshawar.</li> <li>Physical presence of the candidate is mandatory at the time of interview. Any candidate failing to appear in interview on the scheduled date and time for any reason whatsoever, will lose the right for the admission and the interview shall not be rescheduled.</li> <li>All the original documents including KMU-CAT result in hard form along with a recent passport size photograph and a set of attested photocopies of all relevant documents as mentioned in prospectus must be provided at the time of interview.</li> <li>All Hafiz-e-Quran should bring Hifz-e-Quran certificate from a registered Deeni Madrasa and will have to pass Hifz-e-Quran test at the time of interview. Only those candidates who pass Hifz-e-Quran test will be awarded 20 Marks (marks will be added in FS.c obtained marks). If the test is not passed during the interview, the Hifz-e-Quran marks will be deducted.</li> <li>No separate call letter/message will be issued/communicated to the shortlisted candidates and they are directed to visit PHSA Official Website (<a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>), frequently.</li> <li>If interview time and schedule is changed due to any reason, it will be updated on PHSA official Website, (<a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>).</li> <li>No TA/DA will be given to any candidate.</li> </ol>	
INF(P): 2665/2023	<b>Director General</b> Provincial Health Services Academy, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, Budhni Road Dauranpur Peshawar. Website: <a href="http://www.phsa.edu.pk">www.phsa.edu.pk</a>



LAHORE: A halwai is preparing Katlama at, Miani Sahib Graveyard.



# Mayor plans plazas for revenue boost

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has said that commercial buildings would be constructed on the vacant properties of the metropolitan government to enhance its revenue generation.

He was presiding over a high-level meeting here on Monday wherein DG Metropolitan Government, Sayyed Waqas Ali Shah, Director East, Rehman Khattak, Director West, Riaz Awan, Assistant Director East Zone, Khuda e Nazar, Assistant Director Property, Ayaz Khan, Assistant Director IT, Engineer Riaz Ahmad Khan, Deputy

Director Social Welfare, Madam Shahnaz and others were present.

On the occasion Assistant Director briefed the mayor on properties owned by the metropolitan government and said that all the record of these properties has been computerized. He said prior to 2019, the monthly income of these properties was Rs 9 million that was increased by 200 percent after 2019.

He further informed the meeting that in January 2022, a raise of 25 percent was made in the rents, which has caused an increase of Rs 10.12 million in metropoli-

tan revenue. Under the tenant law, he said an increase of 25 percent was due for January 2025.

The mayor said that special care should be taken for the official properties of the metropolitan government and constant surveys of these properties was necessary to check illegal occupations of these lands. He said stern legal action be taken against the grabbers of the metropolitan lands.

Mayor said that plazas would be constructed on the vacant metropolitan lands to enhance revenue generation for the capital metropolitan government.

## Home Dept launches e-licensing system

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Department has developed a new software for issuance of computerized arms license and launched the e-licensing system across the province.

According to the Home department notification, any citizen can now apply online for the non-prohibited bore and through e-payment, adding that new software designed to simplify complicated process in issuance of arms licensing.

It said that the new software would improve the data security and regulatory system of arms license.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing students during Annual Convocation 2023 of Peshawar University.

# Public Service Commission declares PMS results

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission on Monday declared the result of the competitive examination for 95 posts of Provincial Management Officer (PMS) BPS-17 conducted from 4th to 22nd October, 2022.

Out of 32, 793 applicants, only 6, 687 appeared in the competitive examination which is 20 percent of the total. Out of total candidates appeared in the written examination, 226 candidates have been declared as qualified which is 3.3%.

Roll numbers of the qualified candidates are including 104, 451, 651, 785, 901, 957, 969, 971, 1044, 1080, 1169, 1180, 1183, 2118, 2128, 2278, 2370, 2452, 2493, 2621, 2641, 2655, 2684, 2700, 2846, 3234, 3344, 3348, 3358, 3404, 3445, 3547, 3739, 3769, 3798, 3995, 4210, 4319, 4885, 4897, 5141, 5154, 5460, 5699, 6135, 6527, 6536, 6951, 6974, 7022, 7048, 7193, 7198, 7221, 7315, 7374, 7426, 7448, 7569, 7697, 7965, 8087, 8136, 8332, 8698, 8738, 9001, 10447, 10517, 10538, 10615, 10689, 11265, 11351, 11632, 11854, 12098, 12202, 12225, 12326, 12339, 12364, 12379, 13008, 13359, 13583, 13805, 13888, 13964, 14245, 14258, 14554, 14915, 15128, 15278, 15279, 15284, 15697, 15703, 15801, 16047, 16171, 16390, 16471, 16524, 16525, 16546, 1785, 901, 957, 969, 971, 17177, 17488, 17546, 17597, 17599, 17654, 17727, 17838, 17841, 17963, 18028, 18046, 18210, 18238, 18239, 18240, 18432, 18747, 18834, 18986, 19067, 19221, 19465, 19522, 19578, 19766, 19810, 20022, 20350, 20382, 20893, 0956, 21286, 21300, 21407, 21462, 21818, 21947, 22002, 22104, 22135, 22500, 22538, 22632, 22637, 22665, 22825, 22831, 22982, 23648, 23791, 24091, 24429, 24446, 24604, 24688, 24801, 25040, 25793, 26137, 26166, 26229, 26376, 26477, 26551, 26599, 26866, 26953, 26968, 27047, 27631, 27800, 27900, 28130, 28513, 28839, 29172, 29176, 29433, 29594, 29680, 29708, 19292, 19578, 20022, 20702, 21286, 21455, 21834, 22067, 22167, 22632, 22765, 22960, 23715, 24191, 24559, 24734, 25375, 26152, 26366, 26486, 26740, 26960, 27211, 27874, 28391, 29048, 29336, 29642, 30467, 30483, 30777, 30932, 31039, 31805, 31822, 32033, 32035, 32156, 32658, 32770.

All the qualified candidates will be called for Psychological Test followed by viva voce as per prescribed syllabus, says a press release issued by the Commission. List of qualified candidates and Detail Marks Certificates of failed candidates are also available on KP PSC website ([www.kppsc.gov.pk](http://www.kppsc.gov.pk)).

If any candidate applies for re-totalling of marks, he/she shall submit application to the Commission along with fee challan of Rs.500/- per paper deposited in relevant head of account in National Bank of Pakistan within fifteen days after announcement of the result. No request after expiry of the said period would be entertained.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister KP Muhammad Azam Khan chairing a meeting of Provincial Task Force on Merged Areas. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat also present.

# Respiratory Care awareness seminar concluded at KMU

PESHAWAR (APP): Respiratory Care Week was celebrated with a dynamic and enlightening seminar at KMU Institute of Health Sciences on Monday.

A large number of professionals and experts in the field of respiratory therapy, people from various health fields, experts from Khyber Medical University and Shifa International Hospital, large number of students participated in the ceremony. The participants served as a platform to create awareness about the importance of respiratory care and the emerging role of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

A comprehensive program was presented which was highly appreciated by the participants. In the ceremony, the president of the National Association of Respiratory Therapists Ehtsham, certified respiratory therapists Khateeb ur Rehman, Aleem, Khawaja Mohsin, Ureej, and Muhammad Bilal discussed the future of therapy and career counseling in detail in their speech. Participants were also introduced to the world of oxygen therapy, the importance of patient healthcare, and the important role of artificial intelligence.

Dr. Ziaur Rahman expressed his views, "Respiratory Care Week is not only a time to celebrate the achievements of our profession but also a moment of education and inspiration. It highlights depth and breadth. We are on the brink of an exciting era in healthcare, with AI poised to transform the way we deliver care.

In addition to informational sessions, the seminar provided a practical demonstration of basic life support, exposing participants to essential life-saving skills.

This practical segment led by respiratory therapists highlighted the importance of quick and effective responses in emergency situations.

At the end of the seminar Sheikh Atif Mahmood Director of KMU-IHS Islamabad, highly appreciated the efforts of all the organizers and all the speakers. He also emphasized the need to introduce AI in regular classrooms and introduced the audience to the concept of E-classrooms.

Finally, certificates of appreciation were distributed to the organizers for their tireless efforts in making the event a success all speakers were also awarded honorary shields in recognition of their valuable services in the field of respiratory therapy.

## Barrister Muhammad appointed as AAG

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has appointed Barrister Muhammad Shah as Assistant Advocate General, on Monday. In this regard, Secretary Law has issued notification stated Barrister Muhammad has appointed as Assistant Advocate General till further orders.

He had served several government's departments as legal advisor.

## Dry and partly cloudy weather to prevail in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Monday predicted that mainly dry and partly cloudy weather is expected in most districts of the province, while cold in hilly areas during morning and night.

It said that fog in isolated pockets is expected over Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan and Peshawar, while dense fog in isolated pockets at Rashakai to Swabi as well as over highway from Swabi to Jahangira in late night and early morning hours.

During the last 24 hours, mainly dry weather prevailed over most districts of the province. Rainfall recorded (in mm) during the last 24 hours at different stations of KPK was nil.

## PBC former director passes away

PESHAWAR (APP): Former Director Programs, Radio Pakistan Peshawar, Liaqzada Laiq passed away here on Monday. He was laid to rest his ancestral graveyard amid moving scene at Madain, Swat. The senior broadcaster was a recipient of the Presidential Award. He earned name due to his unique poetry, scripts drama writing and comparing in urdu and pashto languages.

Liaq Zada Laiq also proved his metal as Director Programs.

# BoK achieves remarkable growth with Rs4,682m PBT

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Bank of Khyber (BoK) proudly announces a significant achievement as it posts a remarkable profit before tax of Rs. 4.682 million for 9M 2023. This financial performance was declared during the 182nd meeting of the Board of Directors, held, in Karachi. The meeting was presided over by Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Additional Chief Secretary of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chairman of the Board of Directors. BoK's planning and strategic repositioning of its balance sheet have played a pivotal role in steering the institution successfully through the challenges of the year 2023.

Demonstrating an impressive growth trajectory, the Bank reported a substantial increase of 1.165% in profit before tax, reaching Rs. 4.682 million for 9M 2023, compared to Rs. 370 million for the same period in 2022. Moreover, the net profit after tax for 9M 2023 surged by 783%, amounting to Rs. 2,473 million, compared to Rs. 280 million reported for 9M 2022.

BoK remains committed to delivering exceptional financial services to its customers while continuously investing in upgrading the systems and capabilities to meet the expectations of the customers.

The rapid growth in traffic on the Bank's digital channels is an affirmation that customers are increasingly engaging with the Bank on its new initiatives.



PESHAWAR: Secretary Health Mehmood Aslam Wazir talking to media about situation of Dengue Fever.

# Awareness session on Thalassemia disease held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An awareness seminar about Thalassemia disease and its prevention and also a Blood donation camp was organized by the Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassemia Hospital and Blood Transfusion Services Peshawar. Their presence really highlighted the importance of the seminar, and they all applauded the joint efforts of Leeds College and Hamza Foundation for their noble cause.

Students and teachers of different classes were also invited. Mr. Ateeq Ur Rehman and Ibrarullah Jan RMOs talked about welfare services of Hamza Foundation and also about Thalassemia major disease and its prevention and motivated the students for donations of blood for saving the precious lives of 1474 registered patients of Thalassemia, Hemophilia patients.

Shields and certificates of appreciation were distributed among teaching staff and students.

Founder Chairman Hamza Foundation Mr. Ijaz Ali Khan thanked the entire management of Leeds College Faghrabad for their sincere cooperation and help for the arrangements of such a successful blood donation camp.

## NAB summons ex-minister

PESHAWAR (APP): The National Accountability Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NAB-KP) has summoned former provincial health minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra on October 31 over alleged corruption in the purchase of goods during corona pandemic.

According to the NAB summon letter, the former health minister and officers and officials of the health ministry were involved in corruption and corrupt practices, embezzlement of funds while procuring goods for COVID-19.

The bureau has summoned the former health minister to appear before the Combined Investigation Team-III, IW-I at NAB KP office with the replies to the queries related to the corruption charges.

According to the questionnaire the minister appointed DGHS as a member of a high-power procurement committee while he himself was the procuring entity. Similarly, KPRA rules were violated in the procurement of Corona goods.

## PESCO notified power suspension

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Monday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from KDA Kohat Grid Station on 2nd November from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Consequently, it said consumers of Gamkol Sharif, Alizai, New Sheikhan, MES, Eidgah, KDA Phase 2 feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, it said power supply will remain suspended from Balakot Grid Station on 31st October from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. resulting consumers of Kaghan and Balakot feeders will face inconvenience.

# Dr. Fareez enjoying seven top slots alone

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The medical practitioners argued competent authorities especially Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination to withdraw additional charges from junior doctor named Dr. Main Fareez-ud-Din, on Monday.

He is junior most BPS 17 and possessing Charge of Civil surgeon federal govt for Medical center, In-Charge Airport Health establishment Bacha Khan International Airport.

Dr. Fareez also serving as DDO Torkham health check post Border health services Pakistan and DDO Civil surgeon office Peshawar as well as DDO Sost health check post Khojarab.

The sanction authority of AHD (Airport health department) Peshawar airport and also sanction authority of Torkham health check post.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali addressing a meeting.

# Health Deptt achieves success in controlling dengue outbreak

PESHAWAR (APP): The Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has achieved remarkable success in controlling the dengue outbreak, despite facing financial constraints within the province.

This unique and effective strategy has led to significant improvements in dengue control when compared to other provinces in the country.

Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Aslam Wazir commended the department's efforts in designing and implementing a specialized strategy to combat dengue promptly, thus safeguarding the people of the province from this severe disease, said a hand out issued here on Monday.

The strategy adopted by the Health Department involved collaborative efforts, including engaging various sectors of the community.

From a technical perspective medical entomologist and religious leaders, civil defence officials, and other stakeholders played a crucial role in the successful containment of the dengue virus.

Compared to the same period in the previous year, from January to October 2023, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported only 629 cases, a significant drop from the 16,787 cases reported in October 2022.

Official statistics reveal a total of 13,555 dengue cases reported across the country. Among the provinces, Punjab reported the highest number with 6,866 cases, followed by Baluchistan with 2,658 cases, ICT with 1,799 cases, and Sindh with 1,603 cases.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the majority of cases were reported in District Peshawar (155), Swabi (69), Mardan (47), Charsadda (37), Battagram (36), Kohat (34), Malakand (20), Haripur (20), and Bajaur (20). Additionally, cases were reported in other districts, including DIKhan, Mansehra, Lakki Marwat, Nowshera, Abbottabad, Bannu, and more.

The efforts of health department teams to combat dengue included rigorous vector surveillance. A total of 8,688,881 houses were inspected, resulting in 8,803 houses being identified as positive for dengue and promptly disinfected.

Furthermore, 32,078,240 containers were inspected, with 13,221 containers being identified as positive and disposed of during indoor surveillance. Additionally, 1,86550 outdoor breeding sites/spots were inspected, and 9,960 positive sites were treated both mechanically and chemically by established protocols.

In terms of community awareness, the Health Department conducted numerous sessions and activities. A total of 295,702 male sessions engaged 2109619 participants, while 2096355 female sessions were conducted within houses, healthcare facilities, and schools, involving 8968137 female participants.

In addition, 4190 walks were held across the province to raise awareness about dengue, and 518177 dengue pamphlets were distributed during these sessions and walks.

Furthermore, 149837 households were sprayed with preventive measures, and 350,000 bed nets were distributed in high-risk and low-risk areas to bolster dengue control and prevention.

Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir praised the contributions of Medical Entomologists, religious leaders and civil defence officials across various districts who played a vital role in controlling the transmission of the dengue virus.

He emphasized that religious leaders had a significant role in educating people during Friday prayers and other occasions, while civil defence volunteers conducted door-to-door visits, motivating residents to remove breeding sites in their homes.

"I along with my teams, personally visited different areas to create awareness among the people regarding dengue fever," Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir stated, underlining the department's commitment to protecting the health of the people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.





## In brief

### No alliance with any party: PTI F.P. Report

MARDAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Ali Muhammad Khan has denied any alliance with any political party in the upcoming election. Talking to media, Khan said that the PTI is the biggest political party in the country and it is making its own political space. He said that the PTI is engaging different parties for free and fair elections and may meet Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in this regard. However, he clarified that it will be a political meeting and not an alliance. Khan also said that the PTI is expected to meet the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the future regarding the election. He said that the PTI is only interested in clear and transparent elections and wants all parties to get an equal chance. "We are not talking about any alliance, any relief, or any deal," Khan said. "We have no instructions from Imran Khan to form an alliance with any party, nor has the core committee discussed any alliance with us."

### Action against butchers sought F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: The residents claimed that administration along with other competent authorities had failed to take actions against butchers and milkmens on artificial price hike. The residents claimed that food department as well as administrative officers along with others had turned blind eyes toward butchers and milkmens while they are looting people with both hands. The residents added that meat per kilo is available at Rs550 at Mardan bazaar while in Takhtbhahi butchers are receiving Rs700 per kg. The residents argued Deputy Commissioner Mardan for actions against butchers and milkmens for violating official prices.

### Death toll of coal miners increased F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Another coal miner of Shangla has died due to the breakup of a rope while entering to mine in Bolan area of Balochistan province which has led death toll of 15 in the current month. The deceased laborer Anwar Saeed was dead due to breakup of rope going to thousands of feet deep coal mine. The dead body of laborer is shifting to his native village Basi Piza area of Tehsil Alpur district Shangla. According to a survey conducted in 2013 it was identified that 65% of Shangla district is directly depends their livelihood from coal mining but they have neither registration nor obtaining any benefits. Unfortunately, there is no hospital nor educational facilities for children and families of laborers at Shangla district. The residents demanded from government to ensure collection of data regarding coal miners and provision of benefits to them in this regard. The residents also argued stern actions against illegal mining and mines with lack safety measures to ensure security of laborers.

### Man kills wife, youth for honour SHIKARPUR (INP):

A man gunned down his wife and a youth for honour in suburban village of Shikarpur on Monday and fled the scene, police said. The incident took place in village Yar Muhammad Isani where accused Muhammad Murid Isani over suspicion of illicit relations shot dead his wife and a youth.



QUETTA: Activists of newly regularized employees joint action committee BDA sitting in a protest camp for acceptance of their demands.

## Ex-finance minister from Dir may join PTI-P

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Though tight-lipped about his future plan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa former minister for finance Muzafar Syed Advocate is likely to join the newly formed Pakistan Tahreek Insaf Parliamentarian (PTI-P) launched by Pervaz Khattak and Mahmood Khan.

The speculations got diverse comments from the readers when the former provincial minister Muzafar Syed shared a post along with a photograph meeting the former chief minister Mahmood Khan on his own official facebook page here the other day. According to sources privy to the development the former chief minister Mahmood Khan visited the residence of former provincial minister Muzafar Syed in Talash and discussed bilateral issues including the PTI-P future.

The former minister shared details of his meeting with Mahmood Khan but did not hint at joining the PTI-P. Later the former chief minister Mahmood Khan also shared a post from his social media page confirming the details of meeting with Muzafar

Syed. The former chief minister said that Muzafar Syed would soon join his party.

The Jamaat-i-Islami's minister in the Pervaz Khattak group, Muzafar Syed had joined the Pakistan People Party on Nov 16, 2020 after his defeat in the 2018 general elections during which some influential members of the JJ opposed him. Muzafar Syed was made the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for finance when the JJ chief quit his portfolio in Pervaz Khattak's government. He was elected MPA in 2002 on the JJ ticket.

The JJ again awarded him a ticket for the 2008 general elections but later the JJ boycotted the election. Muzafar Syed again was elected MPA in 2013 and remained finance minister for four years. In 2018, he was defeated by the PTI candidate Shafiuallah under which he wanted the party to take disciplinary action against the JJ activists who had opposed him and had not voted for him. The former minister joined the PPP in 2020 with the hope that he would be awarded the party ticket for PK 15 Lower Dir but the hope

vanished a few days ago when reports circulated through social media that he had been denied a party ticket.

**Residents' demand:** Residents of Shalkandai Dara area in Jandol on Monday demanded the district administration to take action against illegal speed breakers on the eight kilometer Munda-Shalkandai area and rid the motorists of its trouble. Talking to local journalists the residents complained that locals had erected several speed breakers near their houses due to which motorists found it difficult to drive smoothly on it.

The residents said that the road condition was already deplorable while those speed breakers had added to the miseries. They said that patients and students were suffering daily due to those illegal speed breakers. The residents said the officials of tehsil municipal administration had removed the speed breakers but after the operation the locals again erected them. They demanded appropriate measures for removing such illegal breakers from the road to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

## Two women die, four injured in road mishap Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Two women died and four persons injured when a speedy motorcar overturned at Nowshera district on Monday.

Police said the accident occurred near Rashakai Interchange on motorcycle due failure of break of the car. The dead includes Faram Bibi (40) and 38 years old Nazhat Bibi of Mardan district. The injured were shifted to hospital.

**Unknown terrorists attacked former MNA residence:** Unknown terrorists attacked residence of former Member National Assembly (MNA), leader Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian (PTIP) and prominent businessman Haji Nawab Khan with rocket, on Sunday late night.

According to details, with good fortune family members of former MNA were safe while the building is partially damaged at Jaloza area of Nowshera, however, Haji Nawab was n't present in the home. The terror attack had created fear in the premises while police had cordoned the area after the attack.

## Major raid in Mardan against drugs F.P. Report

MARDAN: Spurious manufacturing Factory caught in Lal Mir Kali District Mardan by the team of Drug control, Directorate General Drugs and Pharmacy Services (DG, DC & PS) along with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

The Directorate General, Drug Control & Pharmacy Services, Drug Control Team of District Mardan on the special direction of Secretary Health in regards to Special campaign against Spurious Drugs/Illegal Drugs/Medicines. A team of Drug Inspectors, Mr. Ameer Zeb and Haroon Rashid along with FIA raided a house situated at LAL MIR Kali District Mardan along with FIA Officials where manufacturing of Veterinary products was in-progress and seized huge stock of raw materials, machinery and Packing materials worth more than 10 million, and arrested one person on spot namely Javed Khan S/O of Faqir Gul R/O Lal Mir Kali Tehsil Takht Bahi District Mardan.

The action against the spurious Drugs/illegal Drugs will be continue in entire province by the Directorate General Drug Control & Pharmacy Services (DG, DC & PS) in order to ensure the quality of drug/ Medicines for general public and ailing community.

## 15 criminals arrested

SARGODHA (INP): Police in Sargodha arrested 15 criminals, including four proclaimed offenders, and recovered illegal weapons and narcotics from their possession in a crackdown on Monday.

According to police, the arrested suspects were identified as Nouman, Adil, Abid, Kashif, Aziz, Ali, Imtiaz, Dilawar, Hussain, Umair, Hamza, Amir, Aslam, Sultan, and Moin.

## Peace, education, culture and media united to combat extremism



### F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: In a historic inaugural ceremony that resounded with a shared commitment to peace and harmony, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology celebrated the launch of the Regional Office (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter) of the National Center on Countering Violent Extremism. Collaborative partners included Conflict Resolution Scope (CRS), Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, and the National Institute of Psychology under the Paigham-e-Pakistan National Peace Narrative.

Alie addressing the inaugural ceremony, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali, emphasized that the establishment of this regional center is a crucial step towards addressing violent extremism at the societal level. He acknowledged the importance of institutional collaboration to combat extremism, particularly with research and educational institutions at the national and provincial levels. Ali highlighted the role of education as the cornerstone of efforts to counter extremism, noting that it empowers youth to resist extremist ideologies and fosters a culture of peace and tolerance. He also recognized the critical role of the media in promoting and highlighting national narratives.

Muhammad Kashif Irshad, Advisor to the National Heritage and Culture Division in Islamabad, stressed the role of cultural heritage in promoting tolerance and understanding. He emphasized that preserving and celebrating a diverse cultural tapestry can bridge divides, break down barriers, and foster profound understanding among the people. Irshad underlined culture's power to transcend differences and build lasting connections in society.

Prof. Dr. Malik Mujaddad Ur Rehman, the Vice-Chancellor of Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, expressed optimism about the Regional Office's role as a symbol of hope and resilience. He stated that it will provide opportunities for research, awareness, and community engagement while offering concrete solutions to address the challenges posed by violent extremism. "The potential impact of this initiative is substantial, reflecting the collective determination and collaboration of all those involved," he further added.

In addition to the launch of the Regional Office (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter) of the National Center on Countering Violent Extremism, Governor Ghulam Ali inaugurated several other projects, including the university's administration block, Green Energy initiatives, and the Institute of Space and Technology projects.

## Malakand-III HPP ideal, profitable source of income

### F.P. Report

MALAKAND: Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Energy, Planning and Development, Sarfraz Ali Shah, has said that the Malakand-III hydropower project is an ideal and profitable source of income for the provincial government.

The project, he said, besides generating cheap electricity, also irrigates around 25000 acres of agricultural land. He expressed these views while addressing a briefing organized on the occasion of his visit to Malakand III Power Project on Monday.

He said that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has con-

structed it with its own resources in a short period of time at a very low cost

He said that it is an excellent and exemplary project of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to generate cheap electricity in a short period of time with its own resources, which is benefitting the provincial government to the tune of billions of rupees annually.

Construction work on this project was started in the year 2002 and was completed in a period of six years (in 2008) at a cost of Rs.4 billion. He said that the project has so far earned a receipt of Rs32 billion rupees from this

project. The power generated by the project has been added to the national grid of power supply.

Apart from earning handsome receipts, the project is also a source of employment opportunities for the residents of the area. He said that the hydropower project stands as an important source of renewable energy, an example of successful use of water resources for both power generation and agricultural development. The innovative initiatives and achievements in the hydropower complex indicate commitment towards bringing improvement in efficiency and overall operations of the project.

## Tajik Milli foundation day celebrated

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The 49th foundation day of the Tajik Milli Ittihad Pakistan (TMIP), an organization representing the Tajik tribe in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan was observed at Timergara. A function in this regard was held at a local hotel in Timergara wherein a cake was cut by the central president of the organization Sardar Javed Akhtar advocate.

The TMIP central chairman Ihsanul Haq Tajik, advocate Azeem Ahmad, Haji Ameer Saad Tajik, Kalimullah Sarhadi and others addressed the function and shed light on the history of Tajik tribe. They said the Tajiks living in parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran had a glorious thousands-year history. They said the TMI was founded by the tribal elders in 1974 and united the tribesmen under a single platform.

The speakers announced the organization would celebrate its golden jubilee next year in Islamabad. The TMIP leaders said that Tajiks living in all parts of the country would be invited to participate in that gathering. They said the organization's foundation day celebrations were continued in the Lower Dir, Quetta, Karachi, Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

The speakers also condemned the Israeli air strike on innocent Palestinians in Gaza. They said the Tajik Milli Ittihad fully supported the Palestinians in their struggle against the Israeli atrocities. A three-member finance committee com-

prised of Haji Khaista Rehman, Shah Zeb and Mukhtiar Khan was also announced on the occasion.

**AKF handover Rs6 million donation for Palestine victims:** The Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) Lower Dir president Hafeezullah Khaksar handed over a cheque of Rs 6 million as donation for Gaza Palestine victims to the Foundation's vice president Dr Muhammad Mushtaq Mangat during a simple function.

The AKF provincial patron-in-chief Abdul Wasi and provincial president Khalid Wiqas were also present. Speaking on the occasion the AKF leaders said the people of Pakistan were fully supporting their Palestinian brothers at this crucial time. They said the AKF activists were engaged in providing rescue and relief services to the Gaza victims.

**One killed in road mishap:** A youth identified as Nizam 22, a resident of Rani Sangar was killed while another Sulman, a resident of Danwa was injured when a car and a motorcycle collided at Baroon area of Balambat, residents and Rescue 1122 officials said. The Rescuers shifted the dead and the injured to the district headquarters hospital Timergara. The local police registered a case and started investigations.

**Four injured in road mishap:** As many as four persons injured when Suzuki's overturned at Chamanabad near Government Post Graduate College Timergara, on Monday. According to sources in Timergara, a

Suzuki van overturned at Chamanabad, allegedly due to high speed, in which four Children Nooran, Muzamil, Malika, and Yusuf, residents of Qaziabad, were injured. After providing first aid to the injured children, the rescue medical team shifted them to District Head Quarters Hospital Timergara. The condition of the children is said to be out of danger. The accident victim Suzuki van was recovered.

Meanwhile, with the establishment of private hospitals in Timergara, treatment and treatment facilities are available at the doorstep of the patients, which will relieve the people from the trouble of going to distant areas. Anwar Uddin, and Malik Nisar Khan, President of Private Association Timergara, while speaking at the inauguration of Dr. Mohib Skin and Hair Transplant Clinic in Timergara, said that private hospitals should provide treatment facilities to the public.

Dr. Mohib Khan, Dr. Mohib Khan, the surgeon of Hair Transplant, said that Dr. Mohib Khan has done an important job in Timergara and especially the establishment of Dr. Mohib Hair Transplant for the first time. He said that there are many reasons for hair loss, including depression, stress, hormone deficiency, etc. He said that he does hair transplant with modern equipment. In response to a question, he said that hair transplant can prevent cancer and other diseases. There is no truth in the propaganda of lung disease.

## Six Kotli brothers tie the knot same day

KOTLI (INP): There are love marriages. There are mass marriages. And every type is good and a blessing for the families entering a relationship. But what if we tell you that six sons of the same parents tie the knot on the same day at the same marriage ceremony. One

such marriage ceremony has taken place in Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), in which six brothers tied the knot.

Ustad Shafiq, the father of the six brothers, set an example by getting his sons married on the same day. His friends, relatives and

locals of the area congratulated him on this unique marriage ceremony and expressed good wishes for the couples starting a new phase of life. The news about the same-day marriage of six brothers also made rounds on social media.



HYDERABAD: Resident holding along with children holding placards during a protest against Israel attack on Gaza.

## Boat carrying 11 persons capsizes in Nara Canal

KHAIRPUR (PPI): A boat carrying 11 persons of a wedding party capsized in Nara Canal here, police reported on Monday. "Local people saved five persons while a search has been underway for other people," police sources said. Ill-fated boat was carrying villagers of Chamar Shar from Udoi Pattan for a wedding. "All 11 persons were members of same family," police added.

Governor Sindh has taken notice of the boat capsized incident in Nara Canal and directed local authorities to use all available sources for search of the drowned people. Strong winds upturned a fishing boat in Arabian Sea in August this year leaving at least one fisherman dead and scores of others injured.

"There were 16 fishermen in the boat," a

spokesman of the Coastal Media Centre said. "All fishermen of the ill-fated boat were natives of the coastal settlement of Ibrahim Haideri in Karachi," he added. "A rescue operation has been underway to get the fishermen stranded in the sea to safety," he said. "The fisherman died in the mishap has been identified as Muhammad," spokesman added.

## Drug smuggler arrested

### F.P. Report

SWABI: Swabi police arrested a drug smuggler on Monday and recovered a large quantity of hashish and ice from his possession.

According to police, acting on a tip-off, SHO Chota Lahore Liaquat Shah Khan along with his team raided a suspicious location and arrested the accused, identified as Zulfiqar. During the search operation, police

recovered 3067 grams of hashish and 120 grams of ice from Zulfiqar's possession.

During the investigation, Zulfiqar admitted to supplying hashish and ice to different areas.





OSLO: The Church of Norway and several organisations held a rally in front of the Norwegian Parliament, demanding an immediate stop to the killing of civilians in Gaza.

## More Chinese migrants take a perilous journey to US border

SAN DIEGO (AP): The young Chinese man looked lost and exhausted when Border Patrol agents left him at a transit station. Deng Guangsen, 28, had spent the last two months traveling to San Diego from the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, through seven countries on plane, bus and foot, including traversing Panama's dangerous Darién Gap jungle.

"I feel nothing," Deng said in the San Diego parking lot, insisting on using the broken English he learned from the "Harry Potter" film series. "I have no brother, no sister. I have nobody," Deng is part of a major influx of Chinese migration to the United States on a relatively new and perilous route that has become increasingly popular with the help of social media. Chinese people were the fourth-highest nationality, after Venezuelans, Ecuadorians and Haitians, crossing the Darién Gap during the first nine months of this year, according to Panamanian immigration authorities. Chinese asylum-seekers who spoke to The Associated Press, as well as observers, say they are seeking to escape an increasingly repressive political climate and bleak economic prospects.

They also reflect a broader presence of migrants at the US-Mexico border - Asians, South Americans and Africans - who made September the second-highest month of illegal crossings and the US government's 2023 budget year the second-highest on record. The pandemic and China's COVID-19 policies, which included tight border controls, temporarily stemmed the exodus that rose dramati-

cally in 2018 when President Xi Jinping amended the constitution to scrap the presidential term limit. Now emigration has resumed, with China's economy struggling to rebound and youth unemployment high. The United Nations has projected China will lose 310,000 people through emigration this year, compared with 120,000 in 2012. It has become known as "runxue," or the study of running away. The term started as a way to get around censorship, using a Chinese character whose pronunciation spells like the English word "run" but means "moistening." Now it's an internet meme. "This wave of emigration reflects despair toward China," Cai Xia, editor-in-chief of the online commentary site of Yibao and a former professor at the Central Party School of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing.

"They've lost hope for the future of the country," said Cai, who now lives in the US "You see among them the educated and the uneducated, white-collar workers, as well as small business owners, and those from well-off families." Those who can't get a visa are finding other ways to flee the world's most populous nation. Many are showing up at the US-Mexico border to seek asylum. The Border Patrol made 22,187 arrests of Chinese for crossing the border illegally from Mexico from January through September, nearly 13 times the same period in 2022. Arrests peaked at 4,010 in September, up 70% from August. The vast majority were single adults. The popular route to the US is through Ecuador, which has no visa requirements for Chinese nation-

als. Migrants from China join Latin Americans there to trek north through the once-impenetrable Darién and across several Central American countries before reaching the US border. The journey is well-known enough it has its own name in Chinese: walk the line, or "zouxian." The monthly number of Chinese migrants crossing the Darién has been rising gradually, from 913 in January to 2,588 in September. For the first nine months of this year, Panamanian immigration authorities registered 15,567 Chinese citizens crossing the Darién. By comparison, 2,005 Chinese people trekked through the rainforest in 2022, and just 376 in total from 2010 to 2021.

Short video platforms and messaging apps provide not only on-the-ground video clips but also step-by-step guides from China to the US, including tips on what to pack, where to find guides, how to survive the jungle, which hotels to stay at, how much to bribe police in different countries and what to do when encountering US immigration officers. Translation apps allow migrants to navigate through Central America on their own, even if they don't speak Spanish or English. The journey can cost thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, paid for with family savings or even online loans. It's markedly different from the days when Chinese nationals paid smugglers, known as snakeheads, and traveled in groups. With more financial resources, Xi Yan, 46, and her daughter Song Siming, 24, didn't trek the Ecuador-Mexico route, but instead flew into Mexico via Europe.

## Pro-Palestine crowd storms Russian Dagestan to protest flight from Israel

MOSCOW (Agencies): Hundreds of people stormed the main airport in Russia's Dagestan region to protest the arrival of a flight from Israel. Authorities closed the airport in Makhachkala, the capital of the predominantly Muslim region, and police converged on the facility. There were no immediate reports of arrests but there were several injuries.

"As a result of the incident at Makhachkala airport, there are injured [people], who are receiving medical help," Dagestan's health ministry said on Telegram, without elaborating. Local news reports said the airliner belonged to Russian carrier Red Wings. Social media footage showed some in the crowd on the landing field waving Palestinian flags and others checking the passports of passengers who had arrived in Makhachkala.

"We're getting reports that now, protesters are trying to overturn a police car at Makhachkala airport," said Al Jazeera's Yulia Shapovalova, reporting

from Moscow. "Police reportedly fired into the air to try and disperse the crowd." One protester could be seen in the videos holding a sign reading, "Child killers have no place in Dagestan." In a statement released, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said that Israel "expects the Russian law enforcement authorities to protect the safety of all Israeli citizens and Jews wherever they may be and to act resolutely against the rioters and against the wild incitement directed against Jews and Israelis".

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council, condemned the protests and said the United States "unequivocally stands with the entire Jewish community as we witness a worldwide surge in antisemitism." The Ministry of Internal Affairs for Russia's North Caucasian Federal District, where Dagestan is located, said that CCTV footage would be used to establish the identities of those who

stormed the airport and those involved would be brought to justice. While voicing support for Gaza, the regional Dagestan government appealed to citizens to remain calm and not take part in such protests. The government warned the protesters on Telegram "not to continue illegal acts and not to interfere with the work of airport employees". The statement added: "It is not easy for each of us to stand and watch the inhumane massacre of a civilian population - the Palestinian people. At the same time, we urge residents of the republic not to succumb to provocations of destructive groups and not to create panic in society."

The incident comes as Israel pushes forward with expanded ground operations inside the Gaza Strip, even as heavy aerial bombardment continues. More than 8,000 Palestinians, including 3,324 children, have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the war began. At least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in

Israel, mostly in a surprise attack by Hamas on October 7. The Supreme Mufti of Dagestan, Sheikh Akhmad Afandi, called on residents to stop the unrest at the airport. "You are mistaken. This issue cannot be resolved in this way. We understand and perceive your indignation very painfully... We will solve this issue differently. Not with rallies, but appropriately. Maximum patience and calm for you," he said in a video published on Telegram. Russia's civilian

aviation agency, Rosaviatsia, later reported that the airfield had been cleared of unauthorised people but that the airport would tentatively remain closed to incoming aircraft until November 6. Chechnya and Dagestan are two volatile republics in Russia, both of which have mainly Muslim populations. Earlier, the RIA Novosti news agency reported that a Jewish centre in the city of Nalchik in another Russian republic - Kabardino-Balkaria - had been set on fire.

## Western coverage of Israel's war on Gaza - bias or unprofessionalism?

GAZA (Agencies): Publishing unsubstantiated claims, telling only one side of the story, and painting Palestinians as nothing more than objects in Hamas's hands are all unprofessional mistakes Western media makes while covering the conflict between Israel and Hamas, media experts and Arab journalists say. Experts and journalists who spoke to Al Jazeera said the systemic "bias in favour of Israel" is "irreparably damaging" the credibility of news agencies considered "mainstream" in the eyes of Arabs and others.

As Western media organisations "dehumanise Palestinians" and "legitimise Israeli violations of international law" as Israel bombs Gaza, it is glaringly obvious that the vital historical con-

text of the trauma Palestinians have been through for the past 75 years is being left out, experts say. On October 7, Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on military outposts and communities in southern Israel, killing more than 1,400 Israelis and taking more than 200 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli officials. The same day, Israel launched a relentless bombardment of Gaza that has killed more than 8,000 people, about 40 percent of whom are children.

It also devastated Gaza's health sector and flattened much of its infrastructure while strengthening its choke-hold siege by cutting off fuel, water and food - acts that may amount to war crimes under international

humanitarian law. United Nations experts say Palestinians in Gaza are facing the risk of genocide. Western correspondents have gone to Israel where they reported extensively on the grief of Israeli families, but Israel has not allowed foreign journalists to enter Gaza, which means they're missing a vital aspect of the story. "If you don't live in Gaza, if you don't listen to the prayers Palestinians make when they lose loved ones, if you don't learn about the life story of loved ones [who have been killed] ... then the coverage [of Gaza] won't be the same [as the coverage of Israel]," Taghreed El-Khodary, an analyst from Gaza, told Al Jazeera from her home in the Netherlands. This

means, she continued, that they "are not just covering the Israeli narrative, but they are living the Israeli narrative". Most of the people within Gaza are the children or grandchildren of Palestinians who were expelled from their homeland during the creation of Israel in 1948 - an event commemorated annually as the "Nakba" or catastrophe. Rights groups refer to Gaza, where 2.3 million people are squeezed into a piece of land only 41km (25 miles) long and 10km (6 miles) wide, as the largest "open-air prison" in the world. "You don't hear the word 'victims' [in reference to] Palestinians" as you hear [when there is reporting] about the Israeli side," El-Khodary explained.

### Internet, phone services return to Gaza

GAZA (Agencies): Internet and phone services are returning to Gaza following a communications blackout that humanitarian groups had warned could be used as a cover for war crimes. Paltel Group, which provides communications services in Gaza, said that landline, mobile and internet services were gradually being restored after being disrupted by "ongoing aggression."

"Our technical teams are diligently addressing the damage to the internal network infrastructure under challenging conditions," the telecom said in a statement. "May God protect you all and our Country." Majed Abusalama, an opinion columnist for Al Jazeera, said he was able to reach his mother in Gaza "and hear her voice". "Everyone can reach their families now. No one knows for how long?" he wrote on social media. Gaza had been under a near-total communications blackout for nearly 36 hours following Israeli air attacks that Palestinian telecoms providers said knocked out communications lines and towers. Rights organisations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch had warned that the lack of communications in the enclave was hampering efforts to document war crimes and other abuses. Elon Musk said he would offer his Starlink satellite internet service to "internationally recognised aid organisations" in Gaza, prompting protests by Israel.

"HAMAS will use it for terrorist activities," Israel's communication minister Shlomo Karhi said on X. "Perhaps Musk would be willing to condition it with the release of our abducted babies, sons, daughters, elderly people. All of them! By then, my office will cut any ties with starlink."

### More children's deaths in Gaza in 3 weeks

GAZA (Agencies): More children have now been killed in Gaza in the last three weeks than the total killed in conflicts around the world in every year since 2019, the nongovernmental organisation Save the Children has said. Figures released by the NGO, referencing Palestinian health authorities, show that at least 3,324 children have been killed in Gaza since October 7, while 36 have died in the West Bank.

According to reports from the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, a total of 2,985 children were killed across 24 countries in 2022, 2,515 in 2021, and 2,674 in 2020 across 22 countries. Save the Children said. "One child's death is one too many, but these are grave violations of epic proportions," said Jason Lee, Save the Children's country director for the occupied Palestinian territory. "A ceasefire is the only way to ensure their safety. The international community must put people before politics - every day spent debating is leaving children killed and injured. Children must be protected at all times, especially when they are seeking safety in schools and hospitals." The statement comes as Israel pushes forward with expanded ground operations inside Gaza as heavy aerial bombardment continues.

The entire Gaza Strip experienced a near-total communication blackout in what emerging accounts have described as a night of sheer terror and some of the heaviest fighting since the war began. A further 1,000 children have been reported missing in Gaza and may be under the rubble. Children make up more than 40 percent of the more than 8,000 people confirmed to have been killed in Gaza. More than 6,000 children have been injured in Gaza since the war began. Overall, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have also been killed in Israel, mostly in the surprise attack by Hamas on October 7. Israel has imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip, tightening the blockade enforced since 2007, cutting all supplies of food, electricity, fuel and water, and only allowing small amounts of aid in through the Rafah crossing with Egypt since October 21.

## Kenya's school floggings: The children suffering from a hidden epidemic

NAIROBI (BBC): Caleb Mwangi was beaten so severely at his school in Kenya after he took extra food at breakfast that he was put into an induced coma and spent 11 days in an intensive care unit. "When I got there, he couldn't leave his bed. He couldn't speak," his father Fred Mwangi told the BBC. This happened nearly two years ago when Caleb was 13 years old. Sitting now between his mother and father on the sofa in their home in Mombasa, a city on Kenya's coast, he says he tends to zone out from time to time.

The teenager is filled with rage that sometimes makes him punch the wall. The effects, he says, of the trauma caused by the near-death experience. Mr Mwangi gets his son to stand and pull up his white vest to reveal a thick, angry scar covering almost the width and length of his back. He says the wounds were so deep the surgeon had to remove large pieces of skin from his thighs to use as skin grafts. "This is him in hospital," says his mother Agnes Mutiri, showing pictures of Caleb on her phone, too graphic to publish. Lying face down on the bed, lacerations cover his legs, back and arms, and even his face. There were almost a hundred in total. "His whole body was like this," Corporal punishment in schools has a long history in Kenya, dating back to the era when missionaries and colonisers relied on it to assert their authority.

In 2001, the Kenyan government banned the practice in schools, but it has been harder to change people's attitudes. Figures from the latest Violence Against Children report, a national household survey in 2019, revealed that more than half of 18 to 24-year-olds in Kenya agreed it was necessary for teachers to use corporal punishment. BBC Africa Eye has uncovered a worrying increase in the number of severe cases being reported.

Caleb says in his case it was Nancy Gachewa, the director of Gremion Education Centre - a school in the town of Bamburi near Mombasa - who first beat him and then ordered other students to continue the punishment. Ms Gachewa denies this, and says she was not at the school when it happened. "I was so hungry, I took five chapatis and ate them with tea," Caleb says. Ms Gachewa and an older student, Idd Salim, were arrested and charged with assault and causing grievous bodily harm. Salim was sentenced to four years in prison last year and, in a plea bargain, he has testified against Ms Gachewa in court. The case against her continues. While Caleb's case is horrific, it is far from unique. An employee at the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), an independent organisation that manages all aspects of the teaching profession in Kenya, spoke to BBC Africa Eye on condition of anonymity.

They said that in the last three years,

reports of the most severe school beatings have more than quadrupled from seven to 29. Most incidents are never reported. "It is becoming a crisis and... we feel it is going out of hand now. Cases of children being injured and maimed. Some of these cases have resulted into very severe consequences, even death," they said. The source said that cases of school beatings reported to the TSC at county level often never go any further, adding that incidents were "killed" and "never see the light of day". "So many times, by the time the case reaches us, so much evidence has been corrupted. Sometimes we cannot even get a hold of the witnesses." BBC Africa Eye contacted the TSC to respond to these allegations, but it did not reply. The thought that a student could die at the hands of education professionals who are supposed to protect them is unimaginable for most people, but in the last five years, more than 20 deaths linked to school beatings have been reported in the media. Fifteen-year-old Ebbie Noelle Samuels is believed to be one of them. Ebbie was a boarder at Gatanga CCM Secondary school in Murang'a county, around 60km (37 miles) north-east of the capital, Nairobi. On 9 March 2019 her mother, Martha Wanjiro Samuels, was called by the school to say her daughter was unwell in hospital. When she arrived there, Ebbie was already dead. The school said that she had died in her sleep, but witnesses say she was beaten by the deputy principal because of the way she wore her hair. "The autopsy report revealed that she had severe head injury, blunt force trauma. So, somebody hit her to cause that kind of an injury to her, leading to her death," said Mrs Samuels. She campaigned for four years to have her daughter's death investigated.

Last January, Elizabeth Wairimu Gatimu, the former deputy principal of Ebbie's school, was arrested for murder. She denies the charges against her. "I will do everything that I have to do as long as I'm alive to ensure justice is served for my child," said Mrs Samuels, who is still waiting to hear the outcome of the case. "I told myself: I will not be silenced. I will not keep quiet. I will not give up fighting! Maybe the day I give up is the day that I sleep like my daughter. But as long as I breathe, I will not give up." BBC Africa Eye requested an interview with the Kenyan Ministry of Education, but nobody was willing to speak. One organisation which is pushing for change is Beacon Teachers Africa. Launched in Kenya four years ago by the non-governmental group Plan International, together with the TSC, its aim is to give teachers the opportunity to protect children in schools and their communities. It now has a network of 50,000 teachers across 47 countries in Africa.

## ‘Impeding aid to Gaza could be crime’

THE HAGUE (Agencies): The International Criminal Court's Prosecutor Karim Khan told a news conference in the Egyptian capital Cairo that Israel must make "discernible efforts" to ensure civilians get basic food and medicine. In a video statement posted earlier on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, Khan warned that curtailment of those rights could give rise to "criminal responsibility" under the Rome Statute.

"There should not be any impediment to humanitarian relief supplies going to children, to women and men, civilians," Khan said in the video from the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. "They are innocent, they have rights under international humanitarian law," Khan added. "These rights are part of the Geneva Conventions, and they give rise to even criminal responsibility when these rights are curtailed under the Rome Statute." The prosecutor also said he hopes to visit the Gaza Strip and Israel while he is

in the region, as his "office is determined we make sure to vindicate those rights wherever possible and wherever we have jurisdiction". Aid supplies to Gaza have been minimal since Israel began bombarding the densely populated Palestinian enclave on October 7 after a deadly Hamas attack. Shortly afterward, Israel imposed a total siege on the territory, cutting off its residents from electricity, water, and food supplies. Earlier this week, Oxfam said Israel is using "starvation as a weapon of war" in Gaza, noting that since the war began, Gaza has received only 2 percent of the food it normally would have seen delivered.

Aid trucks started trickling into the Gaza Strip from the Rafah crossing with Egypt on October 21, but aid agencies have called that a "drop in the ocean". Khan said the court has "active investigations ongoing" in relation to "crimes allegedly committed in Israel on October 7, and also in relation to Gaza

and the West Bank in our jurisdiction, going back to 2014". "We are independently looking at the situation in Palestine, we are looking at events in Israel and the allegations that Palestinian nationals have also committed crimes," Khan said.

At least 8,005 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza since the war began. In Israel, more than 1,400 people have been killed, mostly in the Hamas attack of October 7. Israel, which is not a member of the ICC, has previously rejected the court's jurisdiction and does not formally engage with the court. The ICC's founding Rome Statute gives it legal authority to investigate alleged crimes on the territory of its members or by their nationals, when domestic authorities are "unwilling or unable" to do so. On October 10, the office of the prosecutor of the ICC said its mandate applies to potential crimes committed in the current conflict.

## Mike Pence, ex-vice president, drops out of race

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Former Vice President Mike Pence dropped his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, ending his campaign for the White House after struggling to raise money and gain traction in the polls. "It's become clear to me: This is not my time," Pence said at the Republican Jewish Coalition's (RJC) annual gathering in Las Vegas.

"So after much prayer and deliberation, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president effective today." "We always knew this would be an uphill battle, but I have no regrets," Pence went on to tell the friendly audience, which reacted with audible surprise to the announcement and gave him multiple standing ovations. Pence is the first major candidate to leave a race that has been dominated by his former boss-turned-rival, Donald

Trump, and his struggles underscore just how much Trump has transformed the party. A former vice president would typically be seen as a formidable challenger in any primary, but Pence has struggled to find a base of support. It was unclear which, if any, candidates would benefit from Pence's departure, given his limited support. But those hoping to see the party move on from the former president welcomed the news as a step towards consolidating around a single Trump alternative. Pence did not endorse any of his rivals but continued to echo language he has used to criticise Trump.

"I urge all my fellow Republicans here, give our country a Republican standard-bearer that will, as Lincoln said, appeal to the better angels of our nature," he said, "and not only lead us to victory, but lead our nation with civility back to

the time-honoured principles that have always made America strong and prosperous and free." Trump, who spoke shortly after Pence at the RJC event, did not acknowledge his former vice president's announcement on stage, but said at a separate event in Las Vegas that he believed Pence owed him his support. "He should endorse me. I chose him, made him vice president. But people in politics can be very disloyal," he said. Pence's decision, more than two months before the Iowa caucuses that he had staked his campaign on, saves him from accumulating additional debt, as well as the embarrassment of potentially failing to qualify for the third Republican primary debate, on November 8 in Miami. The Republican leader ended September with just \$1.18m in the bank and \$621,000 in debt, according to his most recent campaign filing.



## The Frontier Post

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## PIA fuel crisis and the next

**T**HE financial crisis of National Flag Carrier continued to worsen over the past weeks after the caretaker government refused to provide the PIA with a bulk amount to pay for its fuel, maintenance charges and foreign debt. More than 50 flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) were cancelled in a few days while the figures amounted to as many as 650 flights during the past 13 days after the national airline struck a fuel shortage problem. The non-availability of jet fuel completely halted PIA's flight operation, prompting long queues of travellers at domestic airports meant for outbound flights while thousands of Pakistanis were stuck in UAE, Saudi Arabia and other destinations due to disruption in PIA operation. Thousands of passengers faced mental depression and financial losses due to the cancellation of their flights, long wait times and disruption of their onward transit flights from the Middle East to further destinations in Europe, America and the Far East. Meanwhile, a large number of tourists were stranded in Northern areas due to the closure of the PIA's domestic route, which mounted massive public pressure on the executive and finally interim government approved a Rs. 8 billion financing package for the PIA, to meet its urgent overdue payment obligations.

The Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has been embattled with its chronic ailments of uncontrolled operational and maintenance losses, unproductivity and over staffing, hefty payments and gigantic emoluments of its employees, politically designed flight schedules together with business unfriendly demands of the political government which resulted in idle running of PIA jets on multiple domestic routes. Previously, the PIA administration moved a case to the Federal treasury for a bailout package to repair its fleet and pay for fuel and ground services but the interim government refused to meet the urgent financial needs of the airline and pushed for its privatization as the National flag carrier has plunged into persistent financial debt continuously adding to the economic woes of the government in the shape of circular debt, bailout packages and extraordinary funding to pay salaries of its employees. According to government statistics, the PIA's staggering losses have reached Rs. 153 billion (\$500 million) in 2023 alone while the airline incurred over \$ 7 billion in losses over the past years since 2012. That is a huge amount for a nation which moves its begging bowl around the globe to get essentially needed \$ one billion loan to avoid a looming economic default.

Historically, the interim government was not ready to spend a single penny on PIA and quickly moved toward early privatization of the national airline to get rid of its recurrent losses permanently. However, the mafia was prudent enough to create havoc with the nation as the PIA management continued booking for its normal flight schedule without arranging fuel for the aeroplanes. Whilst, cancellation of hundreds of flights prompted a nationwide crisis causing significant monetary losses to the airline. So, a week-long public misery compelled the interim rulers to arrange a crucial Rs.8 billion for the PIA to resolve the issue for this time, however, still a bulk of funds are required to keep the PIA fleet flying for another few months.

There have been some prickly queries from critics about the performance of the PIA's colossal setup, a trivial fleet, poor serviceability record and lavish spending of its top executives. Historically, PIA flights have the biggest share in the country's inbound/outbound flights as compared to private air carriers and its regional competitors, as a national flag carrier it also gets significant support from the government on an annual basis, even then it failed to carry its burden. The current economic situation does not afford any more subsidies/ monetary aid to state-owned entities. Therefore, the government must kick off its privatization drive of all those enterprises at the earliest that are debt-ridden and cannot operate on their own, so that hard-earned Public can be utilized for national uplift and public well-being.

## Khalistan case and India's secularism

**R**ECENTLY, the Canadian government has warned an important Sikh leader that the Indian government may intend to focus on him due to his involvement in Khalistan activism. According to Gurmeet Singh Toor, a close friend of the slain Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Canadian intelligence told him in writing that the Indian government was after his life and he should stop his activities and observe precaution.

The Khalistan Freedom Movement and its subsidiary organization Sikh for Justice (SFJ) have now become a draconian dream for the Modi-led BJP regime, that earlier chased Sikh freedom seekers around the globe through Indian Diplomatic missions abroad and its networks of lobbying firms, undercover agents, hired mercenaries and hardcore Hindu nationalists organizations in most parts of the world. The Sikh freedom seekers launched the most impressive worldwide campaign of Khalistan Referendum, under which millions of Sikhs living in India's held Punjab and Sikh expatriates in various nations across the world poll their votes for the cause of an independent Sikh state comprising India's held Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The latest round of poll under Khalistan Referendum was organized in Canada on 29th October during which more than 200000 Sikh used their right to vote for Khalistan freedom.

Historically, contrary to expectations, New Delhi continued attempts at coercion, intimidation, and bullying of Sikh community at home and abroad proved futile, as the Sikh nation consistently strived and the Sikh freedom movement did not diminish over the past years, instead, it has gained a significant increase in strength and momentum. The recent killing of Sikh leader in Canada has brought the Khalistan issue to the global level, causing significant diplomatic, political and economic challenges for the Indian government. In fact, New Delhi policy of suppression and coercion against minorities has badly failed in Indian held Punjab, Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Mani pur, Assam and multiple other states where separatist campaigns and freedom movements are championing and government's atrocities are on the rise. It is high time that New Delhi revisit its hegemonic policies and accept genuine demands of its minorities otherwise the fake scheme of secularism had already been exposed to the world.

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## In dehumanising Palestinians, Biden has surpassed Trump

Haidar Eid

**W**HEN Joe Biden won the presidential election in the United States three years ago, there were some hopes within the pro-Palestinian movement that there would be a positive change in US policy on Palestine. Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, had headed a fascist administration that had fully adopted the programme and vision of Israel's far right. It was believed to be the worst American government for Palestinians ... until now.

Today, Biden has fully embraced Israel's genocidal aggression on Gaza, approving of the complete blockade that has cut off electricity, water, food, and medicine, and justifying the daily slaughter of hundreds of Palestinian civilians. He has covered up Israel's war crimes and parroted Israeli propaganda, including the claim that its army did not target al-Ahli Arab Hospital, where more than 470 Palestinians were killed. He even questioned the death toll in Gaza, atrociously implying that Palestinians are lying.

Biden has truly surpassed Trump in the fascist dehumanisation of Palestinians. But let us be realistic here: The US has never been an honest broker in what it calls "the Palestinian-Israeli conflict". On the contrary, it has always maintained pro-Israel policies and completely disregarded the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. Washington has never tried to exercise its leverage to make any substantial progress towards achieving peace based on justice. Meanwhile, it has showered Israel with military aid to help its army strengthen its grip on occupied Palestine. Even the administration of US President Barack Obama, thought to be the most "progressive" American government headed by a person of colour, gave Israel a \$38bn in military assistance package, the largest in US history. Unconditional support for Israel has been a steady feature on both sides of the political divide in the US. During every presidential election season, there has always been a vicious competition between candidates

to prove their "pro-Israel" credentials.

Even when US administrations have attempted to appear to attend to Palestinian demands and needs, they have never done so in the Palestinian interest. The Biden administration, for example, reversed its predecessor's decision to deny funds to

**The US view is that Palestinians are fundamentally a pesky little native population that will not accept "reality" (colonisation) quietly so that the US-Israeli alliance can proceed undisturbed. That is why support for the genocide of the Palestinians is an acceptable policy in Washington. After all, the American nation was itself founded on the genocide of a native population. Undeniably, the US is entirely pragmatic about its foreign policy interests and pursuits. It does not think it needs the Palestinians who are, after all, poor, weak and geographically microscopic.**

the Palestinian Authority, close the Palestinian mission in Washington and defund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). But it did that with the aim of sustaining a multitiered system of oppression created by the Oslo Accords to relieve Israel of its responsibility under international law to provide for the Palestinian population it occupies. That the life and wellbeing of Palestinians is none of its concern was also made clear by the Biden administration's decision to get directly involved in the unfolding genocide by financing it, arming apartheid Israel, vetoing any UN Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire, and even sending aircraft carriers to the region. The US position vis-a-vis the Palestinians is, unsurprisingly, reminiscent of the attitude of its first European settlers towards

the Native Americans. How so? Let me elaborate.

The US does not care about the Palestinians. They are not seen as relevant to US foreign policy. Disturbing a core US alliance with the only nuclear power in the Middle East is not in the cards, certainly not over some "sordid little human

support for the genocide of the Palestinians is an acceptable policy in Washington. After all, the American nation was itself founded on the genocide of a native population.

Undeniably, the US is entirely pragmatic about its foreign policy interests and pursuits. It does not think it needs the Palestinians who are, after all, poor, weak and geographically microscopic. Shifting the US policy towards Palestine requires two things: changing the international environment that shapes and steers US foreign policy options and prerogatives; and bringing pressure on the US government from within by strategically mobilising those pressure groups that have real leverage over the two main political parties. As for us, the Palestinians, like any other people suffering from colonialism, occupation and apartheid, we should send a strong message to the colonialists, headed by the US, that the rules of the game have changed, and that we will return to the negotiating table only after apartheid Israel abides by international law. First, Israel must withdraw its troops from the lands it occupied in 1967; second, it must revoke all laws discriminating against the native Palestinian population, including the Nation-State Law; and third, it must implement United Nations Resolution 194 allowing for the return of Palestinian refugees.

Israel is not expected to respond positively, as it has never done to these lawful demands. But neither did the apartheid regime of South Africa until the international community intervened and imposed sanctions against it and boycotted it. After this is done, we should proceed to dismantle the racist two-state solution and pave the way for the only democratic alternative: a secular democratic state on the historic land of Palestine that gives equality to all its citizens, regardless of religion, ethnicity, and gender.

Aljazeera

## Turkiye approaches Palestinian question with caution

Yasar Yakis

**A**LMOST everything that needs to be said on the latest Gaza crisis has already been said. If a person does not express an opinion on the latest events, they are likely to be regarded as someone who has no opinion to be formulated on this major crisis. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan continues to lend unrelenting support to Hamas. At one stage, he volunteered to play a role in the exchange of prisoners. It is unclear whether the US would agree to let Turkiye play such a prominent role.

At the level of rhetoric, Turkiye is among the countries to extend full support to Hamas, but few nations seem to be ready to join it in taking the hot potatoes out of the fire. It genuinely supports the Palestinian cause and, even more so, the Hamas cause. The Turkish government announced three days of mourning throughout the country in response to the bombing of Gaza, but some quarters of domestic public opinion believe it has done so to blur the importance of the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic, which coincided with these events. It is believed that officials do not want to publicize Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's achievements. A short look at the history of Jews in Palestine reveals a lot of interesting details. Before the Islamic conquest of the seventh century, Palestine was ruled by the Byzantine feudal administration. Omar bin Khattab, the second caliph, annexed Palestine to the Islamic world. When Egypt - and, by implication, Palestine - became Ottoman territory in the early 16th century, Sultan Selim I did not make any significant modifications to the land tenure system, but simply adjusted it to the Ottoman Empire's administrative rules. This system lasted until the Ottoman Land Ownership Law was promulgated in the 19th century.

After the collapse of Al-Andalus in 1492, Jews were allowed to settle in the Ottoman territories of North Africa, the Balkans and western Anatolia, but not in Palestine. In the Ottoman land registry books of 1562, there was no record of land in Jerusalem belonging to Jews. Leaving this short history of Palestine aside, let us turn to the future. It cannot be presumed that a resolute people like the Palestinians could be easy to eliminate entirely. Therefore, a form of the two-state solution may become a way out. The prospects for a positive outcome of the present crisis look uncertain. The outcome could go either way. Washington, with its massive firepower, may cause tremendous damage to Gazans. However, many in the international community have demonstrated a negative attitude to what Israel has been doing in retaliation to the Hamas attack on Oct. 7.

The attack on the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in the north of Gaza two weeks ago added insult to injury and went beyond all rules of international law regarding the targeting of hospi-

tals in a military confrontation. The deaths of about 500 people in that attack shows that Israel does not recognize any limit with its atrocities. It has tried to put the blame on the Palestinians, but such a claim is not convincing. Israel seems to be aiming for the expulsion of the entire indigenous population of Gaza, or possibly only letting in the Palestinians that it deems to be eligible. Some inside Israel believe that Hamas has to be eliminated one way or another, but who will replace it? This is a question that has not yet been answered. Such a practice must be rare in human history. We have to admit that there are no checks and balances in Israeli domestic politics that would allow the government to make sound decisions. The Netanyahu government survives only thanks to the extreme-right splinter parties. Many Israelis are still displaying vindictive and emotional feelings.

The world seems to be divided on what attitude is appropriate to take on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The present tension may produce a crisis as well as peace. Turkiye seems to have made up its mind. It is taking the side of the Palestinians. Erdogan questioned the presence of an American aircraft carrier in the Eastern Mediterranean. He believes that it might engage in actions that could destabilize the region. Turkiye is already experiencing severe economic difficulties, which is why it wants to avoid getting involved in a military confrontation. Expelling more than 2 million Gazans from their homeland will not be an easy task. Many members of the international community will probably oppose it. Israel may be coveting the oil and gas reserves off Gaza's shores, but usurping their land for such a purpose would be an unethical attitude. The international community may oppose such a course of action.

This crisis will align countries on one side or the other. China's foreign minister has reiterated that Beijing favors a two-state solution. Iran has warned that any Israeli ground offensive in the Gaza Strip could expand the scope of the conflict elsewhere in the Middle East. If Iran gets directly involved in the conflict and blocks passage through the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices will go up, causing turbulence in the global economy. Josep Borrell, the EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, turned out to be the most straightforward critic of Israel's policy in Gaza. Russia has deployed supersonic missiles over the Black Sea in preparation for any new situation, but it may also be preparing for a new attack on Ukraine.

It will probably try to avoid any direct involvement in the Gaza affair. Egypt rightly rejected the expulsion of Gazans into its territory, saying there were plenty of desert areas in Israel that could accommodate them instead. It may be wishful thinking to hope that the crisis will die away slowly.

## Palestinian suffering since Hamas attack extends beyond Gaza

Daoud Kuttab

**W**HILE the vast majority of worldwide attention has been focused on the Israeli war on Gaza, the situation in the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem, as well as in Israel itself, has not been easy for Palestinians. The distance between Jerusalem and the Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing into Gaza is relatively short at 67 km and, by car, the journey does not take more than an hour. But the events since the Al-Aqsa Flood operation have brought the people of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip even closer in terms of Palestinian feelings of solidarity and unity.

Having declared war against Hamas several weeks ago, Israel has also been cracking down on Palestinians in the West Bank. Since Oct. 7, the policy of war has removed any restrictions on Israeli soldiers. More than 90 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, mainly in clashes with

Israeli troops, whose rules of engagement have been even further loosened. The Israeli military has carried out a string of raids against Palestinians in the West Bank - especially those in the northern cities of Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem. This intensifying Israeli policy was also demonstrated at a widely broadcast event, in which Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir announced that his ministry would procure 10,000 rifles for Jewish civilian security teams in the West Bank.

At the same time, Palestinians' emotional and national rapprochement has had a major and difficult impact on the lives and work of Jerusalemites. The link between Gaza and Al-Aqsa has provided an opening for the occupier, and many Israelis, to brutalize and bully in an attempt to regain superiority following the Oct. 7 attack. In particular, Jerusalemites who have been suffering since the signing of the Oslo Accords have been feeling like political orphans for

some time. The Al-Aqsa tsunami made the bad situation in the city even more difficult on all fronts.

The events in Gaza reveal the depth of Israel's racism and arrogance and have brought back feelings of anger and disgust, which will increase cases of repression and these may turn into an explosion sooner or later. The occupier will say that he was surprised by the causes of the explosion, even though the main reason was the unnatural and unsustainable state of the occupation, which has no radical cure for freedom and independence.

Many Palestinian workers have refrained from going to work and some have received threats that they will be fired if their absence continues, with employers seeming not to care about their workers' access difficulties or the restrictions they face. Some workers complained that their employers insisted on searching the contents of their private phones to con-

firm the absence of any signs of solidarity with their people. With the continuation of the aggression on Gaza and the absence of any form of ceasefire, many Jerusalemite workers have become confused about their situation as, due to their living conditions, many of them have been forced to go to work, even if they endure longer journeys to reach their workplaces. Many of them have erased the contents of their phones so that they would not be fired.

The declaration of war has allowed Israel to take much harsher measures against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. The new policy shifts have included much tighter internal controls through checkpoints within the West Bank, as well as more stringent checks and disruptions for Palestinians in the West Bank. This includes prolonged periods where the King Hussein Bridge, which connects the West Bank with Jordan, has been

closed or limited in terms of the number of people allowed to travel in either direction. Travel permits, including for workers, have been canceled for hundreds of Palestinians, thus affecting not only workers and businesses, but also individuals seeking medical treatment both in Jerusalem and in Israel.

Meanwhile, Palestinians living just beyond the wall have found themselves unable to travel, especially in their cars, to other parts of Jerusalem, with Israel applying a draconian regulation restricting Palestinians to the neighborhoods in which they are registered according to their Israeli-issued identification cards. While travel by car has been restricted for anyone, including Jerusalemites, living beyond the wall, some have been able to bypass these restrictions by using dual-used checkpoints, such as the Hizma checkpoint in the north and the tunnel checkpoint near Bethlehem.

Young Palestinians in

and around Jerusalem's Old City say they have been stopped by Israeli soldiers, with some confiscating their cellphones to determine if they contain any material that can be considered supportive of the Palestinian struggle in general and Hamas in particular. In Israel proper, similar bullying was reported by university students and employees, including at least one hospital worker, with some saying they were suspended or lost their jobs because they expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Adalah, a Haifa-based nongovernmental organization, said that at least 40 Palestinian citizens of Israel had been suspended from university in recent weeks. The tense situation facing Palestinians, in Israel and the West Bank as well as Gaza, has caused a deep schism in the region that will have its effects for years to come. The distance between Gaza and Jerusalem has become both closer and further due to the events of Oct. 7.



# Israel, Iran and US dragged toward war by monsters of their own creation

Baria Alamuddin

As the Gaza carnage soars, the region-wide threat posed by Tehran-backed paramilitary hordes and their immense missile arsenals is no longer an abstract one. Hundreds of thousands of radicalized transnational paramilitaries are gazing themselves into a conflict - ostensibly with Israel, but also probably dragging in the US, its allies, and the region.

Militias are already amassing along the Syria-Lebanon-Israel borders, where there are inexorably escalating missile assaults, skirmishes and airstrikes. Israeli military figures have long argued that a decisive confrontation with these factions would ultimately be necessary, particularly now that Israel's leadership widely believes that Iran triggered this latest conflict via Hamas.

In Gaza, more than 8,000 have died, including about 3,200 Palestinian children. An eruption on Israel's northern border would bring an exponentially greater conflict, with Hezbollah boasting of having 100,000 fighters and 150,000 rockets. Iraq's Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi exceeds 240,000 fighters, with large affiliated forces in Syria and Yemen. And then there are 190,000 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps combatants, many already deployed throughout the region. This compares with 170,000 active Israeli military personnel and 460,000 reservists. With 300,000 Israeli forces already committed near Gaza, this illustrates why a multi-front war is Israel's nightmare scenario, particularly with the West Bank in turmoil. US intervention could become inevitable once Iranian proxies wade in: Israel can't fight everyone at once.

American nervousness about all-out conflict is manifested in the timid manner in which it passively

observed 18 militant strikes against US targets in Iraq and Syria, before responding with two bashfully symbolic attacks against militant facilities on the Syria-Iraq border. White House spokesman John Kirby said: "Nobody's looking for a conflict with Iran." Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the US had "no intention or desire to engage in further hostilities." But as militia strikes inexorably continue, the US may be reluctantly sucked into an escalatory tit-for-tat. Western nationals are being told to leave Lebanon. With the only currently functioning airport in Beirut issuing evacuation protocols, there is nationwide panic about being trapped in the line of fire of an Israeli invasion.

This conflict is only possible because all sides fabricated and provoked monsters they could not control. Hezbollah and Hamas's very existence is the consequence of historic Israeli machinations. Hezbollah was founded in the smoking ruins of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, and Hamas's expansion was credited to Israel's cultivation of Palestine's Islamic movement as a counterweight to the secular PLO. Netanyahu's evisceration of the two-state solution decimated Palestinian moderate and intellectual opinion, leaving armed Islamists as the only entities with supposedly viable strategies for resisting occupation. Many Israeli and US columnists argue that Netanyahu and Hamas enjoyed a decades-long "symbiotic" relationship, cultivating each other for partisan political calculations. Malevolent mobs of murderous, messianic settlers, mobilised by extreme-right puppet masters, fomented boiling chaos in the West Bank which threatens to blow up in everybody's faces. The only out-

come of the Gaza carnage will be entirely new generations of vengeful monsters. Tehran has struggled to control the transnational hordes it cultivated. Capricious militia commanders such as Qais Khazali view perpetual provocation as an endless productive strategy, in careers built upon engineering anarchy and mayhem. Kata'ib Hezbollah has threatened attacks on the GCC, the Houthis are firing drones over Egyptian and Saudi airspace, and Iraqi militants are blocking oil supplies along the Jordan border, all fueling perfect storms of conflict regionalization.

Statements from Tehran urge deescalation, while dealing in provocation. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian gloated that paramilitaries such as Hezbollah had their "fingers on the trigger," and boasted that their next moves would be "much more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed." Iran sank decades of investment into Hezbollah, which played a leading role in training and mobilizing other regional militias. The methodology of mass-casualty suicide attacks, exploited ad infinitum by Daesh and Al-Qaeda, was pioneered by Hezbollah in the 1980s. Tehran doesn't want to witness Israel dismembering and eliminating its biggest asset. Hezbollah has likewise warned that it won't stand idly by and witness the destruction of Hamas. As with other powers that manipulated Middle Eastern conflicts for their own amusement, Vladimir Putin is gleefully pouring fuel on the fire, hoping that if the West is drawn into a widened conflict, Ukraine will be entirely forgotten.

As Israel's Gaza incursions continue, Hezbollah has been mocked that despite their "marching to

Jerusalem" rhetoric, they appear highly reluctant to rush into precisely the kind of war they supposedly exist to fight. Hundreds of thousands of battle-hungry paramilitaries were likewise brainwashed that they represent the "Islamic Resistance," tasked with liberating Palestine - whatever the actual Machiavellian objectives of their paymasters. Luckily Hassan Nasrallah, for now, appears to be sufficiently pragmatic to take Israel's apocalyptic threats seriously - although his efforts to displace the conflict to the Syria borders are unlikely to spare Lebanon. Nasrallah met representatives from Islamic Jihad and Hamas who begged him to enter the conflict, while agreeing to coordinate through a joint operations room. In 2014, the US allowed the creation of the Iraqi paramilitary Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi as a hands-off means of combating Daesh, in parallel with US-backed proxies in Syria. But Western powers did nothing to prevent the Hashd behemoth doubling in size, even after Daesh's defeat, despite repeated warnings about the perils such forces posed to regional stability. Like the nastiest slasher movies fevered imaginations can conjure up, this cowardly failure to slay undead demons of past conflicts is returning to haunt us for Halloween 2023.

Opportunistic posturing and provocation by transnational militias and their paymasters offer scant comfort to Gaza's citizens, who are being bombed and starved into oblivion. Nobody wants an expanded conflict: not Israel, not America, and certainly not bankrupt Iran. But all these parties have become impotent prisoners of the escalatory cycle that they and their proxy legions are energetically fueling.

Arab News

# World today needs multipolar arms control

Arseny Sivitsky

**THE Cold War period was characterized by a bipolar power architecture dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union. Arms control negotiations focused primarily on limiting the nuclear arsenals of these two superpowers, exemplified by the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.**

But today's post-Cold War multipolar world requires a multipolar approach to arms control. However, the old formats of arms control regimes and treaties, especially those in Europe and between Russia and the US (such as the Vienna Document, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty and the INF Treaty) can serve as valuable models for the development of multipolar arms control regimes, both globally and regionally. Today, several major powers, including the US, Russia, China and some regional actors such as India and Pakistan, possess significant nuclear capabilities. In addition, non-nuclear states continue to pursue nuclear weapons, further complicating the global security landscape. Cyber warfare, hypersonic missiles, artificial intelligence, and autonomous weapons systems have blurred the lines between conventional and nuclear warfare.

These developments pose new challenges to strategic stability by increasing the potential for miscommunication or miscalculations. Hence, multipolar arms control regimes should not only address traditional military capabilities but also include measures to combat asymmetric threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Multipolar arms control regimes must embrace the emerging technologies and integrate them into the broader framework of strategic stability. Ensuring that all nuclear-armed and technologically advanced states participate in such an agreement is essential to preventing the inadvertent escalation of conflict. Despite its compelling

advantages, the establishment of multipolar arms control regimes faces several challenges. The first is the reluctance of emerging powers to participate in such agreements, often citing historical disparities between their nuclear and conventional arsenals. Addressing these concerns will require diplomatic finesse and concessions from the existing nuclear powers.

Another challenge is the verification of compliance. Ensuring that all parties fulfill their commitments is a perennial issue in arms control. It is a daunting challenge to develop effective verification mechanisms that respect the sovereignty of participating states while ensuring transparency. However, respect for the United Nations Charter is not only a fundamental principle of international law, but also a crucial cornerstone for the establishment of multipolar arms control regimes. Emphasizing the need to respect the UN Charter is essential to upholding international norms, promoting cooperation among nations, and ensuring the legitimacy of any arms control framework. Multipolar arms control regimes should be designed to prevent conflicts and reduce the likelihood of states resorting to force as a means of settling disputes, in keeping with the UN Charter's core objective of maintaining international peace and security. The UN Charter emphasizes the central role of diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Arms control negotiations, as a diplomatic endeavor, are consistent with the UN Charter's principles of peaceful settlement of disputes.

The UN Charter enshrines the principle of sovereign equality of all member states, regardless of their size or power. Multipolar arms control regimes should respect this principle by providing equal participation and decision-making opportunities for all countries, nuclear and non-nuclear. The UN can therefore serve as an important platform for promoting discussions and negotiations on multi-

polar arms control regimes and strategic stability. Through a combination of diplomatic initiatives, transparency measures and cooperation-building efforts, the UN can play a central role in reducing the risks associated with arms proliferation and ensuring a safer and more stable world.

The first essential steps and initiatives can be taken by the "Permanent Five" members of the UN Security Council (the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France) because of their unique status as both nuclear-powered states and permanent Security Council members. Their cooperation and leadership are essential to advancing global disarmament efforts and ensuring the stability of the international system. The P5 can also play a critical role in strengthening existing arms control agreements, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the New START Treaty. They should lead by example in upholding the UN Charter and these agreements. By focusing on reducing the risk of arms races, enhancing strategic stability, addressing emerging technologies, and promoting diplomacy and trust, multipolar arms control regimes can play a central role in ensuring international security.

However, the path to such a regime is fraught with challenges, including divergent interests, verification issues, concerns about inclusiveness, and the need for adaptability. Nevertheless, the need for multipolar arms control regimes is clear, and the international community must work together to overcome these obstacles - because the stakes are too high, and the consequences of inaction too dire - to develop a new paradigm for arms control and strategic stability. By creating a UN-led global forum for dialogue and cooperation, multipolar arms control regimes can provide a platform for states to address their security concerns and grievances, reducing the likelihood of misunderstandings and miscalculations that can lead to conflict.

The China Daily

## Immediate ceasefire in Gaza is a moral imperative

Ashok Swain

**FOR over three weeks, the Israel-Gaza conflict has once again plunged the Palestinian enclave into a vortex of violence and destruction. In its wake, it has left behind a trail of devastation and despair that demands world's immediate and serious attention. The call for a ceasefire in Gaza is not merely a political matter; it is a moral imperative. The UN General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly for a resolution calling for immediate humanitarian truce but Israel rejects the call.**

Gaza, home to more than 2.3 million people, has been an open-air prison for decades. Since 2006, its residents have been caught between political forces that prioritise conflict over peace. The situation, exacerbated by Israel's relentless bombing and ground operations since Oct. 7, has now reached a breaking point, and the urgency of a ceasefire cannot be overstated. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as aptly described by the Executive Director of the UN World Food Program, is nothing short of a catastrophe. Basic necessities like food, clean water, and medical supplies have all but disappeared. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and the health care system, as the World Health Organisation (WHO) warns, is on the brink of collapse. According to the UN Population Fund, 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza lack access to health facilities, as many hospitals have fallen victim to bombings.

One of the most pressing concerns is the dire lack of access to clean water. Even before the con-

flict began, over 97 per cent of the water in Gaza was unfit for consumption. The bombing of water facilities and the deterioration of the water situation have turned obtaining clean water into a daily struggle for survival. Children and families are faced with unimaginable choices: drinking contaminated water and risking their health or life. The health care system in Gaza is teetering on the edge of collapse. More than 7,500 Palestinians have lost their lives, and nearly 20,000 have been wounded in the past three weeks alone.

Hospitals are running out of essential medical supplies, and doctors are forced into agonising decisions about who can receive treatment and who cannot. In Gaza, doctors are even performing surgeries without anaesthesia. More than a dozen hospitals have been forced to stop providing their services. The ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza have resulted in the displacement of thousands of families. Nearly half of the housing units in the Gaza Strip have been obliterated by Israeli attacks, rendering countless people homeless and destitute.

Over 1.4 million people in Gaza are internally displaced, with nearly half of them sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated shelters, each hosting almost three times their intended capacity. Schools and other educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed, leading to the deaths and injuries of a significant number of children. The plight of Gazan children is particularly heart-wrenching. More than

3,000 children have lost their lives, and those who manage to survive are growing up in an environment of constant fear and violence.

Their innocence is being stolen from them at a tender age, and the trauma they experience will have long-lasting psychological effects. It is the world's moral responsibility to protect their future and provide them with the opportunity to grow up in a safe and stable environment. The cycle of violence in Gaza causes not only immediate suffering but also perpetuates a cycle of despair. When Palestinians see no hope for a better future, they are more likely to turn to violence as a means of expressing their frustration and despair. By failing to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and continuing the cycle of violence, the world is inadvertently contributing to the radicalisation of a generation of young Palestinians, which will only fuel further conflict in the region.

The urgency of a ceasefire in Gaza is clear, but achieving it has proven to be challenging. Several resolutions asking for ceasefire in the UN Security Council have been vetoed. On 27 October, the UAE co-co-sponsored resolution asking for a humanitarian ceasefire was passed in the General Assembly with 121 votes in favour, 14 against, and 44 abstained. This General Assembly Resolution has a moral weight but can't be enforced. The Israel-Hamas conflict is deeply rooted, and finding a lasting solution will require diplomatic efforts and concessions on both sides.

However, the immediate priority must be to end the suffering of innocent civilians and ensure their access to basic necessities. The international community can provide the humanitarian aid needed in Gaza to alleviate immediate suffering, but this can only happen if the war comes to an end and a ceasefire is agreed upon.

International diplomacy has a crucial role to play in brokering a ceasefire. The United Nations should intensify its efforts to persuade Israel to agree to a ceasefire, and the United States, as the only country that can exert significant pressure on Israel, must play a pivotal role in this endeavour. Regional and global allies of Israel must also exert pressure to prioritise the well-being of civilians and commit to a ceasefire. The urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza is not just a matter of ending immediate suffering; it is a matter of upholding basic human rights and dignity. It is a matter of preventing further radicalisation and violence in the region. It is a matter of showing compassion and solidarity with the innocent civilians who have been caught in the crossfire of this protracted conflict.

It is important to remember that the call for a ceasefire is not a call for taking sides in a complex political conflict. It is a call for humanity to prevail over violence and suffering. The suffering of the people of Gaza, particularly the most vulnerable, cannot be ignored any longer. The time to act is now, before more innocent lives are lost, and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza spirals further out of control.

Gulf News

## King Charles, Britain already admitted to torture in Kenya, no need for you to choke on an apology

Caroline Elkins

**KING Charles III will travel this week to Kenya, his first visit to a Commonwealth country as Britain's monarch. There, according to Buckingham Palace, he will "acknowledge the more painful aspects of the UK and Kenya's shared history, including the Emergency (1952-60) ... [taking] time during the visit to deepen his understanding of the wrongs suffered in this period by the people of Kenya".**

It appears the British monarch is in need of a history lesson. A little over a decade ago William Hague, who was foreign secretary, delivered a speech to the House of Commons, heralding a rupture in Britain's narrative of imperial exceptionalism. "I would like to make clear now and for the first time on behalf of Her Majesty's government that we understand the pain and grievance felt by those who were involved in the events of the emergency in Kenya," Hague said. "The British government recognise that Kenyans were subject to torture and other forms of ill treatment at the hands of the colonial administration," he continued. "The British government sincerely regret that these abuses took place and that they marred Kenya's progress towards independence. Torture and ill treatment are abhorrent violations of human dignity, which we unreservedly condemn."

Hague's admissions were the first of their kind, foisted upon Her Majesty's government by five elderly Kenyans. In the spring of 2009 they had filed a suit against the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), alleging systematic torture

and abuse at the hands of British colonial agents in the detention camps and villages built during the Mau Mau emergency. Based upon revisionist history, including my own book, Britain's Gulag, and the legal ingenuity of the law firm Leigh Day and the Kenya Human Rights Commission, the case was filed in London's high court. Media coverage was widespread. Headlines splashed daily revelations, including, after the claimants' repeated demands for document disclosure, the British government's "discovery" of 300 boxes of previously undisclosed files at Hanslope Park, the fortress-like warehouse for top-secret government files. Efforts to cover up British crimes did not end there. Colonial officials, taking orders from London, had destroyed three-and-a-half tons of documents on the eve of Britain's exit from Kenya in 1963. Still, the forensic work of the claimants' legal and historical team yielded a mountain of damning evidence. The FCO, which initially vowed to fight the case to the bitter end, settled in June 2013, admitting for the first time in British history to the use of torture in its empire, paying out nearly £20m in damages and legal costs to 5,228 individuals who joined in the class action negotiation, and committing to build a memorial in Nairobi to commemorate "the victims of torture and ill treatment during the colonial era".

For King Charles III to speak of the "painful aspects" of Kenya and Britain's shared history is antediluvian relative to the decade-old

admission of "torture" and the government's "regret" for the "abuses" that "marred Kenya's progress towards independence". Since Buckingham Palace is framing the monarch's visit as one that "will celebrate the close links between the British and Kenyan people", the king needs a rescripting of his position on Kenya's past, and his role in present-day repair. Some informed advice could be useful. First, King Charles III, you need to stop choking on those two words, "I apologise". Just cough them up. They will probably trigger all sorts of liability issues for you and your government, but at last count, the monarchy is worth over £20bn, so you could give several quid - some of which were stolen from, or earned on the backs of, colonised peoples - to the British taxpayer to cover this.

Given the monarchy's close attachment to symbolism, there's no better place for your first formal apology for colonial crimes than Kenya. It's there that your mother acceded to the throne in February 1952, and where, just a year later, her picture, in full regalia, hung in the detention camps where thousands of Africans were tortured, often while being forced to sing God Save the Queen. Next, there's the issue of the modern honours system introduced by your great-grandfather, King George V, celebrating civilian and military service. Today, as in yesteryear, these medals bear the motto "For God and the Empire", the two wellsprings of your monarchical power. In the case of Kenya, your mother bestowed

honours upon war criminals. Among them was Terence Gavaghan, the architect of the "dilution technique", or systematised violence used to "break" detainees. He was made an MBE, as was John Cowan, his lieutenant, for his role in crafting the "Cowan plan", which led to the beating to death of 11 detainees. What better time than your upcoming visit to Kenya to announce that you are rescinding these medals?

While royal affirmations of empire's nefarious agents were long part of Britain's *modus operandi* so, too, was developmentalist language masquerading as benign reform. Your forebears referred to colonial subjects as "children", toddling behind Britain. Successive monarchs obscured, through decades of reassuring rituals, acts of omission and moth-eaten familial fictions, the systemic racism and extreme violence upon which Britain's imperial power, and their own, depended. At the time of decolonisation, it was said empire's "children", thanks to Britain's benevolent civilising hand, had "grown up", taking their place in the Commonwealth of Nations. The language of fictive kinship needs to stop. It's a hard habit to break, but the time is long past for you to speak of Britain's "unique history" of empire, which has now transformed into a "family of nations". Global demands for a British colonial reckoning suggest you need to abandon your paternalistic ways, apologise, and offer repair for the colonial crimes committed in your family's name. The alternative will only hasten the monarchy's demise.

The Guardian

## Moment of truth

Rajendra Shende

**‘It is not just climate change, nor climate crisis. It is simply climate collapse.’ This is how one of my colleagues at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change described the year 2023. Last September was the hottest month ever and 2023 is firmly set to be the warmest year on record in human history as per the World Meteorological Organization's release on Oct 5.**

With two months to go, the planet is already showing signs that it is witnessing a most calamitous year, not only because of conflicts among countries but also the war against our common enemy: climate change. The frequency and intensity of the extreme climate events along with human and economic costs keeps rising every year. A United Nations report says that over the past 50 years, climate related events have claimed 2 million lives and cost nearly \$3.64 trillion in losses. The number of events with each causing \$1 billion in losses is also on the rise. From California to Algeria to Australia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Croatia, Yunnan province in China and Hawaii, wildfires continue to rage, aggravated by temperatures. The El Nino factor that should have joined climate change much later this year, as per weather scientists, has entered much earlier and may stay longer. Flash floods and glacial lake bursts in Asia, droughts in Africa and hurricanes in most parts of the world including in India and China have set the stage for urgent action-oriented negotiations at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

However, these negotiations are likely to end in a deadlock because of an elephant waiting to enter the room - carrying with it the issue of financing for developing countries as was agreed upon in the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. Developed countries are now devising a number of tricks to wriggle out of these promises and shoo

away this elephant. However, key leaders of the Global South, such as Brazil, India and China, along with the United Arab Emirates, which holds the presidency for COP28, have an opportunity to set the planet on the right track.

Climate finance of \$100 billion annually from developed countries is simply not forthcoming, and there are new obligations for the loss and damage as had emerged at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, last November, as well as adaptation funds. At the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2023, a proposal was made to impose a tax (also called carbon tax) on wealthy companies in developed countries that make windfall profits to finance developing countries' transition as well as emissions reduction in developed countries. In the past three decades, the backlog of pay promised by rich countries for damages to the climate and for poor countries' transition to a fossil-fuel-free economy has risen to more than \$1 trillion. Recently, in June, French President Emmanuel Macron convened the bold imitative summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris. It called for building a more responsive and inclusive global financial architecture for the transition. Nearly 40 countries and all global financial institutes, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, actively participated in the meetings. There was agreement that the obsolete, dysfunctional and unfair global financial system needs reform. Surely, climate change is not going to wait for the time-consuming reforms.

At the summit, UAE Minister of State Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, who is also the COP28 president-designate, said: "We need to shift the narrative that views climate finance as a burden and recognizes it as an economic opportunity." This is potentially an inspiring and powerful statement that may set the climate negotiations in Dubai in perspective. First, it is an opportunity for

developed countries to put an end to the century-old subsidy for production and consumption of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas. According to the United Nations Development Programme, the world spends an astounding \$423 billion annually to subsidize fossil fuels - oil, electricity that is generated by the burning of other fossil fuels, gas and coal - for consumers. This is four times the amount being called for to help poor countries tackle the climate crisis. Half of these subsidies are paid by developed countries. When indirect costs, including costs to the environment - health costs due to pollution by burning fossil fuels - are factored into these subsidies, the figure rises to almost \$6 trillion annually, according to data published recently by the IMF. The backlog of \$1 trillion promised by developed countries to developing countries for climate finance looks smaller and within the reach of developed countries even after considering their present economic parameters. This is exactly that opportunity. Worst, these subsidies, paid for by taxpayers, end up deepening inequality and impeding action on climate change, says the UNDP.

Fourth, phasing out subsidies and using the revenue gained for better targeted social spending, reduction in inefficient taxes, and productive investments can promote sustainable and equitable outcomes.

India, China and the UAE have an opportunity to join hands to demonstrate their hands-on dedication to renewable energy and emphasize that while developing countries cannot be asked to plug out from fossil fuels, developed countries can end the fossil fuel subsidy and finance the developing countries' transition to clean energy and net-zero emissions. China, India and the UAE must take COP28 as a moment of truth. They should keep their own geo-political differences aside and show the practical way to deal with their common enemy.





# PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 539 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 539.09 points, a positive change of 1.06 percent, closing at 51,482.93 points against 50,943.84 points the previous day.

A total of 286,621,604 shares valuing Rs11.445 billion were traded during the day as compared to 350,834,756 shares valuing Rs10.607 billion the previous day.

As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 232 of them recorded gains and 100 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 19 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading

## Traders role imperative for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the business community was playing a pivotal role in the development of economy with the promotion of business and enterprises in the country.

During a meeting with office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said the economy was invigorated only with business and investment activities.

The meeting important deliberated upon multiple issues and initiatives including promotion of business activities in the country.

The caretaker government, the minister assured would ensure full support to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard. He said with the support of the Chamber, maximum cooperation would be provided by the government to resolve the major problems of the business community.

companies were Pak Refinery with 32,398,721 shares at Rs.10.30 per share, Bank of Punjab with 20,348,145 shares at Rs.4.14 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 15,202,972 shares at Rs.1.29 per share.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.325.00 per share price, closing at Rs.22,225.00, whereas the runner-up was Rafhan Maize with a Rs.199.88 rise in its per share price to Rs7,850.00.

Sapphire FiberXD witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.86.3 per share closing at Rs1,071.00, followed by Bhanero Textile XD with a Rs.59.99 decline to close at Rs.930.00.

## Rupee sheds 37 paise against Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 37-paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank

trading and closed at Rs280.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs280.57.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280.6 and Rs 283.1 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 23 paise to close at Rs296.40 against the last day's closing of Rs296.17, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen gained 01 paise to close at Rs 1.87; whereas a decrease of 12-paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs339.82 as compared to the last closing of Rs339.94.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 11 and 10 paise to close

at Rs 76.49 and Rs 74.88 respectively.

## Gold rates dip by Rs.1,200 to Rs.212,100 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.212,100 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.213,300 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,028 to Rs.181,842 from Rs. 182,870 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.166,688 from Rs.167,631, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$14 to \$2,012 from \$2,026, the Association reported.

# Synergy Advertising wins Black Dragon Award

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Synergy Advertising, a leading name in Pakistan's advertising industry, has added another feather to its cap by securing the Black Dragon Award for the Best Brand Building and/or Awareness Campaign. This recognition comes as a testament to their excellence in creativity and strategy for the "Quaid Kay Habib" campaign, executed on behalf of Habib Metropolitan Bank Pakistan.

The 2023 Dragons of Asia Marketing Communications Industry Awards, held in Malaysia, celebrated the outstanding achievements and innovations in the world of marketing communications.

Synergy Advertising's remarkable campaign for

Habib Metropolitan Bank Pakistan was well recognized, earning them the prestigious Black Dragon Award.

The "Quaid Kay Habib" campaign was a masterpiece in strengthening the legacy of the bank's corporate brand. To celebrate Pakistan's 75th year of independence, this campaign of Habib Metropolitan Bank takes audiences with emotional rides whilst reflecting on Pakistan's journey as a country and Pakistanis' journey as a nation. The highs and lows of this journey have been beautifully depicted, while showcasing the legacy of the Habib family, and how it is intertwined with the story of Pakistan.

Synergy Advertising's innovative approach, creative storytelling, and execution excellence garnered

the attention of the award panel and made a lasting impact on the audience.

"We are thrilled and humbled by this recognition," said Ahmed Kapadia, Group Chairman, Synergy Advertising.

"The 'Quaid Kay Habib' campaign was a labor of love and a testament to our dedication to our client Habib Metropolitan Bank. We're honored to have played a part in strengthening Habib Metropolitan Bank Pakistan's brand and promoting the values it stands for."

The commitment to excellence and innovation has led to this outstanding recognition on the international stage, and Synergy Advertising remains committed to continuing to raise the bar in the field of marketing communications.

# OGDCL holds 26th Annual General Meeting for FY 22-23

## F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) held its 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) for shareholders on Monday for the financial year 2022-23 at the OGDCL Head Office in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, OGDCL, Mr. Zafar Masud. The Managing Director & CEO of OGDCL, Ahmed Hayat Lak, along with other board members, senior management, and shareholders, were in attendance.

OGDCL further solidified its position as the market leader, achieving net sales revenue of PKR 413.594 billion. This translated to a profit after tax of



PKR 224.617 billion, showing a robust increase of 59 percent compared to last year's profit of PKR 133.783 billion. The earnings per share of the Company surged to PKR 52.23, up from PKR 31.11.

For the year 2022-2023, the Board announced a

final cash dividend, based on the accounts for the period ending June 30, 2023, at a rate of PKR 2.75 per share, equivalent to 27.50 percent. This is in addition to the interim dividends already paid at a rate of PKR 5.80 per share, amounting to 58 percent.

During the review period, the Company paid PKR 159.154 billion in taxation.

Shareholders of OGDCL commended the Company's unwavering performance across various portfolios, acknowledging its growth, innovation, and sustainability initiatives.

# Crude slips on easing worries of region-wide Middle East war

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Oil prices fell Monday as Israel stepped up ground attacks on Hamas targets in Gaza but held

back from a full-on incursion, fanning hopes a wider conflict can be avoided.

However, equities were in the red ahead of a Federal Reserve policy meeting this week, with traders fearing it will likely keep interest rates elevated for an extended period as inflation remains stubbornly high.

Crude pared Friday's almost three percent gains as Israel's military continued air and ground operations in Gaza, though it took a more cautious approach than feared.

Instead of a broad offensive, officials have opted for targeted attacks on a day-to-day basis, tempering worries of an all-out war that could drag in Iran and even the United States.

The White House urged Israel to protect innocent Palestinians in Gaza by distinguishing between Hamas militants and civilians, while the United Nations warned that "civil order" was starting to collapse in the territory.

Thousands of civilians have been killed on both sides since the conflict was

triggered by an unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas on 7 October.

The threat of a wider conflict remains, with Iran saying the battle could "force everyone to take action", while US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said there was an "elevated risk" of a spillover.

But observers said there was a sense of relief among investors for now, easing crude supply worries and taking some pressure off prices.

"The weekend showed the armed conflict remains limited to Israel and Gaza - in that light, crude looked overbought," Vandana Hari, of Vanda Insights, said.

Crude will "likely continue sliding until the next risk event".

Still, equity markets struggled to build on Friday's rally in Asia, tracking losses in the S&P 500 and Dow.

Tokyo sank more than one percent, while Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore, Taipei and Wellington were in the red,

though Seoul and Jakarta eked out gains.

There was little relief for investors from data showing the Fed's preferred gauge of inflation remained at 3.4 percent in September, the same as the previous two months.

Analysts said the still-high reading -- well above the bank's two percent target -- meant officials would likely err on the side of hawkishness well into the new year, with borrowing costs unlikely to fall anytime soon.

"Expectations are for the bank to stand pat" this week, said National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril.

"But the recent uptick in inflation, consumer resilience and jump in inflation expectations, together suggest the Fed will retain a hawkish bias, leaving the door open for a hike in December and or January," he added.

"Inflation and labour market data releases between now and then are going to be important, including non-farm payrolls on Friday."



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying peanuts to attract customers at their shop.

## Tractor assembling witnessed 6.71% growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Local tractor assembling, during the first two months of the current financial year, grew by 6.71 percent as compared to the assembling of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period under review, the local assembling of jeeps and cars decreased by 53.91 percent as about 14,328 jeeps and cars assembled as against the assembling of 31,085 jeeps and cars.

As against the corresponding period of last year, domestic jeeps and cars assembling reduced by 39.01 percent in August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year.

During the period from July to August 2023, about 6,217 tractors were locally assembled as against the assembling of 5,826 tractors of the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

On month on month basis, tractor assembling in the country grew by 13.18 per cent during the month of July 2023 as 3,597 tractors were locally assembled against the manufacturing of 3,178 tractors in the same month of last year.

It is worth mentioning here that the output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industry (LSMI) increased by 2.52 percent for August 2023 when compared with August 2022 and 8.44 percent when compared with July 2023.

The QIM estimated for July-August, 2023-24 is 112.44, whereas overall LSMI has shown a growth of 0.50 percent during July-August 2023-24 when compared with the same period of last year.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, SSL Mumbai, Asia Inspire and Victoria Kosan, carrying Container, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and EngroVopak Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile three more ships, AAI Evolution, Bellini and PVT Flora with Wheat, Gasoline and Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during the sameperiod.

A total of eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Amala and Rhapsody left the port on today morning, while three more ships, SSL Mumbai, Woohyun Sky and Indian Goodwill are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 81,402 tonnes, comprising 78,916 tonnes imports cargo and 2,486 tonnes export cargo carried in 33 Containers (0 TEUs Imports and 33 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are twelve ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Discovery and Nordic Basel & another ship, MSC Esthi carrying Wheat, Moga and Containers are expected to take berths at Multi-PurposeTerminal, Oil Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on Monday. Two more container ships, Maersk Atlanta and MSC Taiping are due to arrive AT Port Qasim on Tuesday.

# SNGPL disconnects 109 meters on illegal gas use

## F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 109 connections while imposing fine of Rs. 1.7 million and 184 under billing cases processed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 7 connections on illegal use of gas and another 6 on use of compressor.

In Bahawalpur, the regional team disconnected two connections on use of the compressor and 1 on illegal use of gas.

The company disconnected 4 connections on illegal use of gas and 123 under billing cases have been processed and fine of Rs 0.23 Million imposed against gas pilferers in Multan.

In Sheikhupura, 14 on illegal use of gas and 49 under billing cases have been processed, amount of Rs 0.75 booked against gas thieves and under billing cases.

In Peshawar, the company disconnected 60 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal connections. The regional team also imposed fine of Rs 0.67 against gas thieves.

In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected two gas connections on illegal use.

The regional team in Gujranwala two under billing cases processed and 1 meter disconnected on the use of compressor and one on illegal use of gas. The region also imposed fine of Rs. 0.05 million against under billing cases.

The company disconnected 09 connections on illegal use of gas in Islamabad. In Sahiwal, 2 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas.

In Faisalabad 10 under billing cases have been processed.

# CCP sets up new Dept for robust market surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has launched a new Market Intelligence Unit (MIU), its objective is to create advanced technological and data analytical capabilities to assess the market data to identify collusive practices.

It's a transition from the previous approach of reactive enforcement to proactive enforcement, said a press release issued here. CCP has already signed an MOU with the Urban Unit in Punjab. CCP will

also be obtaining data on all essential commodities from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

It will also obtain data on all essential products, and various sectors of the economy to identify collusive practices and cartels. The collusions and cartels drive the prices up in the economy maximising their profit at the expense of poor nations.

The history of market abuse is as old as the markets itself. Unscrupulous players have become

sophisticated and leave no smoking guns.

In line with the international approach, MIU will gather economic data. It will monitor various sectors and industries through market surveys and consumer feedback.

It will monitor supply and demand side to identify distortion in natural equilibrium. It will use various software, tools, econometrics models, and price movement analysis to curb market abuse, collusion, and cartel in the economy.

# German inflation slows to 3.8% in October

BERLIN (APP): German inflation slowed again in October, preliminary data showed Monday, as the upwards pressure on consumer prices continued to ebb in Europe's largest economy.

The indicator showed a 3.8-percent year-on-year rise in prices in October, down from 4.5 percent in the previous month, according to federal statistics agency Destatis.

The figure was at its lowest point since August 2021, when inflation was first being driven up by widespread supply bottlenecks as the global economy emerged from the coronavirus pandemic.

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the consequent surge in energy prices as deliveries of gas to Europe from major supplier Russia dwindled then supercharged prices.

Inflation in Germany reached its peak towards the end of last year, but has since slowed more or less steadily as energy prices have settled.

Prices for energy fell in October by 3.2 percent year-on-year, resulting in a strong "dampening" effect on inflation, according to Destatis.

The high baseline for energy prices last year went some way to explaining the fall, according to Fritz Koehler-Geib, chief economist at German public lender KfW.

"Exactly one year ago,

consumer energy prices reached their temporary peak," Koehler-Geib said.

This effect would "weaken in the coming months and even reverse", meaning inflation could "see a significant rise" again at the turn of the year, she said.

The trend in inflation was however "right", Koehler-Geib said, as the European Central Bank has raised interest rates steeply to rein in consumer price rises.

"However, in view of the geopolitical situation, there is an increased probability of new supply-side shocks," she warned, in a reference to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, which has sent ripples through oil markets.

# \$136.880m earned by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$136.880 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows a decline of 9.96 percent as compared to \$152.020 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed a decrease of 44 percent, going down from \$35.840 million last year to \$20.070 million during the months under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services dipped by 69.74 percent from \$28.120 million last year to \$8.510 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services however increased by 49.74 percent from \$7.720 million to \$11.560 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport witnessed nominal decline of 1.23 percent going down from \$112.050 million last year to \$110.670 million during July-August 2023.

Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services decreased by 1.77 percent, from \$73.340 million to \$72.040 million, whereas the exports of freight serv-

ices dipped by 33.65 percent, from \$6.390 million to \$4.240 million, in addition, the export of other air transport services increased by 6.40 percent from \$32.320 million to \$34.390 million.

Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the months under review witnessed a growth of 111.11 percent going up from \$2.520 million to \$5.320 million during this year, it added.

Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services witnessed an increase of 3.57 percent from \$0.840 million to \$0.870 million, while the export of postal and courier services decreased by 49.07 percent, from \$1.610 million to \$0.820 million, the data revealed.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No. 57/13, Institution 14/6/2023. Date of hearing. 27/11/2023. Nowsherawan Khan etc VS Mst Gul Meena etc. Notice to no 2/2.Said Amir Shah. 4/2. Naveed Alam. 4/4. Anas sons of Abdul Aziz residents of Torwarsak tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 27/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.





## In brief

## School Olympics from Nov 6

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The opening ceremony of the School Olympics Games will be held on November 6 at the Hockey Ground of Dring Stadium Bahawalpur. Under the initiative of Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtesham Anwar, more than 30 transgender students in 3 transgender schools of South Punjab will participate in athletics competitions. Overall, more than 2500 athletes from different girls and boys' schools in 11 districts of South Punjab will participate in various sports competitions including hockey, football, volleyball, table tennis, and athletics. The teams of Punjab Province, Sindh Province, Balochistan Province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir will also participate in the School Olympics Games. The preliminary rounds of these games are underway under the auspices of the Department of Schools Education, South Punjab.

## Naseem Shah works out at gym after successful surgery

LAHORE (INP): Right-arm fast bowler Naseem Shah is back in the gym and has started his rehabilitation journey after undergoing successful shoulder surgery earlier this month. "Slowly but surely... Alhamdulillah for everything. My rehab is going well, working with Dr Imtiaz & his incredible team. I'm looking forward to getting back on the pitch and representing my country," the 23-year-old pacer wrote on his X account. In the video, Naseem can be seen attending a gym session with cardio exercises and stretching routines, showcasing his determination to regain his physical strength and flexibility. The fast bowler maintained that the journey of recovery is tough, lonely, and endless but with the prayers of fans, he is already feeling better and stronger. It is worth remembering that Naseem's injury had ruled him out of the ICC World Cup 2023. The right-arm fast bowler is expected to remain sidelined for an estimated three to four months due to this injury. In the 46th over of Pakistan's second match against India at the Asia Cup 2023 last month, Naseem left the field on the reserve day designated for that game. Shortly thereafter, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) issued a press release, announcing that the right-arm bowler would not be able to participate in the remainder of the tournament. The 23-year-old's injury pertains to a muscle just below his bowling shoulder and is not a recurrence of any prior shoulder injuries.

## England coach Mott blasts World Cup dressing room unrest claims

NEW DELHI (INP): England coach Matthew Mott said the team remains an "incredibly tight-knit unit" despite a 100-run thrashing by India which condemned the defending champions to a fifth defeat at the World Cup. Mott's claims came after former England captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were splits in the camp which were causing the champions to under-perform. "I've never come across a sports team that has underperformed like this, given the level of

## Inzamam steps down as chief selector

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Inzamamul Haq, the chief selector of the Pakistan men's cricket team, on Monday announced that he has decided to step down from his post.

The development comes after media reports claimed Haq had a stake in a player's management company registered with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The reports said several top players including Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were associated with the company.

The reports subsequently raised questions regarding the team selection process.

In an interview on SAMAA TV programme 'Zor Ka Jor' today, Haq said he went to the PCB after the allegations and asked the

board to hold an inquiry.

"Later I got a call that they had formed a five-member committee," Haq said, adding that he subsequently decided to step down from the post until the committee completed the probe and its proceedings.

He added that he was willing to "sit with the PCB" once the inquiry concluded.

"We are cricketers and we are available all the time to serve the country. Since I am facing an inquiry, and as is the nature of my job, I should step down and let them conduct the probe," the former skipper stated.

He went on to say that it was painful when people passed comments without any evidence. "I am a human being

and it hurts. I have a 20-year cricket career during which I represented Pakistan. I am not someone who people don't know. When such allegations are levelled, it hurts."

The former cricketer also denied having any link with the player's management company in question, namely Saya Corporation.

"I must tell you very clearly that such companies are recommended by the ICC and PCB has all their data," he added.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board, in a post on X (formerly Twitter), said it had formed a five-member fact-finding committee to "investigate allegations in respect of conflict of interest reported in

the media pertaining to the team selection process".

"The committee will submit its report and any recommendations to the PCB management in an expeditious manner," it added.

In another post, the PCB said it appreciated and acknowledged Haq's decision to voluntarily step down during the investigation.

Haq assumed the role of chief selector on August 7, marking his second stint in this position. He had previously held the same role in 2016 but left it at the conclusion of his term in 2019, after serving for three years.

The resignation also coincides with severe criticism of the national team due to its sub-par performance in the World



Cup, having suffered four consecutive losses against India, Australia, Afghanistan, and South Africa after victories in the first two games against the Netherlands and Sri Lanka.



PUNE: Hashmatullah Shahidi plays one behind square.

## World Cup 2023

## Afghanistan beat Sri Lanka to keep semi-final hopes alive

PUNE (Agencies): Afghanistan kept their World Cup semi-final dream alive with a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka. After Fazal Farooqi took 4-34 to help bowl Sri Lanka out for 241, Rahmat Shah made a composed 62 to put Afghanistan on course in the chase.

Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai then put on an unbroken 111 to get Jonathan Trott's side over the line with 28 balls to spare in Pune. Victory moves Afghanistan to within two points of fourth-placed Australia.

Sri Lanka had made a solid start after being put in to bat, reaching 134-2 before a middle-order collapse saw them slump to 185-7. Angelo Matthews and Maheesh Theekshana added 45 for the eighth wicket but both fell to the impressive Farooqi as Sri Lanka were bowled out with three balls of the innings remaining.

Dilshan Madushanka bowled Rahmanullah Gurbaz four balls into Afghanistan's reply but there was no panic from the batting side as Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat put on 73 for the second wicket.

There might have been concern when Rahmat was

dismissed with 111 still needed for victory but captain Hashmatullah and Azmatullah held their nerve, calmly ticking off the runs before kicking for home when the finishing line came into view. With three games to go, Afghanistan jump to fifth and stay right in the mix for a top-four finish, albeit with a significantly worse net run-rate than any of the sides above them.

## Afghanistan only improving as confidence grows

Once a shock, Afghanistan victories are no longer anything of the sort. After wins over England and Pakistan, it is testament to the growth of this Afghanistan team that Monday's match against another World Cup-winning nation was considered a 50-50 game.

Spin bowling has always been, and remains, Afghanistan's biggest strength. The difference now is that it is not the only string to their bow. Mujeeb Ur Rahman took 2-38 and Rashid Khan, playing his 100th one-day international, picked up 1-50.

Long gone are the days where if that duo weren't at the top of their game, Afghanistan were in trou-

ble. Farooqi is perhaps the pick of an emerging group of Afghanistan seamers capable of impacting games at the highest level and, at only 23, there is plenty of scope for improvement.

With the bat, they were robbed of a fast start by the early wicket of Gurbaz but, as they showed against Pakistan, this is a batting lineup more than capable of negotiating their way through a potentially tricky chase.

Rahmat battled with real class for his half-century. Hashmatullah kept his composure throughout while Amzatullah came in and provided just the sort of controlled aggression his side needed. The semi-finals may prove to be beyond them but anyone who still considers Afghanistan minnows of the world game has not been paying attention.

**'Trott changed my mindset' - what they said** Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi: "I'm quite happy and proud of the team. I thought we performed well in all three departments. 'The Pakistan game gave us a lot of confidence that we can chase down any kind of target. "During matches all the staff are working hard especially Jonathan [Trott], he is always positive.

## Rubiales banned for three years over World Cup kiss

MADRID (Agencies): Former Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales has been banned from all football-related activities for three years by Fifa.

Rubiales kissed forward Jenni Hermoso on the lips following Spain's Women's World Cup final win over England. The kiss, which since the last ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, when Babar Azam's XI cruised to a seven-wicket win in the Super Four stage of the recent Asia Cup.

The same side also triumphed at the Cricket World Cup in 2019 with a comfortable 94-run victory that snapped a four-match winning streak for Bangladesh in contests between the pair.

That stretch makes up the bulk of Bangladesh's five wins in 38 ODIs against a Pakistan team that has otherwise dominated the head-to-head encounters in the format. But Pakistan would be more focused on the present than the past with their Cricket World Cup campaign on the brink of collapsing after four costly losses in a row.

"Fifa reiterates its absolute commitment to respecting and protecting the integrity of all people and ensuring that the basic rules of decent conduct are upheld," a statement read.

It added that the decision was "subject to a possible appeal", which Rubiales has now confirmed he intends to pursue. Article 13 of the Fifa disciplinary code relates to offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play. Rubiales, 46, claimed the kiss at the post-match presentation ceremony was "mutual" but Hermoso has consistently said it was not.

The incident overshadowed Spain's historic victory in Sydney, Australia.

Last month, a hearing at the national court in Madrid considered a criminal complaint of sexual assault and coercion against Rubiales, who was subsequently banned from going within 200m of Hermoso. He has denied the allegations. Rubiales' actions drew widespread criticism, with a majority of the World Cup-winning squad boycotting the national team until changes were made within the football federation.

## Pakistan out to revive World Cup campaign in clash with Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan need to make the most of their opportunity against a battling Bangladesh to snap a four-match losing streak and keep their semi-final hopes alive.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have only met in one ODI since the last ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, when Babar Azam's XI cruised to a seven-wicket win in the Super Four stage of the recent Asia Cup.

The same side also triumphed at the Cricket World Cup in 2019 with a comfortable 94-run victory that snapped a four-match winning streak for Bangladesh in contests between the pair.

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But Pakistan would be more focused on the present than the past with their Cricket World Cup campaign on the brink of collapsing after four costly losses in a row.

The 1992 champions almost certainly need to win every match from here and hope other results go their way to have any chance of reaching the knockout stages of the tournament.

A fifth consecutive defeat for Pakistan would put a stamp on their elimination from the showpiece event in India.

Bangladesh started the Cricket World Cup with an impressive win over Afghanistan but are yet to add another victory as they instead dropped to the lower end of the standings. With Bangladesh now languishing in ninth-place, Pakistan have much more to play for this time as both teams are running out of opportunities to turn around their campaign.

The star keeper Mohammad Rizwan has been Pakistan's most consistent batter through the Cricket World Cup while only failing to make a start in one of six innings so far.

Rizwan started the tournament with a fast fifty against Netherlands and unbeaten century in the

clash with Sri Lanka, but has also reached at least 30 on three occasions during Pakistan's barren run of four losses.

With Babar beginning to make more of an impact as well, the now classic combination with Rizwan needs to fire if Pakistan are to find a way back onto the path toward the knockout stages.

**Pakistan squad:** Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Mohammad Rizwan, Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim.

**Bangladesh squad:** Shakib Al Hasan (c), Litton Kumar Das, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Najmul Hossain Shanto (vc), Tawhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Nasum Ahmed, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib.

## KP wins under-15 Junior Badminton title



## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Najmul Saqib of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa clinched under-15 national junior badminton title.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured first position among the provinces by winning one gold, three silvers and four browns medals. National Junior Badminton Championship was held in Karachi under the auspices of Pakistan

Badminton Federation. Najamul Saqib of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Haseeb Khan of KP by 22-20 and 21-19. In U-19 final, Pakistan Army's Manan defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mohammad Zaid by 21-19 and 21-17 to win the gold medal.

Qari Umar and Taimur Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won browns medal in U-17. In Girls Under-17 Final, Pakistan

Army's Amara, won Gold Army's Sarwat, Silver Sindh's Sana Hanif won Browns Medal.

In girls under-19, Maryam Hanif of Sindh won gold, Samia won silver, Kanza of Punjab won browns medal.

The team of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the championship under the coaching of Hayatullah and Bushra, who showed the best.

## Mari Petroleum T20 Cricket Tournament - POL wins the trophy

## F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum T20 Cricket Tournament culminates with a thrilling final match, played at Islamabad Club Cricket Ground, in which POL cricket team defeated the MPCL team and won the trophy.

The event was organized and sponsored by

MPCL. The tournament was a grand spectacle, with eight outstanding cricket teams, from oil and gas sector of Pakistan, participating in 15 thrilling pool matches.

Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister of Energy, was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. In his speech, he congratulated the victorious team and

mentioned that sports is important in helping youth to foster comradeship and adopt healthy lifestyle.

He commended the MPCL Management for their dedication to developing cricket at the grassroots level and giving local talent a chance to emerge. He also recognized MPCL's contributions to the development

of sports and the promotion of integration within the oil and gas sector. Afterwards, the Chief Guest awarded the winning and runner-up teams with the prizes.

MD Mari Petroleum Mr. Faheem Haider was also present on the occasion to support the finalist teams. In addition to congratulating the victorious squad, MPCL's Chief of Staff expressed his belief that sports have the ability to inspire, bring people together, and improve communities.

He said that MPCL has sponsored and planned several national-level sporting events throughout the years, including hockey, golf, and cricket. This cricket competition, which features teams from several oil and gas organizations, is a good example of the strength of unity and collaboration. The tournament was attended by passionate fans from both sides cheering for their teams.







## In brief

### IRSA releases 103,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 103,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 58,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1525.40 feet and was 127.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 28,500 cusecs and 52,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1204.35 feet, which was 154.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,500 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 55,400, 42,700, 45,900 and 14,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Police arrest two bike lifters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Monday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Dhamial Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Hassan Abbas and Shakeel Anjum and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Saddar said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars. He said that on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi, the operation against the bike and car lifters had been accelerated.

### Police initiates crackdown

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a massive crackdown against professional beggars and their handlers in the city to curb this menace, a public relations officer said. He said that the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, ordered the all zonal DPO's to take action against professional beggars and their handlers in their respective areas adding that cases should be registered against them. He reiterated that the parents who send their children with these criminals will also face action according to the law, adding that criminals in the guise of begging were found involved in different criminal activities. During the ongoing crackdown, the Islamabad Capital Police various police station teams arrested 91 professional baggers during the ongoing month and registered cases against them under the beggar act.

### Campaign for registration

ISLAMABAD (NNI): According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a public relations officer said. He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik addressing the "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways For Pakistan."

## NA Speaker pays tributes to security forces

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday paid tributes to security forces for conducting successful operation against terrorists in Khari, Balochistan.

He in his message issued here, paid homage to Naib Subedar, Asif Irfan and Sepoy Irfan Ali who martyred while bravely fighting against the terrorists. He extended his condolence and sympathy to the families

of the martyrs and prayed high ranks for martyrs. Raja Pervez expressed resolve that the entire nation stood with the security forces in the war against terrorism and the forces were fully capable of dealing with terrorists.

## Students of coastal areas of Balochistan can apply for HEC Scholarship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Students of coastal areas of Balochistan province have been called to submit applications for the "Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Programme for Balochistan" being executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The outstanding students of Gwadar, Lasbela/Hub, Kech (Turbat) and Awaran, districts of Balochistan who intend to pursue undergraduate studies in HEC-recognized public or private sector universities or degree awarding institutions (DAIs) of Pakistan can apply for the scholarship programme in all areas of disciplines", an official of HEC informed.

As per the eligibility criteria, the applicant must

possess the domicile/local certificate of Gwadar, Lasbela/Hub, Kech (Turbat) or Awaran District of Balochistan. The applicants must have completed 12 years of education with at least 50 percent marks in both Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent. The applicant must have completed SSC and HSSC or equivalent from a college/institute located in any of the defined districts of Balochistan. Students already enrolled in any BS programme maximum of one academic year/session prior to the announcement of the scholarship are also eligible to apply.

The age of the applicant should not exceed 22 years

as on the closing date and those who are already availing of any other HEC/Government scholarship are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

The applicant will have to meet HEC's and the relevant university's criteria for admission while result awaiting students are not eligible to apply.

About the selection criteria, the official informed that the scholarships will be awarded on merit and district quota basis and the applicants will be short-listed on the basis of online information/data provided by the applicants.

The applicants are required to submit applications online on HEC's website through <http://scholarships.hec.gov.pk> till the deadline of November 30.

## ANF seizes 450 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 450 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle drugs and arrested drug peddler, a resident of Peshawar near Islamabad Motorway by recovering from him over 4.8 kg hashish concealed in secret cavities of a car. In the second operation, 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted at Chongi number 26, Rawalpindi. A resident of Nowshera was arrested during the operation.

In the third operation, an attempt to smuggle a large amount of hashish from Quetta to Karachi was foiled and ANF recovered 306 kg hashish from a truck loaded with pomegranates on Super Highway Karachi. The accused, resident of Karachi, was arrested on the spot.

In another operation, 57 kg hashish concealed in a truck was recovered on RCD highway Karachi. A resident of Hub was arrested during the operation.

In fifth operation, 12 kg opium and 60

kg hashish were recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle on G.T. Road Nowshera.

Three accused residents of Nowshera, Mianwali and Chiniot were arrested during the operation.

In sixth operation at At Allama Iqbal International Airport, Ice-filled capsules weighing 214 grams were recovered from the possession of a passenger. The accused, resident of Okara, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-766.

In seventh operation, over 2.4 kg Ice was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag, netted at Allama Iqbal International Airport. The accused, resident of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was leaving for Doha by flight number PK-279.

During a raid on a house in DHA Phase-3 Lahore, over 1 kg heroin was recovered. In ninth operation, 100 grams intoxicating tablets were recovered from the trolley bag of an accused, resident of Muzaffargarh, nabbed at Multan Airport.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.

## 11 outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 11 outlaws including from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, the Karachi Company police team arrested three drug peddlers namely Noman

Hassan, Shahbaz Masih and Haider Abbas and recovered 220 gram heroin and 14 bottle of wine from their possession. Kohsar police team arrested two accused namely Zafar Masih and Usman Iqbal and recovered 90 liter of alcohol from their possession, while police team arrested an accused namely Salamat Masih involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders. Likewise, the Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely Muzamil Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Golra police team arrested two accused namely Akhlaq Hussain and Islam Badshah involved in illegally refilling

gas cylinders and selling petrol.

Similarly, the Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Sajjad and recovered 235 gram heroin from his possession. The Lohi Bher police team arrested an accused Hassnain Raza and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed the police officials to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard", he maintained.

## Govt to recruit hospital heads as per rules: Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that the recruitment of heads of major hospitals would be undertaken as per recruitment rules.

The minister, in a media briefing, said that recruitments would be made strictly on merit following due process and procedure. "We make it clear we are working in accordance with law and all the recruitments will be made on merit in all hospitals," Dr Nadeem said, "We want transparency to improve the health system."

He said that necessary instructions to initiate process for filling of the posts of various cadres had been issued.

He said, "The government believes in upholding utmost transparency and merit in recruitments."

He said steps had been taken to increase

facilities in the public sector hospitals.

He said load on tertiary and secondary levels had increased and now "we are managing this issue".

He said an MRI machine had been inaugurated at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to facilitate patients. Dr Nadeem Jan said that he received complaints that the MRI machine at the hospital was out of order for the last four years and patients had to go to private hospitals for MRI.

"On which I had given a deadline to the administration to make the MRI machine functional," the minister added.

He said that health sector reform was his top agenda and mission.

He added without reforms, improvement and development in the health sector was not possible.

## Commissioner inaugurates 'Cleanliness Week'

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta, Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Sajid Rafiq and Chief Executive Officer RWMC Rana Sajid Safdar here on Monday jointly inaugurated the "Cleanliness Week" in the city under the auspices of RWMC.

Expressing his views on the occasion, the Commissioner said that the plan to make Rawalpindi zero waste during cleanliness week should be implemented practically. He directed the officials that anti-dengue and anti-smog drives should not be compromised during the week and there should be no garbage anywhere in the city. Liaquat directed the officials to clean open plots and graveyards and remove accumulated water from the city areas.

He further directed to take strict action against those involved in the burning of garbage and involve the maximum number of

people in the Cleanliness drive so that they could support the RWMC in making Rawalpindi a clean and green city.

Chairman RWMC Sajid Rafiq and CEO Rana Sajid Safdar on the occasion said that according to the orders of Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chhatta, the cleanliness week would also be utilized for creating awareness about smog and dengue.

The workers of the Company will clean the city thoroughly to achieve the target of zero waste.

Streets, neighbourhoods and roads would also be cleaned by manual and mechanical sweeping and bushes, weeds would be destroyed in open plots and cemeteries. Awareness sessions, seminars and walks would also be organized to inform people about the benefits of cleanliness, they added. They urged the residents to cooperate with the RWMC staff and contact on toll-free helpline number 1139 in case of any problem.

## Police arrested 2,505 accused

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police Soan Zone police teams arrested 2,505 outlaws including 267 members of 115 criminal gangs during the ongoing year involved in a series of heinous crimes and criminal activities and recovered vehicles, motorcycles, drugs, liquor and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a Public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

According to the details, the Soan Zone police teams conducted a massive crackdown against the criminal elements involved in a series of criminal activities and succeeded in apprehending 2,505 outlaws including 267 members of 115 criminal gangs and 370 absconders during the ongoing year. Police teams also recovered 37 stolen vehicles, 164 stolen motorbikes, 85.90 kilogram hashish, 102.4 kilogram heroin, 201 wine bottles, 503 beer tins, 381 pistols and 53 rifles with ammunition from their possession.

## Clean energy Pakistan's top priority: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has said that clean energy was the top priority of Pakistan.

He stated this while talking to the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jacob Linulf who visited the Power Division here Monday, said a press release. The minister said that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change. Pakistan, being more vulnerable to impacts of the global climate change, has also to adapt to and mitigate the Climate Change at the country level, he said.

He said that the government of Pakistan had recently approved the National Electricity Plan 2023 which provided guidelines, implementation mechanisms and tools for the realization of the National Electricity Policy goals for the power sector. The Plan 2023 targets to have a share of 40 percent from renewables (including hydropower) by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030, he told.

The minister said that Denmark's support based on their expertise and experience would certainly be beneficial for Pakistan in making the transition towards cleaner and greener energy mix and in fulfilling Pakistan's commitments towards Climate Change targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

The brief of the update on Danish

Energy Transmission Initiative (DETI) project was also discussed in the meeting.

The ambassador expressed his aim to take the cooperation between the two countries to the next level.

The minister discussed the possible plan to expand sustainable energy, particularly focusing on wind and solar energy. Power Sector plays an important role in Climate Change mitigation and accordingly the government is giving top priority to just energy transition in Pakistan.

He said that the true success of the transition was to have the real impact in the area of sustainable energy. The aim is to gradually decrease the tariff and move towards utilization of indigenous resources, he expressed.

The minister stressed on the importance of mapping out a plan in collaboration with Denmark as it has already completed its energy transition. The updates of the DETI project, the government-to-government contact and the stakeholders were discussed in the meeting. There are two thematic areas of the project, one being energy planning and modelling, and the other being the integration of renewable energy.

The agenda for the Conference of Parties (COP-28) meeting was also discussed. There will be two scenarios discussed in COP-28 with respect

to DETI. The one scenario will be the green scenario where the progress of wind and solar energy will be discussed and the other scenario will be the economic aspect.

The grid constraints were also taken into consideration. The minister said that the agenda will be designed to attract maximum green investment in Pakistan.

For future collaboration, it was decided that the analysis of the existing transmission and distribution network in order to identify the bottlenecks and recommend a way forward for induction of more renewable energy capacity, especially with regards to the Interconnection Ready Zones (IRZs) identified in the Locational Study carried out by the World Bank will be done.

The DETI will provide advice and recommended measures to decrease the impact of seasonal demand variations (between summer and winter) in order to improve energy supplies while maintaining system stability, especially considering the impact of new VRE additions as per IGCEP 2022-31. The minister said that the power division aimed for progressive and extensive cooperation with Denmark to achieve its green energy milestones. The ambassador appreciated the efforts of Pakistan for the transition of energy.



ISLAMABAD: A worker busy fixing pedestrian bridge at Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road in the Federal Capital.



### IEA thanks Tajikistan

KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has expressed its appreciation for the humanitarian aid provided by the Republic of Tajikistan to the survivors of the earthquake in Herat. The ministry lauded this gesture as a commendable step. Hafiz Zia Ahmad, the deputy spokesperson of the ministry, expressed his gratitude for Tajikistan's humanitarian aid in a post on his X account.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Rabi-us-Sanni 14, 1445 — Tuesday, October 31, 2023

### Police arrests 15 people

KABUL (Agencies): The police have arrested 15 people on charges of robbery, illegal mining and other crimes in the past 24 hours from the provinces of Kandahar, Takhar, Kabul, Ghor, Farah and Herat. The Ministry of Interior in a statement said that their Police personnel have arrested six people on charges of crimes from Kandahar, three on illegal mining along with a robber in Takhar, two in Kabul, two in Farah and two others in Ghor and Herat provinces.

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

### Muttaqi in Istanbul:

## Spirit of unity, brotherhood prevails Afghanistan



ISTUNBUL (Agencies): Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said in a meeting with Afghans living in Istanbul that with the return of the Islamic Emirate, security and the spirit of brotherhood and unity prevails throughout Afghanistan.

Muttaqi said that people can travel and do business throughout Afghanistan day and night without fear.

He also pointed to the projects that have been launched after IEA's takeover, such as the Qosh Tepa irrigation canal, the Salang Tunnel, the Kabul-

Kandahar road and the construction of dams.

Muttaqi, while referring to the elimination of corruption and investments, asked Afghan businessmen living in Istanbul to invest in Afghanistan.

In the meeting, religious scholars, tribal elders and

representatives of refugees and students also spoke and shared their problems with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Muttaqi instructed the officials of the Afghan consulate in Istanbul to do their utmost to solve the problems of Afghans.

### It will not be harmed by Qosh Tepa canal: IEA

KABUL (Agencies): A high-level delegation of Uzbekistan that arrived in Kabul also discussed with the senior officials of the Islamic Emirate about the Qosh Tepa irrigation canal. IEA's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Kabul assured Uzbekistan that it will not be harmed by Qosh Tepa canal.

"The officials of the Islamic Emirate assured the Uzbek delegation about the Qosh Tepa canal that the canal will benefit both countries," Mujahid said.

Earlier last month, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed concern over the construction of the Qosh Tepa canal in northern Afghanistan, noting it could "radically change the water regime and balance" in Central Asia.

During the meetings in Kabul, the sides also discussed about the 500 KV Surkhan-Pul-i-Khumri power project, the repair of the 220 KV power line over Amu River, the sending of a technical team from Uzbekistan to assess the imported electricity grid, the investment of the private sector of Uzbekistan in Afghanistan and water management.

While leaving Kabul for Tashkent, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev called the meetings with IEA officials valuable, especially over cooperation in the fields of energy, mining, agriculture and transportation.

Meanwhile, Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce Nuruddin Azizi said that they want the amount of trade between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to reach three billion dollars annually.

Azizi said that agreements have been made between the two countries in the areas of electricity, agriculture, mining and transit.

## Work on National Palace resumed

KABUL (TOLONews): The National Development Corporation announced the resumption of the Afghan National Palace project, worth two billion Afghanis, in Kabul and said that it is supposed to be completed by the year 1405.

"The total budget of the project is about 2 billion Afghanis, which is paid by the National Bank, and the project is implemented by the National Development Corporation," said Mirwais Arghandiwal, head of House Construction of the National Development Corporation.

"We were able to make changes in the project in the last two years when the Islamic Emirate came, for example, we added a heating center and changed the parking lot," said Shaker Jalali, head of Bank-e-Milli Afghan.

The deputy of the National Development Corporation said that the Islamic Emirate is trying to resume the work of national projects in various provinces.

"Today, our elders, especially leaders of the Islamic Emirate, the Prime Minister, and other

ministers, have always tried to do such national works," said Abdul Wali Adil, deputy of the National Development Corporation.

Meanwhile, some engineers said that they are trying to advance the construction process of the project in a better way.

"We are sure we will complete the project on time and even before the deadline," said Maiwand Dosti, head of the Afghan National Palace project.

Construction on the project was postponed for more than two years.

## Uzbekistan delegates call for peace in Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): Jamshid Kuchkarov, the Deputy PM- Minister of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan, called for peace and stability in Afghanistan, saying it is important for the region, and he pledged that his country will cooperate in the transit, trade and agriculture sectors of Afghanistan.

Kuchkarov visited Afghanistan on Sunday and met with several officials of the Islamic Emirate including the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and the acting Minister of Industry and Commerce.

"The ministers of agriculture and water resources of Uzbekistan are among the delegation and want to use their experiences in Afghanistan," he told a gathering held at the Arg.

Meanwhile, the office of the deputy PM also said that the two sides discussed trade, transit and economic relations as well as cooperation in railways, transport, the extraction of mines, water management and the facilitation of educational opportunities for Afghan



youth.

"The visits of the senior delegation shows that the contacts between the two sides are strengthening. We hope we have good improvements in this meeting, particularly in the field of trade and transit," Mullah Baradar said.

The acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, said that efforts are underway to increase trade between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to \$3 billion and that the Hairat port will be operating 24/7 from next month.

"The decision has been taken that our trade will be boosted from \$600 million to \$3 billion because the President has said to

increase the trade rate to \$2 billion but we are happy that we will increase it to \$3 billion," he said.

Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the officials of the two-countries to boost facilities for the traders on the two sides.

"There was no security before in Afghanistan. There was only poppy cultivation... Afghanistan is now a good field for investment," said Mohammad Younus Momand, first deputy of the ACCI.

An exhibition of the Uzbekistani products was also inaugurated with the presence of the delegation in the Chaman Hozori park of Kabul.

## 50,000 tons of coal delivered to Kabul as winter approached

KABUL (TOLONews): As the weather gets colder in Kabul, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of the Islamic Emirate said it has signed a contract for 50,000 tons of coal with a domestic private company.

Houmayun Afghan, the spokesperson for the ministry, said that the ministry has a plan to determine specific selling locations in all 22 Police Districts (PDs) of Kabul on (Aqrah 15) in coordination with the Kabul Municipality.

"To provide quality coal to the residents of Kabul and

reach the entire population of the capital city, we are working in close coordination with Kabul Municipality so that people in every PD can access the coal," said Houmayun Afghan, spokesperson for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

Kabul residents and coal sellers in the city have welcomed the initiative and said that the closure of Salang highway has not only caused a spike in prices of coal but also gas and fuel.

"The coal prices have increased by four to five times compared to last year

because the Salang highway is closed," said Abdulman Popal, a coal seller in Kabul.

"Coal and wood are expensive now and people cannot afford them, we ask the government to lower the prices," said Sayed Mehdi, a Kabul resident.

Meanwhile, the representative of Kabul Municipality said that preparations are underway to prepare the selling locations in Kabul and added that they would closely monitor the prices of coal.

"Specifying selling loca-

tions in Kabul in ongoing and prices will also be monitored so that coal is not sold at high prices, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum is responsible for the quality and delivery of the coal to Kabul," said Nematullah Barakzai, representative for the Kabul Municipality.

As people are talking about their inability to purchase coal and heat their houses during the harsh winter, the Kabul Municipality of Kabul says that one ton of coal will be sold at 9 thousand Afghani (\$121).

## Qomi meets with UN Deputy Special Envoy Markus Potzel

KABUL (TOLONews): Hassan Kazemi Qomi, the ambassador and special representative of Iran to Afghanistan, met with Markus Potzel, the Deputy UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Qomi said on X that they discussed the development of joint diplomacy between regional countries for the purpose of solving Afghanistan's crisis.

Iran's ambassador and special representative in the meeting with Potzel described the sanctions imposed on the Islamic Emirate as one of the obstacles in the fight against terrorism and narcotics in Afghanistan.

"The need to hold trans-regional actors accountable, especially the United States, who are responsible for the current situation in Afghanistan -- I also expressed my doubts about any constructive participation of trans-regional actors in international initiatives. To effectively combat terrorism and counter narcotics, the imposed sanctions are one of the serious obstacles and problems that the UN is expected to ad-



ere to its mandate for peace and provide effective measures and arrangements to resolve it," Qomi said on X.

"In this meeting, they emphasized the strengthening of a joint and multilateral diplomacy focused on countries in the region to get Afghanistan out of crisis," said Abbas Badri Far, press officer of Iran's embassy in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, some political analysts believe that regional countries can

be effective in resolving the current crisis in the country.

"The countries in the region have a policy of weakening Afghanistan, on the one hand, they want Afghanistan not to be built so that it poses no danger to them, and on the other hand they want us to get out of the current situation," said Shaker Hayat, a political analyst.

"The Afghan government should also try to accept those demands of

the world that do not conflict with religious goals," said Hameedullah Hotak, a political analyst.

This comes as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Iran repeatedly expressed their concerns about the existence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan over the past two years and repeatedly called on the acting government to submit to demands for an inclusive government.

### ‘Earthquake victims still in need of assistance’

KABUL (Khaama Press): Over the past three weeks since the deadly earthquake in Herat, the United Nations has declared that there is still a need for urgent assistance to address the serious and sensitive needs of the affected individuals.

The organization stated that out of the required 93 million dollars, only 24 million dollars have been delivered or pledged.

In its initial report on the humanitarian aid situation for earthquake victims in Herat on October 7th, The United Nations Humanitarian Coordination Office wrote that an additional 69 million dollars is still needed.

According to the report, 114,000 people require immediate assistance, of which 103,000 have received aid, mainly in food. Additionally, 43,000 individuals have been provided shelter, and nearly two million dollars in cash assistance has been distributed to around 7,300 households during this period.

The earthquakes in October, as reported by the United Nations, resulted in 1,080 deaths and 1,950 injuries. They estimate that 1.6 million people have been affected by the Herat earthquake, including 114,000 who urgently need help. The office further added that based on satellite imagery assessments, 513 villages were damaged in these earthquakes. According to their report, the recent earthquakes have directly affected the lives of 43,400 people in six districts.

According to the United Nations report, the situation in the "Injil" and "Zendajan" districts have been worse than in other district of the province.

Herat experienced a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on the 7th October, followed by several aftershocks that shook western provinces of Afghanistan.

## ‘Ban on female work affecting operations’

KABUL (TOLONews): The representative of the United Nations Development Program, Stephen Rodriques, said that the bans on the female Afghan workers has affected UN operations in the country.

In an interview with TOLONews, Rodriques said that the ban caused millions of dollars of damage to the Afghan economy.

"In the last couple of years, the economy has contracted. After August 2021, we saw over 20 percent contraction," Rodriques said.

Only 6 percent of women are working in

Afghanistan, he said, adding that the UN is working with some countries and organizations to support the Afghan women entrepreneurs.

"We are with our partner, the embassy of Japan, IICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), as well as the EU because it is not just this initiative that we have launched," he said. We have launched a program with the European Union, where we collectively support women, especially small entrepreneurs and small business owners, so that they can have a job," Rodriques voiced con-

cerns over the inflicting of damage to more than 114,000 people in the recent earthquakes in Herat, estimating the tally to increase.

"Our aim is to focus on a few specific areas; one is permanent shelters. As I mentioned, the winter is coming, so it is urgent that we begin to rebuild homes within a month. Homes that are stronger, homes that can stand future earthquakes," he said.

To address the challenges of the earthquake affected people in Herat, Rodriques said that the UN needs a budget of \$93.6 million.

### Residents build over 30 km road

FAIZABAD (Agencies): Residents of Badakhshan province have started the construction of more than 30 kilometers of road with their own money in the provincial capital Faizabad.

Local residents said they have faced enormous challenges over bad road conditions, so they have started building a road.

"35km road from Namazgah to Qala Mad will be built. This project is not a government project. It's just people's project," Sayed Bahauddin, head of local residents' council, said.

## Traffic accident on highway kills 2, hurt 17

KABUL (Khaama Press): At least two people were killed, and 17 others were injured in a traffic accident on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. According to local media outlets, the incident occurred in Zabul province, along the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

As per Bakhtar News, this happened in Shah Safa district, Zabul province. A passenger minibus, labelled type 304, overturned at a particular time. Sadly, two people died, and 19 were injured as a result of the

accident. According to the report, local authorities in the province have confirmed that two of the injured people from this traffic incident are in critical condition.

Similar traffic accidents have sadly claimed lives in different parts of the country in the past. These incidents often occur due to reckless driving, road defects, and excessive speeding.

Reckless driving, where drivers disregard safety measures and rules of the

road, is a significant contributor to these tragic accidents. Road defects, like potholes or poor signage, can also lead to dangerous situations for drivers and passengers. Additionally, excessive speeding, where vehicles go well above the designated speed limits, further exacerbates the risk of accidents on the road.

These factors combined underline the need for improved road safety measures and responsible driving practices to prevent such incidents in the future.

## 3,000 acres of usurped state land reclaimed

TAKHAR (Agencies): Officials at the Commission to Fight Land Grabbers in Takhar say the process of returning usurped state-owned land is ongoing in this province.

The commission officials say over the last four decades, thousands of hectares of government land in the center and districts of Takhar have been usurped by powerful individuals and local commanders.

So far, 3,000 acres of land has been taken back out of 300,00 acres of usurped land in Takhar province, officials said.

"100,000 acres of land may have been assessed by us. In total, we have returned about 3,000 acres of land. We have leased them and may deposited two million afghanis from the revenue of these lands to the government treasury," said Rahimullah Ahadi, head of the land grabbing prevention commission in Takhar.



The governor of Takhar has also ordered the local authorities in the districts to cooperate with the commission in identifying and returning the usurped lands.

"District governors, chief commanders, intelligence and virtue ministry should pay serious attention to the usurped lands," said Obaidullah Aminzadeh, governor of Balkh.

Meanwhile, the residents of Takhar have criticized

the slowness in the process of reclaiming usurped lands, saying that since the commission establishment, thousands of acres of government land are still in the hands of usurpers and they are using it.

The officials of this commission have stated that they have completed the assessment of usurped lands in several districts and soon the investigation of usurped lands will begin in several other districts.





**KARACHI:** President Dr. Arif Alvi presenting shields to renowned female doctors during an event on the spirit of female entrepreneurship and medical leadership of female doctors organized by Sehat Kahani.

## KP CM lauds security forces for restoring peace in NMDs

**F.P. Report**

**PESHAWAR:** The 11th meeting of Provincial Task Force (PTF) on merged districts was held here on Monday with caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair. The meeting reviewed in detail progress on various social sector developmental projects, matters related to the capacity building of police force, initiatives for economic revival and other related matters of the merged areas.; and a number of important decision were taken.

Besides caretaker Provincial Ministers Aamir Abdullah and Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the meeting was attended by Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General Police KP, Akhtar Hayat Khan and other civil and military high ups. Concerned Divisional Commissioners, Regional Police Officers, Deputy Commissioners and District Police officers attended the meeting via video links.

The participants were briefed about the implementation status of the decisions taken in the last meeting of the forum. It was decided in the meeting to upscale the overall capacity of police in merged district to enable it effectively deal with the prevailing situation there; and it was agreed to take special measures to strengthen the police in all aspects including transport, communication, training etc. in these areas.

The concerned authorities were directed for necessary steps to absorb the remaining Levies/Khasadar personnel into regular police, and expedite new recruitment against the sectioned vacancies in police. They were further directed for required measures for raising Elite Force in these areas and for proper arrangement of their professional training. The forum

agreed to the provision of required funds for the capacity building of police in merged areas on priority basis.

The forum decided in principle to absorb Malakand Levies into regular police and directed that a committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary Home will come up with workable recommendations after looking into the legal and technical aspects of the matter. Similarly, the meeting decided to withdraw police personnel deputed with unauthorized individuals for security purpose, and the concerned quarters were directed to prepare a list of all such unauthorized deployment.

Moreover, it was decided in principle to establish a high security prison at provincial level, whereas the concerned quarters were directed to expedite the process of establishing Forensic Science Laboratory and implementation of Safe City Peshawar Project. It was decided in the meeting to create the required vacancies of district administrations and other line departments for the newly created district South Waziristan (Upper), and the concerned authorities were directed for necessary action to this end. Similarly, it was decided to take up with Peshawar High Court the issue of shifting of judicial officers and other staff to South Waziristan, North Waziristan and Orakzai districts.

The forum also reviewed progress on land settlement project in merged districts, and the concerned high ups were directed to engage the local tribal elders for consultation, and come up with workable proposals to settle the land disputes leading to law and order situation in certain areas of the merged districts. The forum was also briefed about the proposed Socio-Economic Development Plan for merged districts, and it was decided that Steering Committee constituted for the merged districts will give final

touches to the plan and present the same for formal approval.

The forum stressed the need of renewal of contracts of eight outsourced hospitals under Public Private Partnership in the merged districts so that quality healthcare services are ensured to the local people. The forum was told that special education plan has been devised for the promotion of education sector in merged areas which will be presented in the next meeting of the forum for approval. It was decided in the meeting to hold the meetings of the PTF in two months on regular basis.

Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister termed the accelerated development of the Merged Areas as one of the top priorities of the provincial government; and said that special attention and measures are required to bring these backward areas at par with other developed parts of the province adding that maintaining law and order in the merged areas is the top most priority of the provincial government, and all the required resources will be provided for the purpose.

Azam Khan lauded the role and efforts of security forces in restoring peace in these areas, and remarked that the provincial government highly valued the role of security forces. The Chief Minister maintained that the province is heavily dependent on federal transfers for its revenue, but due to nonpayment of its shares in various heads by the federal government, the provincial government is facing financial crunches which is badly affecting the overall development process of the province specially the merged areas. "The caretaker provincial government, since the very first day of its inception, has been taking up the issue with centre and will continue to do so in the coming days so that the province could be steered out of the financial crunches", he concluded.

## ‘Decision to deport illegal immigrants in line with global norms’

**F.P. Report**

**ISLAMABAD:** Foreign Office (FO) on Monday said the decision to deport the illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan was in line with the sovereign domestic laws and international principles.

In a statement issued today, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the decision was "in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws, and compliant with applicable international norms and principles." "We have seen the press statement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) applies to all illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin," she said in a statement.

The FO spokeswoman said all foreign nationals legally residing or registered in Pakistan were beyond the purview of this Plan. "The Government of Pakistan takes its commitments towards protection and safety needs of those in vulnerable situations with utmost seriousness," she said. She mentioned that the country's record of the last 40 years in hosting millions of the Afghan brothers and sisters spoke for itself. Mumtaz Baloch also urged the international community to scale up collective efforts to address protracted refugee situations through advancing durable solutions as a matter of priority. "Pakistan will continue to work with our international partners to this end," she said. The caretaker federal government has set a November 1 deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country or else face deportation.

## Senate deplores Israel's brutalities

**ISLAMABAD (PPI):** The Senate on Monday expressed concerns over Israel's atrocities against innocent people of Palestine, calling for immediate ceasefire and providing essential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering.

Seante's special session was requisitioned to debate the current situation in Palestine and the House started debate on a motion under rule 218 which was jointly moved by Senators of all political parties in the House. The motion condemned the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the innocent Palestinians and willing violation of Geneva Convention and UN Resolution on Palestine, and especially barbaric Israeli airstrikes on Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza hence hundreds of innocent people, patients and Hospital staff were died.

The House reiterated the necessity for international bodies to uphold justice and support the establishment of a free Palestine. It also reiterated the government of Pakistan to describe efforts made by Pakistan in this scenario. Taking part in debate, Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar brought attention to the urgent Gaza issue, underscoring his proactive efforts to address the matter. He revealed that he had dispatched a letter on October 19, advocating for a Senate session dedicated to the Gaza crisis.

The Senator emphasised the pressing need for immediate action, urging all stakeholders, including the United Nations and other international agencies, to actively engage in resolving the conflict and supporting the people of Palestine. Highlighting the escalating humanitarian crisis, he stressed the importance of granting the people of Palestine the fundamental right to live in peace within an independent state.

Expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, Senator Dar condemned the relentless Israeli bombing, which had led to the tragic loss of over 8,000 lives, predominantly comprising innocent children and women. He lamented the recent bombing on a hospital, resulting in the devastating loss of more than 500 individuals, including patients and medical staff, calling it a stark violation of humanitarian norms. In response, Leader of the Opposition, Dr Shahzad Waseem emphasised Pakistan's deep historical and religious affiliation with Palestine, condemning the atrocities committed against the innocent Palestinian populace.

# SBP retains policy rate at 22 per cent

**F.P. Report**

**KARACHI:** State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee at its meeting today decided to maintain the policy rate at 22 percent.

According to a SBP statement, the Committee noted that headline inflation rose in September 2023 as expected. However, it is projected to decline in October and then maintain a downward trajectory, especially in the second half of the fiscal year. While the recent volatility in global oil prices as well as the increase in gas tariffs from November 2023 pose some risks to the FY24 outlook for inflation and the current account, the Committee also noted some offsetting factors. These include the targeted fiscal consolidation in Q1; improvement in market availability of key commodities; and the alignment of interbank and open market exchange rates.

The MPC noted the following key developments since its September meeting. First, the initial estimates for Kharif crops are encouraging and will have positive effects on other key sectors of the economy. Second, the current account deficit narrowed considerably in August and September, which helped to stabilize the SBP's FX reserves position amidst tepid external financing in these two months. Third, fiscal consolidation remained on track, with both fiscal and primary balances improving during Q1-FY24. Fourth, while core inflation remains sticky, inflation expectations of both consumers and businesses improved in the latest pulse surveys. However, global oil prices remain quite volatile and the conflict in the Middle East makes its outlook even more uncertain.

In the light of these developments, the MPC emphasized on continuing with the tight monetary policy stance. The MPC reiterated its earlier view that the real policy rate is significantly positive on 12-month forward-looking basis and is appropriate to bring inflation down to the medium-term target of 5 – 7 percent by end-FY25. However, the MPC noted that this outlook is based on continued fiscal consolidation and timely realization of planned external inflows.

Recent data on economic activity reinforces the MPC's earlier expectation of moderate growth for this year. In particular the latest production estimates of major Kharif crops show considerable increase compared to last year. These improved crop output estimates are supported by higher fertilizer off-take and better availability of water. Also, moderate recovery in other key activity indicators like cement, POL and auto sales is gaining traction. Moreover, large-scale manufacturing (LSM) output has indicated a gradual improvement in the first two months of this year, with major contribution coming from domestic-oriented sectors.

The MPC noted a substantial improvement in the current account balance, as the deficit narrowed over 58 percent y/y to \$947 million in Jul-Sep FY24, while almost leveling out in September 2023. Both exports and workers' remittances improved in September over the preceding two months. The reforms related to exchange

companies introduced in early September, coupled with administrative actions against illicit market activities, also helped improve FX market sentiments and liquidity. The improved inflows in the interbank market helped stabilize the SBP's FX reserves around \$7.5 billion as of October 20, amidst tepid official inflows during August and September. Nonetheless, the MPC noted that a successful and timely completion of the upcoming IMF-SBA review would help unlock other multilateral and bilateral financing.

In Q1-FY24, fiscal indicators improved compared to first quarter of the last fiscal year. Specifically, the fiscal deficit improved to 0.9 percent of GDP from 1.0 percent and the primary balance posted a surplus of 0.4 percent, compared with 0.2 percent last year. This improvement reflects both better revenue collection and restrained spending. FBR's revenue recorded 24.9 percent growth over the same period last year. Similarly, non-tax revenues almost doubled mainly due to a sharp rate-driven increase in PDL collection. At the same time, total expenditures remained at last year's level, supported by a considerable reduction in subsidies and grants. The MPC noted that continued fiscal prudence and meeting the targeted fiscal consolidation is imperative for keeping inflation on downward trajectory.

The broad money (M2) growth decelerated to 12.9 percent as of end-September from 14.2 percent at end-June 2023, primarily due to continued slowdown in private sector credit and more than seasonal retirement in commodity operations financing. Similarly, the reserve money growth has slowed down from June, which is primarily explained by significant deceleration in the growth of currency in circulation. The MPC noted that since June, the Net Foreign Assets (NFA) of SBP and the banking system expanded owing mainly to significant FX inflows in July, while Net Domestic Assets (NDA) contracted, leading to an improvement in the composition of both M2 and reserve money. It is also expected that the planned fiscal consolidation and realization of expected external inflows will create space for credit to private sector and also improve the NFA of the banking system.

As anticipated, headline inflation surged to 31.4 percent y/y in September. The MPC expects inflation to decline significantly in October, owing to downward adjustments in fuel prices, easing prices of some major food commodities, and a favorable base effect. The Committee also reaffirmed its earlier assessment that inflation will decline substantially from the second half of FY24, barring any major adverse developments. The recent uptick and volatile trend in global oil prices, as well as the second-round effects of substantial increase in gas tariffs, pose some upside risk to the inflation outlook. Core inflation is also persisting at elevated levels; remained around 21 percent during the last four months. However, the Committee noted that fiscal policy is also contributing to the overall stabilization measures, which, coupled with better availability of food commodities, is likely to supplement the central bank's efforts to bring down inflation.

## Telephonic conversation with sons: Imran moves court

**ISLAMABAD (PPI):** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on Monday filed a petition in the official secret act court requesting to allow weekly conversation with his sons.

On behalf of the PTI chairman, the petition was filed by the advocate Shiraz Ahmed Ranjha before the official secret act court, requesting to allow the former prime minister to talk with his sons weekly on the telephone. In the petition, the advocate requested the court to let the PTI chairman talk with his sons Salman and Qasim every weekend as it is a basic right of the PTI chairman. Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain sought a reply from the superintendent of Adiala Jail, and adjourned the hearing till November 08.

It is pertinent to mention here that after the October 21 court order, the Adiala Jail administration facilitated the PTI Chairman with a telephonic conversation with his sons on

WhatsApp. Last week, a special court established to hear cases under the Official Secrets Act granted permission to former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan — presently held at Attock Jail — to have a telephonic conversation with his sons.

Former premier Imran Khan, who is in judicial custody in cipher case, has been incarcerated in Attock prison since his arrest on August 05. In a plea filed before Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain today, the former premier sought permission to have a talk with his sons on the phone. The court accepted the former prime minister's plea and instructed the prison administration to facilitate the telephonic conversation between the applicant and his sons in accordance with the law.

The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint

of Home Secretary. Former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Asad Umar were also mentioned.

According to the report, action also will be taken against Azam Khan and Asad Umar after the authorities reached the conclusion that they were also involved in misusing the classified documents.

The FIR stated that the former prime minister and foreign minister distorted the facts of the diplomatic cipher. "A conspiracy was launched to misuse the contents of the cipher to fulfill nefarious purposes", it added. It further stated that former premier and top diplomat endangered the state interests. The report claimed that former prime minister asked Azam Khan — the then principal secretary — to "manipulate the contents of cipher".

## Deportation process

(Continued from Page 1)

Responding to a query, the prime minister said that the interim set-up was tasked to run the whole country which was going through economic crunches and implementing an IMF programme. He regretted that the majority of the people in the country were not contributing towards taxes as the tax ratio in Pakistan stood around 10 percent of GDP and stressed upon increasing the tax revenues like Scandinavian countries.

**PM assures govt support to promote locally-developed new crop varieties:** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar assured of his government's support to promote the locally-developed new varieties of crop seeds of wheat, sugarcane, soybeans and others with a view to reducing depend-

ence on imported ones.

The prime minister, while visiting the stalls of different agricultural products set up by the agriculture universities of the country at an exhibition here, assured that the government, through swift decision-making, would remove all the impediments to the introduction of new seeds.

During the briefing, he was told that the country's agricultural research entities had developed new seeds of wheat, sugarcane and soybeans which were climate resilient and had the potential of giving up to three times more yield by consuming far less water than the existing varieties. The prime minister, who was accompanied by Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi was told that the federal government would have to amend the rules to promote the locally-

developed crop seeds.

To this, the prime minister assured that the government would make the required decisions within a week. The prime minister, who interacted with the representatives of the universities, was told that a new heat-resistant wheat seed has been developed to provide three times more yield.

It was said that the genetically modified soybean seed would help the country compete with the world market besides supporting its poultry industry and reducing the import of edible oil. Similarly, the new sugarcane variety would consume one-third water and reduce crop duration from 13 months to five years with far more yield. The prime minister was also briefed on the production of olive, honey, and new varieties of cotton as well as the modern spray equipment.

## Electricity price likely to be increased

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The price of electricity is likely to increase as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is considering a proposal to increase the price of electricity by one rupee and 30 paise. The proposal would put an additional burden of 22 billion 56 crore rupees on consumers.

The increase is being proposed to cover the cost of electricity theft and line losses, as well as to increase electricity consumption. The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has been running a 40-day campaign to recover money from electricity thieves and defaulters. During the campaign, LESCO has recovered more than 1 billion 7 crore rupees from 33569 defaulters.

The Chief Engineers of LESCO are making the recovery better with the support of the Tehsildars. In Northern Circle, 4479 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.138.63 million, while in Eastern Circle, 3969 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.244.99 million. In Central Circle, 4265 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.156.45 million, and in South Circle, 1824 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.60.84 million.

In Nankana circle, 2976 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.66.97 million, and in Sheikhupura circle, 3673 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.156.80 million. In Okara circle, 5051 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.71.05 million, while in Kasur circle, 7332 defaulters have been recovered for Rs.179.55 million.

On the forty-sixth day of the campaign, 332 defaulters have recovered more than Rs.99 lakhs. In Northern Circle, Chief Engineer R&M (T&G) Zafar Aqbal with the assistance of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered Rs.1.15 million from 47 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs.2.72 million from 56 defaulters in Eastern Circle.

## ‘Military officers, judges accountable under NAB law’

**F.P. Report**

**ISLAMABAD:** Supreme Court's Justice Mansoor Ali Shah issued a 27-page dissenting note on the NAB amendments verdict, observing that members of the armed forces and judges are accountable under the accountability laws.

In a majority 2-1 verdict, the apex court on September 15 annulled some amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999 during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. Headed by then-chief justice Umar Ata Bandial, the three-member bench included Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan.

In the dissenting note issued today, Justice Shah said during the course of over 50 dates of hearings in the case, the SC judge said a question was also raised as to whether the judges of the constitutional court and the members of the armed forces enjoy exemption from the NAB Ordinance. "We must, therefore, strongly shun the above generally professed opinion and be clear that members of Armed Forces and the judges of the constitutional

courts are fully liable under the NAB Ordinance, like any other public servant of Pakistan," the judge observed.

Justice Shah observed that the courts should decide cases as per the law and Constitution even if the public sentiment is against them, highlighting the principle of "trichotomy of power," saying no state organ can claim superiority over the other. "Courts must rise above the 'hooting throng' and keep their eyes set on the future of democracy, undeterred by the changing politics of today. Courts unlike political parties don't have to win popular support. Courts are to decide according to the Constitution and the law even if the public sentiment is against them," wrote Justice Shah.

Raising objections to the majority verdict, the apex court judge said the country's Constitution is based on the principle of trichotomy of power in which legislature, executive and judiciary have their separately delineated functions. "The legislature is assigned the function to legislate laws, the executive to execute laws and the judiciary to interpret laws. None of

these three organs are dependent upon the other in the performance of its functions nor can one claim superiority over the others," he added.

The senior judge further said all state pillars enjoyed complete independence in their own sphere and "is the master in its own assigned field" under the Constitution. "Any one of these three organs cannot usurp or interfere in the exercise of each other's functions, nor can one encroach upon the field of the others".

On Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's objections to the amendments, Justice Shah said the learned counsel for the petitioner could not explain how the right to accountability of the elected holders of public offices through criminal prosecution under the NAB Ordinance is an integral part of the fundamental rights to life, dignity, property and equality or how it partakes of the same basic nature and character as the said fundamental rights so that the exercise of such right is in reality and substance nothing but an instance of the exercise of these fundamental rights.

## PHC constitutes commission for settlement of UOP pleas on fares

**Humayun Khan**

**PESHAWAR:** Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan constituted a commission to settle University of Peshawar (UOP) shops' fares located at university road and ordered submission of report till 3rd week of November, on Monday.

During hearing of UOP several pleas Legal Officer Riaz Ali Khan and varsity's lawyer Wasim-u-Din advocate appeared before PHC. The petitions pleaded that UOP is facing financial crisis while on the other hand the varsity's shops located at University paying lower rents from market rates and

some shops are providing Rs500 as fare. Some shops are obtained by one person while then provided on rent to next party on higher fares as well as received corers of rupees as advance. It is worthy to mention that the shops are granted by Al-Rashid Trust to UOP.

The counsel argued that low fares had mostly impacted financial assistance of UOP allocated for poor and deprived students and added that Rs500 rent per shop is unfair because it is benefiting marginalized segments in academia. Chief Justice PHC Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan constituted a commission under Yahya Amin advocate and ordered to iden-

tify market fares of shops in the premises as well as possession and ownership of the property.

Chief Justice PHC Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan adjourned further hearing till 3rd week of November as well as directed submission of the commission report.

PHC orders release of alleged murderer on bail: PHC single bench of Justice Ishfaq Ibrahim ordered release of alleged murderer on bail over land dispute. According to prosecution, Zar Wali had allegedly killed Muhammad Abid over land dispute on 19th November 2020 over land dispute in the premises of Aormr police station.