

Toshakhana cases hearing
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Objections were raised against the two applications filed against the bail plea of the PTI chairman for his absence in the 190 million pond and toshakhana cases. The Islamabad High Court registrar office has fixed the hearing of the applications with on October 4 (today). The bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Babar Sattar will hear the case.



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PTI's MLA de-seated
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: After rigging in the election to LA-35 Jammu-II was proved, the election tribunal de-seated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member Legislative Assembly, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Maqbool Gujjar and ordered a re-election. The election tribunal cancelled the notification of the success of Chaudhry Maqbool Gujjar.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting of apex committee on National Action Plan.

How law diminishes SC's powers: CJP — says to wrap up Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act case on 9th

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: As the full court resumed hearing a set of petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 on Tuesday with the proceedings going live on TV channels, the Chief Justice of Pakistan hinted at concluding the case on Monday.

However, the court heard arguments by parties opposing the law, including the PTI, and then adjourned the hearing till Monday (Oct 9). "That shall be the last day of the hearing," Justice Isa said. The 14-judge SC bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa is hearing the case and the court has arranged live-streaming of the proceedings on Pakistan Television (PTV). The previous hearing of the case was also broadcast live. During the court hearing today, Chief Justice Isa remarked that some people think that the Supreme Court and Parliament have come face to face with this law. He said he would not indulge in the war of words.

CJP Isa said that the law affected the chief justice and the two senior most judges of the Supreme Court, adding that the law would also apply to future chief justices and senior judges of the apex court. He said that he was sharing his powers with the senior judges. "Is it correct or not? At first, I thought that I should not sit in the bench, then decided that all the judges must hear this case." The top judge remarked that he held a meeting with the representatives of the Pakistan Bar Council and Supreme Court Bar Association. The lawyers complained that they are not being heard, the Chief Justice said adding that when the lawyers are talking, let them finish their talk.

"The court should not be made a place for political debate. Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act has now become law," CJP Isa said observing that we should not go into this debate whether Parliament could have enacted legislation or not. The top judge asked the lawyers to inform the court whether the practice and procedure law was in conflict with the constitution or not. He inquired if the independence of the judiciary was only for itself and that it had to defend itself at all costs. He wondered if the independence of the court was not for the people. The Chief Justice said that if any question is asked from the bench, please note it.

CJP Isa remarked that the judiciary is not a subordinate department of the government. He again asked how this legislation could affect the independence of the judiciary. He remarked that the more we delve into the intricacies of the case, the more it would consume our time. "This case will not be heard anymore after today," the top judge said. Justice Athar Minallah remarked that in his opinion, the purpose of the act is to provide access to justice. "The right to appeal is given in this

law. My question is how access to justice is against the constitution," he questioned.

Justice Ijazul Ahsan remarked that Parliament should have adopted a complete procedure before enacting the legislation, which was not done. Justice Minallah interjected saying giving the right to access to justice is the basis of the constitution. "is Parliament not empowered to enact legislation for the betterment of the people," the judge asked. Justice Ali Mazhar remarked what is the use of the constitutional provision now when the law has already been made. Justice Ijazul Ahsan asked why can't the Parliament legislate a law to form a bench itself?

Justice Munib Akhtar inquired if the Parliament reserves the power to form a bench, why can't this legislation be enacted. After this, the Supreme Court announced a short break in the proceedings. When the court started proceedings after the break, the petitioner's lawyer Hassan Irfan took the rostrum. He told the court that the Constitution made the use of Article 184 (3) mandatory on the Supreme Court. At which, the Chief Justice inquired if he was saying that the not only Chief Justice has the power of Article 184-3, but the entire Supreme Court could exercise it. Irfan said that the powers were given to the apex court when then drafted the SC rules. "The SC then delegated their own power as a whole to the chief justice," he said.

Referring to Article 50, said that it highlighted that it concerned the Parliament. He said that the bill was sent to the president for his approval, who then raised an objection. The lawyer said that this indicated a "dispute" within Parliament over the passage of the bill. Justice Ijazul Ahsan said Article 191 empowers the Supreme Court to make its own rules of procedure. He further said the apex court itself could divide its powers into one or as many judges. He remarked that the powers of the Supreme Court are sacred.

Justice Minallah inquired if the parliament did not have the powers to bring transparency in the internal affairs of the Supreme Court. Lawyer said that the parliament has actually amended the constitution under the guise of legislation, Article 184 is silent on which particular right will be affected, then notice can be given. Justice Ali Mazhar remarked that he (the lawyer) is talking about the public interest which includes the fundamental rights written in the first part of the constitution. Chief Justice Isa remarked that he knows only the language of reality and not of assumptions. "Should we start with Maulvi Tamizuddin or Nusrat Bhutto, it can be observed that you can play with the constitution as you like. But we will not let anyone play with Pakistan.

(Continued on Back Page)

'Return must be voluntary', UN on Pakistan's plan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Hours after the caretaker government's decision to deport over 1 million "illegal immigrants" after the November 1 deadline, the United Nations (UN) said Tuesday that refugees residing in Pakistan should be allowed to exit the country voluntarily and no pressure should be exerted on them.

"Any refugee return must be voluntary and without any pressure to ensure protection for those seeking safety," Qaisar Khan Afridi, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Anadolu. The interim government earlier in the day ordered all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghan nationals, to leave the country or face expulsion after revealing that 14 of 24 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan nationals.

The UNHCR official termed the press reports about a plan to deport undocumented Afghans "disconcerting" and said the body was seeking clarity from "our government partners". Afridi asked Pakistan to come up with a plan that ensures all Afghan nations with international protection are not deported, noting that Islamabad has been "generously hosting refugees for more than 40 years".

"We must also keep in mind that those fleeing persecution often do not have the necessary documents and travel permissions," he added. Afridi further said that the UNHCR is ready to support Pakistan in developing a mechanism to manage and register people in need of international protection on its territory and respond to "particular vulnerabilities."

"Pakistan has remained a generous refugee host for decades. This role has been acknowledged globally but more needs to be done to match its generosity," he added. Islamabad has received the largest influx of Afghan refugees since the Soviet invasion of Kabul in 1979.

PTI chief's cipher case to be heard in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Law on Tuesday issued a notification to hold Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman's trial in Adiala jail in the cipher case. The notification adds that the law and justice division says it has 'no objection' to the trial being held in jail.

The notification was issued after special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law, asking it to issue a notification to hold the hearing of the cipher case in the Rawalpindi prison due to security concerns. Earlier, the FIA submitted challan of the cipher case in a special court constituted under the Official Secrets Act. PTI chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted in the challan.

The FIA pleaded to the court for trial and conviction of the Chairman PTI and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint of the Home Secretary.

The Frontier Post

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Apex Committee of the National Action Plan on Tuesday, resolving to expel illegal foreign residents from the country and take strict action against their businesses and properties, constituted a task force to scrutinize and do away with fake identity cards and business activities.

The committee, which met under Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, also decided to widen the scope of ongoing action against illegal activities like drug smuggling, hoarding, smuggling of currency and eatables, illegal money transfer and power theft, a PM Office press release said.

Attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, relevant federal ministers, provincial chief ministers and heads of civil and military law enforcement agencies, the Apex Committee decided that movement at the border would be subject to the passport and visa, in order to document the processes.

The task force that would work under the Interior Ministry would help scrutinize the fake identity cards, businesses and properties in order to get rid of the same. The participants of the meeting reviewed the internal security situation in the country with a view to overcome the challenges durably.

They resolved that despite all odds, the government would ensure the implementation of the Constitution and the law as per the public aspirations. The forum reiterated that the use of force was only the state's mandate and no individual or group would be allowed to use the same. Besides, there was no room for armed political organisations or groups and the people involved in such activities would be dealt with strictly.

In the meeting, it was also highlighted that Islam was a religion of peace and the state would never allow anyone to interpret the religion just to serve its own political interests. The rights and religious freedom of the minorities were the components of Islam and Constitution of Pakistan and the state would ensure their provision.

Naveed Ashraf appointed as new chief of Pak Navy

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf will be promoted to the rank of admiral on the same day. The new navy chief was commissioned in the Operations Branch of the Pakistan Navy in 1989. Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf will succeed Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi who will relinquish the Command of Pakistan Navy. The Change of Command ceremony will be held in Islamabad. Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf was commissioned in the Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989 and he was awarded Quaid-e-Azam Gold Medal on successful completion of initial

naval training at Germany and Pakistan.

During his illustrious naval career, the Flag Officer has served on various Command and Staff appointments. His rich Command experience of over 10 years include; Commanding Officer of a Gun Boat, a Mine Hunter, three Destroyers and Command of 25th & 18th Destroyer Squadrons. Besides, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf remained Commandant of Pakistan Naval Academy and had the honour to Command Pakistan Navy Fleet. His distinguished Staff appointments include Fleet Operations Officer at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Captain Training at HQ Flag Officer Sea Training, Chief Staff Officer to Task Force-151 at HQ NAVCENT Bahrain, Deputy President National Defence University, Naval Secretary, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Admin), Director General C4I, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training &



Personnel) and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations).

Presently, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf is serving as Chief of Staff at Naval Headquarters. The Flag officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad, Naval Staff College USA and Royal College of Defence Studies UK. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-e-Basalat.

India tells Canada to withdraw 41 diplomats

NEW DELHI (Agencies): India has told Canada that it must repatriate 41 diplomats by October 10, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday.

Ties between New Delhi and Ottawa have become seriously strained over Canadian suspicion that Indian government agents had a role in the June murder in Canada of a Sikh separatist leader and Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who India had labelled a "terrorist".

Nijjar, 45, was the president of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara temple in Surrey, British Columbia and advocated for the creation of a Sikh state known as Khalistan. India has dismissed the allegation as absurd. On September 21, Trudeau called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of the

separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence for their claims.

India suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country on the same day. Last week, the Indian foreign minister spoke to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan about Canadian allegations of New Delhi's possible involvement killing of the separatist leader in Canada.

Jaishankar said that New Delhi had told Canada it was open to looking into any "specific" or "relevant" information it provides on the killing. Trudeau, who is yet to publicly share any evidence, said he has shared the "credible allegations" with

India "many weeks ago". The Financial Times, citing people familiar with the Indian demand, said India had threatened to revoke the diplomatic immunity of those diplomats told to leave who remained after October 10.

Canada has 62 diplomats in India and India had said that the total should be reduced by 41, the newspaper said. The Indian and Canadian foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Talking to reporters, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said: "We are in contact with the government of India. We take Canadian diplomats' safety very seriously and we will continue to engage privately because we think diplomatic conversations are best when they remain private."

10 terrorists killed in Tank: ISPR

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Ten terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) the military's media affairs wing said Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Pezu area of Tank district, killing 10 terrorists. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and targeted killing of innocent citizens," it said.

The ISPR further stated that sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. "Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the military's statement added. Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November. Last month, at least three terrorists were killed by security forces in an operation carried out in Tirah valley of Khyber district.

According to ISPR, three terrorists, including a commander, were killed in a fierce exchange of fire with security forces. "The security forces conducted an operation in the Tirah area of Khyber district following a tip-off about the presence of terrorists. "This led to a heavy exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces. As a result, three terrorists, including Commander Kifayat alias Toor Adnan, were killed," the ISPR said in a statement. The commander was reportedly involved in attacks on civilians and security forces.

Police nab 61 foreigners staying illegally

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Various police stations in Islamabad have arrested 61 foreign nationals for overstaying in Pakistan.

According to an Islamabad police post on social media site X, formerly twitter, the arrests were made during a special operation against the foreigners who have been staying in the country illegally.

Sabzi Mandi police arrested 39 foreigners who could not produce any legal documents, including passports and visas.

Another operation was carried out by the Bhara Kahu police in Athal Chowk and Kiani Road in which 15 foreigners were captured.

The Phulgran police conducted a similar operation in Seri Chowk area and nabbed seven foreigners for illegal stay in Pakistan.

The police wrote on X that so far, 65 cases have been registered against the foreigners who were illegally staying in the country.

Cases against 451 foreigners are pending adjudication in various courts, the police added.

It may be recalled that the Islamabad police launched the operation as the caretaker government announced the launch of a plan to oust more than 1.1 million foreigners living illegally in Pakistan.

Passport delivery schedule revised

KARACHI (INP): The official delivery timing for the issuance of passports in Pakistan has been modified once again. As per details, the passport department has recently issued a notification outlining the revised passport delivery schedules.

For regular passport applications, the delivery time has been extended to a maximum of 21 working days, compared to the previous 10-day timeframe.

The urgent passport will now be issued within 5 days against an earlier timeframe of 4 days.

The fast-track passports will be issued in 2 office days? To streamline the process and better serve citizens, the department has emphasized the importance of adhering to designated office hours.

Passport offices throughout the country will be open from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm from Monday to Thursday and from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Fridays.

Earlier, the Government of Pakistan stopped issuing 100-page passports and the passport office has also confirmed this update.

As per details, the issuance of the 100-page passport was stopped whereas the passport office said in a statement that they apologize to people for the inconvenience however this closure is temporary.



PESHAWAR: Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik presenting shield to Woman Traffic Police Officer Shazia at Press Club.

Kundi demands constitutional polls

KARACHI (NNI): The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) information secretary Faisal Karim Kundi has asserted that the people apprehensive of facing the judgment of the people, seek to evade elections.

He emphasized the PPP's demand for elections to be conducted in accordance with the constitution.

Kundi remarked that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari envisions the expansion of institutions like the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) across

the nation, aiming to provide advanced healthcare services to all.

The PPP's manifesto rests on addressing the political, social, and economic woes of the people, he said.

As the elections approach, Kundi emphasized that voters will compare the performance of the PPP government with that of other parties.

He recalled that despite the catastrophic floods of 2010, inflation remained under control during the PPP's tenure.

Kundi also highlighted

the party's initiatives, including the Benazir Income Support Program, aimed at supporting impoverished women, and the distribution of the National Finance Commission (NFC) awards to provinces during the PPP's era.

He recalled that under the guidance of President Asif Ali Zardari, government employee salaries witnessed a substantial increase.

Kundi underlined that the PPP is committed to providing employment opportunities for the less fortunate.

Tarbela's project to add another 1530 MW

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project will enhance power generation of Tarbela Power House 1530 Megawatt (MW), paying a way to increase cumulative power generation of Tarbela dam from 4888 MW to 6418 MW.

Official sources told APP here that, the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project is being developed at Tunnel No 5 of the Tarbela dam and would contribute 1,347 billion low cost green and clean units to the national grid system.

Currently, vigorous work was being carried out at all key sites including powerhouse, tail race tunnel and downstream coffer dam etc, official sources told APP here. Excavation of the powerhouse and the tail race tunnel as well as slope stabilization for the switch yard were also in progress besides modification in the existing Tunnel No. 5, they said.

Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project is a component of green, clean and least-cost energy generation plan, WAPDA is implementing on priority. World Bank is providing US\$ 390 million and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank US\$ 300 million for construction of the project. Electricity generation from the project will start in 2025.

8 gamblers arrested during raid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 8 gamblers and recovered bet money Rs 91,770, 04 mobile phones, and 03 motorcycles from their possession during crackdown here on Tuesday.

According to a police spokesman, Jati police conducted a raid at a house and held 08 gamblers who were identified as Bilal, Ghaafer, Jabbar, Sarfraz, Azhar, Aamir, Usman and Sakhawat. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress.

SP Sadder Muhammad Nabil Khokhar appreciated the performance of the police team and said that gambling is the root of cause of other social evils.

The accused involved in such crimes cannot escape from the grip of the law. Strict action against gamblers will be continued without any discrimination, he added.

CM reviews law and order situation

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to review the steps taken for the protection of life and property of the people in the province.

It was decided that stringent action would be taken against those inciting violence in the name of religion and every possible step will be taken to stop the financing of such elements. Additionally, individuals aiding wrongdoers

will face intensified scrutiny, with no exceptions for those operating outside the bounds of the law.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered an organised crackdown on miscreants and criminal gangs, emphasizing that no faction or gang would be permitted to disrupt the peace of the province.

IG police briefed about the law and order situation in the province, along with updates on legal action taken against miscreants. The meeting also paid trib-

ute to the valiant policemen who thwarted a terrorist attack on the Kundal check post in Mianwali.

Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, chief secretary, ACS, secretary law, ACS (Home), Addl IG (Special Branch), CCPO, secretary prosecution, Addl IG (CTD), high officials and representatives from law enforcement agencies attended the meeting while RPOs participated through video link.

SNGPL continued raids against gas pilferers

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 87 connections while imposing fine of Rs. 517,000 and 158 under billing cases processed in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 03 connections on illegal use of gas and 04 disconnected on the use of compressor.

In Bahawalpur, the regional team disconnected 05 connections on use of compressor while another 04 against illegal use of gas and 26 under billing cases processed. In Multan, the

company disconnected 09 connections on illegal use of gas, 07 disconnected on the use of compressor while imposing fine of Rs 0.020 million booked against gas theft and Rs 0.017 Million booked against underbilling.

In Peshawar, the company disconnected 14 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal connections. 0.18 Million has been booked against gas theft. In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected 02 connections on use of compressor while another 03 gas connections on illegal use of gas. SNGPL's team in Mardan 02 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas, 50 under

billing cases processed and Rs 0.3 Million booked against underbilling.

The regional team in Gujranwala were disconnected 07 meters on the use of compressor and 06 disconnected on illegal use of gas.

In Gujrat, 03 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas. The company disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas in Islamabad. In Sahiwal, 05 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas.

The regional team in Faisalabad 82 under billing cases processed and 10 disconnected on illegal use of gas and another 02 on the use of compressor.

‘Efforts of HWPL for global praiseworthy’

LAHORE (INP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has appreciated the efforts of Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) for peace across the globe since 2014.

He said, "Wars are devastating for humanity."

The Governor Punjab was talking to a delegation of HWPL working for global peace, which led by Senator Kamran Michael called on him at Governor House Lahore on Tuesday. Balighur Rehman said that the Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir were still deprived of their legitimate right to self-determination. He said that India was trying to suppress the legitimate right of self-determination of Kashmiris by usurping their basic human rights.

He said that international organizations should ensure the implementation of the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Governor Punjab said international peace organizations need to be more active and play an effective role in resolving Palestine and Kashmir issues for

lasting peace in the world.

Governor Punjab said that currently, most of the officers and soldiers of the armed forces of Pakistan were serving in the United Nations Peace Mission.

On this occasion, the delegation informed the Punjab Governor about the aims and objectives of peace organization, Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light.

The delegation comprised Yang Bang sig, Park Kyung-taek, Kim Young-seung, Jun Young-woo, Lee Seungkyu, Naveed Tahir and Javed Waheed.

Members of notorious criminal gang busted

KARACHI (INP): Karachi Police on Tuesday claimed to have successfully apprehended members of the notorious criminal gang known as the "Asif Burger" gang.

According to police, this group was involved in a wide range of criminal activities, including car thefts, mobile phone and laptop robberies, online bank heists, all conducted through fraudulent women's identities. The operation resulted in the arrest of multiple suspects from the Sarjani area of Sindh's capital, Karachi.

The arrested individuals include the leader of the gang, Asif Burger, as well as his associates Ramiz (alias Raheel), Umar, Daniyal, Sarfraz, and Ali Raza. However, one member of the gang, Wajid, managed to evade capture,

prompting a manhunt by law enforcement agencies.

The modus operandi of the gang was cunning. Asif Burger, the ring-leader, specialized in creating fake female identities to lure unsuspecting victims. He would use these fake IDs to pose as a potential buyer of mobile phones and laptops, only to rob the unsuspecting citizens who responded to his calls.

To facilitate their criminal activities, Asif Burger provided his gang members with all the necessary tools, including weapons, motorcycles, and accommodation. Their crime spree primarily targeted areas in District Central and West of Karachi.

The gang's criminal activities were not limited to thefts. They also targeted bankgoers, with mem-

ber Raheel (alias Ramiz) reportedly creating distractions within banks to alert his fellow gang members to potential victims. Additionally, the gang did not spare parents outside schools and coaching centers, further exacerbating the security concerns in the region.

Tragically, the gang's activities turned violent when they shot a citizen in the Sirjani Sector 7A area, highlighting the danger they posed to the community.

The Asif Burger gang's criminal activities extended to vehicle theft, as they managed to seize a car within Timuriya limits and a motorcycle from the Hydari area. Karachi Police have now initiated a thorough investigation into the arrested suspects to bring them to justice.

Coordinated efforts needs to improve law, order situation

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KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Salim Rajput on Tuesday said coordinated efforts were needed to improve the law and order situation and other issues of the people of mega city and the establishment of coordination committees at divisional, district and sub-division levels will help in this regard.

He said this while presiding over the first meeting of the CPLC Coordination Committee at his office. He said that the Saylani Welfare Trust has also decided to cooperate in the efforts for the city's improvement and the services being provided to the citizens.

The CPLC and Saylani Trust are doing a good job

for the betterment of the city and the welfare of humanity, the Commissioner said and added that public facilities could be further improved by collective efforts.

Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) chief Zubair Habib termed the establishment of coordination committees at different levels, a good initiative and said working together with the administration will bring improvement.

Adviser Saylani Welfare Trust Afzal Chamdia briefed the meeting about the details of the services provided by the Trust. All Deputy Commissioners, representatives of CPLC and Saylani Trust also attended the meeting.



PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards - 2022

(Pakistan Engineering Council)

EXTENSION IN LAST DATE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

With Reference to Pakistan Engineering Council Advertisement published in national newspapers on 03rd September, 2023 for submission of nominations, the last date has been extended from 03rd October, 2023 to **Wednesday, 18th October, 2023.**

Nomination Form to be filled online through PEC web portal (accessible at www.pecawards.pec.org.pk) duly completed in all respects including supporting documents should be submitted online on or before the submission date. Details regarding Award Categories and Eligibility Criteria are available on PEC website.

The scrutiny & evaluation of nominations will be carried out by PEC Engineers' Excellence Award Committee as per the approved criteria and reserves the right to reject any nomination.

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02



Governor vows to solve LG employees issues

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has assured that grievances of the local government employees of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be addressed on a priority basis.

Talking to a representative delegation of Local Government Employees Federation, headed by its Chairman, Shaukat Ali Anjum here, the Governor said all issues of the employees of the local government including payments of the salaries would be addressed as soon as possible.

He said the role of employees of the local government was of prime

importance in uplift of the province and the government was well aware of the issues being faced by them. He said problems of the employees of all TMAs and WSSCs were affecting their performance.

The Governor assures to take tangible steps towards resolution of the issues including payments of their pensions, PLA and other issues. He said soon he would contact the Chief Secretary and other officers concerned in this regard.

The delegation comprising of Haji Riaz Khan, Muhammad Sulaiman Hoti, Qaisar Bacha, Haji Ayaz Ali, Shad Khan, Abid Suhail and Fazal Mehmood

thanked the governor for assurance to resolve their problems.

Governor visits Edwards College, stresses upon faculty to improve ranking of institution

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday laid foundation stone of new academic bloc in Edwards College Peshawar and stressed upon faculty members to revive the past fame and educational standard of the institutions.

During visit, KP Governor also planted a sapling on the college premises. Provincial Caretaker Minister, Hamid Shah, faculty members and large

number of students were also present.

Governor said that Edwards College was famous for its educational standard but the institution has lost its ranking and reputation that needs to be revived.

He said that improving educational standard of the college was among his priorities adding that resources would be utilized to improve its ranking. "As a resident of Peshawar, it is my responsibility to work for improvement of the institutions that was one for its reputation and standard of education", he said.

On the occasion, Bishop Manormal Shaw and Principal Edwards College, Dr. Shujat Ali briefed the governor about revamping of the college and expressed gratitude to him for his cooperation and support.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Information Minister Barrister Feroze Jamal Kakakhel with others cutting a cake to celebrate China's National Day.

KPCIP to modernize water, sanitation delivery services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Local Government Election and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD) Muhammad Dawood Khan. Project Director Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Director Compliance Directorate KPCIP Amir Alam Khan, Director Technical Mian Muhammad Shakeel, and Director Finance Qazi Raees briefed the minister on technical, financial, and social safeguards aspects of the project.

The project director highlighted key initiatives in Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat, Abbottabad, and Mingora. He said that KPCIP, funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with every projects designed with worsening climate change, depleting ground-

water levels, and increasing health concerns in mind.

"Under the Swat Greater Water Supply Scheme, water from River Swat will be treated and supplied to the residents of Mingora city," Syed Zafar Ali Shah said. Additionally, streams and springs' water will be channeled to a treatment plant near Choonia in Abbottabad. "The treated water will be distributed through an extensive network of pipelines, reaching every household," explained Shah. Furthermore, these cities will benefit from modern sanitation and sewerage systems, safeguarding groundwater and freshwater resources from contamination.

Shah highlighted the incorporation of recreational spaces such as parks

equipped with open-air gyms, urban forests, benches, car parks, and cycle tracks. These additions are expected to enhance the overall well-being of the residents and contribute positively to the cities' environment.

Expressing his optimism, the minister underscored the short- and long-term benefits of the projects and stressed on the timely completion. "These projects are not only eco-friendly but will also generate employment opportunities for thousands while providing green spaces for relaxation," stated Minister Durrani. He expressed his satisfaction with the current progress and urged the Project Director to ensure timely completion of the initiatives.

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PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan being receiving a shield on occasion of announcement of intermediate result.

HED constitute committee for girl's colleges event

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Higher Education Department (HED) had constituted committee for organizing sport festival for competition among government girl's colleges.

This announced after meeting chaired by Principal Government Girls Degree College Zariab colony Nihayat Safi in which Director Sport Higher Education Arshad Hussain, Principal Frontier College Roshan Zehra, City Degree College Principal Dr. Tahira Dar and repre-



sentatives of colleges were present at the occasion.

The sport festival would be held at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University while City Degree College will

organize the event. The hockey matches will be held at Lala Ayoub stadium while Asian style Kaddi competition also included in the festival.

KTH start awareness drive about breast cancer

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The month of October has been chosen for breast cancer awareness worldwide, in this regard since 2017 under the supervision of the chairperson of surgery department of Khyber Teaching Hospital Professor Dr. Mah Munir and Assistant Professor Dr. Iram Sabir Ali conducted free screening and breast cancer awareness in the month of October.

Every year more than 1500 women are screened free of charge in which about 20 to 30 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and they are given timely treatment.

Also in the month of October 2023, Khyber Teaching Hospital and Khyber Medical College initiated a breast cancer awareness campaign and organized a free camp in the basement OPD which included clinical examination, sessions on breast can-



cer or diseases, including ways for women to perform self-exams, various seminars and free ultrasounds.

Khyber Teaching Hospital, Hospital Director Dr. Muhammad Zafar Afridi has issued instructions to all the managerial and concern departments to bring all the services of the hospital in order to further improve the free screening camp and to make it successful.

Medical Director Professor Dr. Muhammad Ayaz Khan said that there is

a strong appeal to community that this free camp will be held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday to Friday in the entire month of October.

Apart from this, he also appreciated the efforts of the surgery department, Khyber Teaching Hospital, which is the only public sector hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which organizes a free camp for women every year in the month of October, in which thousands of women are examined for free.

Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Pesco on Tuesday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar Industrial Grid Station on 4th October from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Subsequently, it said the consumers of Peshawar Industrial grid connected feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply, it said will also remain suspended from Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on 4th October from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of Saddar Road, Scarp, KTH, Khyber Bank, Islamia College, Airport Road, Commercial, Jahangir Abad and Tehkal Payan feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Regi Model Town Grid Station on 4th October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. resultantly consumers of Madina Colony, Shahi Maira, RMT, PM Town and Sheikh Yasin Town feeders will face inconvenience. The Power Supply will remain suspended from Kohat Grid Station on 4th October from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of Ghumbat, OTS, Lachi Express, Canal Town, Kohat Express, PCM and Sleeper Factory feeders will face inconvenience.

Moreover, it said that power supply will remain suspended from D.I. Khan Grid Station on 4th and 5th October from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. due to which consumers of Sheikh Yousaf 2 and Sagru feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Gomal University Grid Station on 4th October from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. resultantly consumers of Qureshi Mor, Kulachi, Chashma Mill, Anjuman Abad and Sheikh Rajjar feeders will face inconvenience.

SBBWU organizes one-day workshop on 'Climate Justice'

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Students of Affiliated College at Govt. Girls Degree College, Bacha Khan, Kohat Road, Peshawar Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar organized One-Day Workshop on "Climate Justice" on October 3, 2023 at Govt. Girls Degree College Bacha Khan, Kohat Road, Peshawar. The Workshop was attended by 150 students of Govt. Girls Degree College Bacha Khan, Kohat Road, Peshawar.



The workshop was organized by Ms Tashfeen Zia, Deputy Registrar Affiliation & Monitoring Section, SBBWUP. The aim of this Workshop was to inculcate "Human Rights with special reference to Climate Justice".

The resource person was Ms Johar Wajahat, Assistant Professor, Department of Law and Ms Beenish Asmatullah, Assistant Professor Department of Eng-

lish, SBBWUP. Both the resource person conducted interactive sessions and engaged the participants in activities related to Climate Change, Climate Justice and Environmental Justice.

Prof. Dr Safia Ahmad, the Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Ms Zoobia Qamar, Principal Govt. Girls Degree College Bacha Khan, Kohat Road, Peshawar and organizer Ms

Tashfeen Zia, Deputy Registrar Affiliation & Monitoring Section for organizing the Workshop. She highlighted the importance of Climate Justice and Environmental Justice and said that Global warming is the dilemma of the whole world.

Pakistan is not the only country which is affected by this but the whole World is suffering from it. We

Peshawar Board Intermediate results: Hadaf College Peshawar bags two top positions

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Hadaf College Peshawar outshone with outstanding academic performance by its brilliant students in Peshawar Board Intermediate Results 2023 announced yesterday. Two top positions were secured by the students of Hadaf College.

Syed Muhammad Awais Raza bagged 1st position securing 1003 marks in FCS (Computer Science) Group. Maaz Bin Aamir stood 2nd securing 1031 marks in Pre-Engineering Group.

The management, teachers and students of Hadaf College Peshawar Colleges



congratulated the position holders on this outstanding performance. Position holders attributed their success to Almighty Allah's Blessing, parents' prayers, teachers excellent coaching and guidance.

The Result was announced in Peshawar Board Auditorium. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Minister for Elementary and Secondary/Higher Education, KPK graced the ceremony as Chief Guest.

IPS obtains 100 per cent results



PESHAWAR: Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) students had secured high score in Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar.

According to details, Sana obtained 498 marks and secured 1st position in IPS, Muhammad Waqas obtained 485, Neelum Gul obtained 476 marks, Sara Jabeen 469, Hina obtained 459 and Miss Behshat

secured 444 marks from BISE Peshawar.

Director IPS Bilal Afridi claimed that the institute had obtained 100% results while added that students are facilitated in both academic and cocurricular

activities.

1st position holder student Sana dedicated her success to hard work of teachers and prayers of teachers. She is committed for further smart and hard work to improve her academics.



In brief

Students visit FC troops F.P. Report

KHAR: The students from various schools in Bajaur spent a day with Frontier Corps North, on Tuesday. On this occasion, the students were briefed on their role of Frontier Corps in ensuring the security. The students were also briefed on the different types of weapons used by Frontier Corps. The students said on the occasion that they are proud of the capabilities and operational readiness of Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps and in future they will prefer to protect the homeland in the same way.

8 gamblers arrested F.P. Report

DI KHAN: The district police have arrested eight gamblers staking money on quail fight recovering a stake of Rs 31,350 and 08 quails from their possession during a raid conducted here in the limits of Paharpur police station. According to a police spokesman, a police team led by Paharpur Police Station SHO Khubab Wali Baloch taking action on a tip off raided a gambling place. During the raid, the police arrested eight gamblers including Waheed son of Ghulam Abbas, Munir son of Raza Muhammad, Noman son of Hafiz Ahmad Gul, Muhammad Saleem son of Mera Bakhsh, Muhammad Ashiq, Ghulam Abbas son of Khuda Bakhsh and Hafeez son of Muhammad Ramzan who were staking money on quail fight. The police also recovered 08 quails and Rs 31,350 stake money from them.

Grenade hurled at house F.P. Report

BARA: Unknown extortionists on Tuesday threw a hand-grenade inside the house of councillor, Javed Afridi in Shalobar area in the vicinity of Bara police station, however the attack did not cause any harm to human life. Police said, the grenade burst into the lawn of Javed Afridi house, however thankfully no one was harmed in the attack. The miscreants fled the area after committing the crime, police said, adding that Councillor Javed Afridi was receiving unknown calls for extortion for the last few days.

Large quantity of arms seized

KOHLU (INP): The security forces seized large quantity of arms and ammunition from compound of the terrorists in tehsil Kohan of district Kohlu of Balochistan. According to Levies sources, the operation against militant was conducted by QRF force of Levies. The operation which continued for 11 hours was participated by 40 Levies personnel and officials. Levies sources said arms and ammunition including anti-tank mines, 8 APMs, two BPM1, four RPG7, four BM12 missiles, five hand grenades, one kilogram explosives and seven 12 gun were recovered from compound of terrorists.

Opening of schools sought F.P. Report

WANA: A grand jirga of the Ahmadzai Wazir elders was held in which the tribal elders passed a unanimous decision saying that most of the schools in Lower Waziristan are inactive and a large number of the schools in the remote areas are closed because of negligence of govt. Our future generations are being deprived of education in this modern era, they claimed.

Durable and sustainable peace established in Malakand: RPO

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Muhammad Ali Khan has said that complete peace is prevailing in the entire Malakand division including Swat and Chitral. Tourists can go to the beautiful Valley of Swat and other recreational places without any fear, establishment of peace along with security forces and the people of Swat have also made significant sacrifices and no one will be allowed to sabotage the peace of this land.

Action will be taken against vehicles with black glasses, including illegal rickshaws and unnumbered motorcycles. Addressing meet the press along with DPO Swat Shafi Ullah Gandapur at Swat Press Club, RPO Malakand said that the public and the police are inseparable from each other and with the cooperation of the public, the police can make the society crime-free. In this regard, the public should also fulfill their responsibilities and identify the criminals so that these evils of the society can be eradicated?

RPO said Swat is a tourist area and there is no place for criminals here. He added that there was no question of reactivating terrorists in Swat and Chitral and other areas of Malakand division. The police along with other law enforcement agencies are carrying out intelligence-based targeted as



well as search and strike operations and the police have achieved great success in these operations. He said that the people should also keep a close watch on the non-locals in their areas and inform the nearest police station about the suspicious people and prove that they are patriotic citizens so that no harm can be done to the peace of Swat?

Muhammad Ali Khan said that steps are also being taken to activate the traffic system across the division including Mingora city so that traffic can flow. He said that the society is not acceptable to any kind of playing

with human health and strict action will be taken against such elements, on this occasion, Chairman Swat Press Club Shirinzada welcomed RPO Malakand Division during his visit to Swat Press Club and gave a detailed briefing about Swat Press Club?

At the occasion, Chairman Swat Press Club Sherinzada and Governing Body Member Fazal Rahim Khan presented honorary shields to RPO Malakand and DPO Swat on behalf of the Press Club, for which they thanked the office bearers and members of the Press Club.

Revival of education monitoring policy sought

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Female teachers of government schools in the Lower Dir district have demanded of the secretary education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, minister for education and director elementary and secondary education department to review the monitoring policy in the province.

Talking to local journalists at Timergara here on Tuesday, government schools' teachers including Miss Haleema, Ms Khalida Bibi, Ms Asma Shahab, Ms Sadaf and Ms Zainab Begum said the policy of monitoring of schools should be reviewed as it was full of countless flaws. They said that making deductions from teachers' salaries on absence from duties due to emergencies was against the rules and regulations. They termed the act as violation of human rights hurting the self-respect of teachers.

They said that deductions had been made from schools' teachers in the district. They demanded of the concerned high ups to withdraw the orders for deduction from their salaries only on the basis of reports submitted by monitoring teams and serving show cause

notices on them prior to calling explanation from them and conducting inquiry to ascertain the real cause for their only one day absenteeism in the current month which they termed as violation of the set rules for all government employees.

"We had been inducted to the department on special criteria for having degrees issued by the higher education department through tough competition tests conducted by testing agencies but the monitoring process in schools is tantamount to our insult", they added. "It is shocking for me as I have to pay Rs 12000 per month for my transportation out of my salary besides other expenditures in school", Ms Zainab said, adding that deduction from her salary would further aggravate her miseries.

Delimitation rejected: A multi-parties conference held at Timergara here on Tuesday rejected the preliminary delimitation of provincial assembly's constituencies in the Lower Dir district and demanded the election commission of Pakistan to revert the decision. The Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl hosted the conference that was attended by leaders of the Jamaat-i-

Islami, ANP, PPP, PTI and PML-N. The JUI-F leaders Sirajud Din, Qazi Ayazud Din, Muhammad Rahim Haqqani, JI's Shad Nawaz Khan, ANP's Haji Bahadur Khan and Malik Sajjad Yousafzai, PPP's Mehmood Zeb Khan, Jehan Bahadur advocate, PTI's Ghulam Hussain, PML-N Attaullah Khan and others while speaking on the occasion expressed serious concerns on the delimitation of provincial assembly constituencies and termed it against the ground realities, geographical location and unnatural.

A joint declaration issued at the end, said the ECP should revert the delimitation in Lower Dir as none of the political parties supported it. It said the all parties' conference rejected the recent delimitation plan and demanded a logical process. The declaration said the voters would face many difficulties if the delimitation was not reviewed. The APC said that some of the areas situated in far flung areas had been included in constituencies that lay 70 to 80 kilometers away from it. It said the political parties would announce their future course of action if the recent delimitation was not reversed.

MTI Bannu introduces Clinical Governance Dept

F.P. Report

BANNU: Medical Teaching Institute (MTI) Bannu introduced Clinical Governance Department with the aim to enhance the quality of patient care across all its hospitals. Leading this department is renowned Cardiologist Dr. Khalid Naseem Khan, who will oversee its implementation at Khalifa Gul Nawaz Teaching Hospital.

Chairman and Board Members of the Board of Governors congratulate the administrative team at MTI Bannu for this remarkable initiative. MTI Bannu strives for further improvements in healthcare services. The Clinical Governance Department has been established with the objective of overseeing medical functionality at

MTI Bannu's hospitals and ensuring excellence in patient care through healthcare professionals.

This department will conduct clinical audits, review patient care, assess clinical charts, and implement measures for improvement, risk management, and staff development, among other services. In simpler terms, it means that when a patient arrives, their clinical records are examined to ensure the quality of their treatment and the facilities they receive at the hospital.

The goal of this initiative is to continuously enhance the quality of healthcare services within hospitals, where practical work adheres to high standards. This ensures better outcomes for patients. The

Clinical Governance Department will also scrutinize facilities provided to patients and the conditions they encounter.

The step aims to bring consistent improvement within hospitals, where practical work adheres to high standards to provide the best possible healthcare. Now, the department will focus on enhancing various departments to oversee medical performance. The Clinical Governance Department's main focus is to protect patients and continuously provide them with standard healthcare services. This ambitious effort is supported by the Chairman and Board Members of the Board of Governors, who applaud the leadership of the Clinical Governance Department.

Mastung incident termed a proof of incompetency

QUETTA (PPI): Pir Zaheer-ul-Hassan, central Naib Ameer, Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), Pakistan, has said if Indian secret agency RAW was behind the attack on the procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal in district Mastung, Pakistan should recall its ambassador from India.

Addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club here on Tuesday, he said, "Celebrating melad and taking out procession of melad is our duty", but, he added that government was showing apathy with regard to the procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. He added that foolproof security arrangements were made for the minorities in Pakistan, but no security arrangements were being made for those who celebrated 12th Rabi-ul-Awal.

He said that the incident of Mastung was a proof of incompetency of the government, adding suicide attack on the procession of the lovers of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the biggest cruelty. Demanding the authorities to announce Rs. 10 million for the martyrs of Mastung incident, he said that announcing 15 lac pecuniary assistance for the martyrs of Mastung blast was a joke. He said blood donated for the injured of Mastung's blast was stolen.

Man tortures daughter-in-law

SHEIKHUPURA (PPI): In a shocking incident that unfolded in Sheikhupura, Punjab, a man named Abdul Latif brutally tortured his daughter-in-law for serving lunch a bit late.

The incident came to light in Jandiala Sher Khan, where a man tortured his daughter-in-law in front of her children, for serving lunch late. In a viral video, an elderly man could be seen beating a defenceless woman with a wooden lath, while the victim's children helplessly witnessed the horrifying incident.

After the video of the beating went viral, the man fled the area, while, a case has been registered against him. According to police, the victim's husband is currently working in South Africa, leaving her alone in Pakistan.

PML-N to protect integrity of nation

F.P. Report

KARAK: Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Vice President Haji Sirajuddin Khattak has said that the party has been created by the Muslim League and only the Muslim League can protect the survival and integrity of Pakistan.

While doing this, he said that the people who tried to block the path of our institutions and the judiciary have become a story today, and now those same people who are trying to block the path of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will also fail.

The role played by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the development and prosperity of Pakistan will be written in golden letters in history. He said that he has started a public communication campaign and all the patriots will reach Munyar Pakistan on October 21 and give historic welcome to Mian

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Book talk held: The Council of Academic Research and Dialogue of English Department of University Karak organized a book talk on Tuesday on the famous English novelist George Orwell's novel Enamel Farm.

The speaker of the book talk was Department of English K.B. Arshad Jamal Khattak, a student of SK. While the moderator was Muhammad Sohail Khattak, a student of BS, Department of English. Students of English department and other departments took great interest in the book talk. Arshad Jamal Khattak, Enamel Form.

At the end of this book talk session, Badshah Rehman, Lecturer of the Department of English, mentioned the literary and academic efforts of the Council of Academic Research and Dialogue, Department of English, expressed that the depart-

ment does not want to highlight the importance of dialogue and dialogue for its students by organizing such programs.

Arrests for weapons display on media: The display of weapons on social media became expensive. One fell into the hands of the police. According to the details, the action of SHO City Tariq Khan on public complaints received by District Police Officer Karak Sajjad Ahmed Khan, weapons on various platforms of social media.

The accused Qasim Ghani, son of lawyer John Sukna Chongi No. 2, was arrested and a Kalashnikov and 10 cartridges were seized from his possession and a case was registered against the accused. Orders have been issued to the HOs to take immediate legal action against the accused who display any type of weapon on social media.

11 including 10 women injured in road mishap

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: As a result of a collision between two vehicles at Lower Dir Odigram, eleven people, including 10 women, were injured. As soon as they met, the rescue personnel reached the accident site and the injured were transferred to the District Headquarters Hospital Timergara by the personnel of Rescue 1122 in two ambulances.

Political parties rejected new constituencies: All the political parties of Dir Lower rejected the new constituencies and demanded reservations on all the new constituencies in Dir Lower.

Leaders of all political parties including Awami

National Party Haji Bahadur Khan, Nawabzada Mehmood Zaib Khan, Shad Nawaz Khan, Attaullah Khan Advocate, Muhammad Rahim Haqqani, Muhammad Ali, Ghulam Hussain, Malik Sajjad, Malik Muhammad Sher Khan, Jehan Bahadur Advocate, Haji Shakerullah, Javed Iqbal, Khurshid Haji, Qazi Ayaz, participated in the conference of all parties, a detailed discussion was held regarding the new constituencies in Dir Lower and the participants expressed strong concern and reservations on all the new constituencies in Dir Lower.

The said constituencies were rejected and the court announced against the new

constituencies. On this occasion, the speakers said that the Election Commission has created such constituencies for Dir Lower on which all the parties have serious concerns, so all the new constituencies of the Election Commission Dir Lower. Re-evaluate Lacrosse and create such constituencies that all political parties agree on.

All parties demanded that our old constituencies be maintained and hold general elections on the same. The speakers further said that if the Election Commission If the reservations are not removed, the reference against the new constituencies will be referred to the higher courts.

Tax returns awareness campaign launched

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The relevant officials of In-land Revenue Tax office Mardan launched a campaign to create awareness among members of business community about Tax Returns, on Tuesday.

The officials told that under the directives of Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office Peshawar, Zafer Iqbal Khan, the Tax Officers of Mardan Commissionerate have initiated the said campaign. As part of this initiative, on Unit 28, newly appointed Inland Revenue Officer, Israr Yusufzai, paid a visit to Sarfaraz Ganj bazaar and held meeting with representatives of different traders' unions.

During the meeting, he addressed the members, stating that the federal government has extended the deadline for tax returns until October 31st. He appealed to all traders and business communities, including the merchant fraternity, to take advantage of this extended deadline and promptly submit their tax returns for the benefit of the nation.

Representatives of the Traders Association assured the Inland Revenue Officer that they would wholeheartedly cooperate

with the Inland Revenue Department in fulfilling this crucial national obligation and encourage people to submit their tax returns on time.

HESSA meeting held at AWKUM: Vice Chancellor Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan(AWKUM), Dr Zahoor ul Haq hosted a meeting of USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA) partner universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PROF. DR. HASSAN SHER (SAARC Gold Medalist).

Vice Chancellor University of Swat Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak, Vice Chancellor Swabi Women University and Pro VC of Peshawar university along with senior faculty/officials participated. USAID's HESSA delegation led by Dr Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of Party-HESSA was received by Vice Chancellor AWKUM on the campus.

A detailed meeting was held with the VCs and faculty that have participated in various HESSA training programs to discuss the project progress so far, work planning for third year, and a way forward for university strategic and business planning. Dr. Aslam briefed the partici-

pants on key accomplishments of the program during the last two years. The project has conducted international study tours to the University of Utah USA for Pakistani faculty from 16 partner universities across Pakistan, where more than 400 university officials have received capacity building support through USAID-HESSA program.

The project is supporting partner institutes in strengthening the higher education eco system to produce employable graduates. In the next phase participants were briefed about the university strategic and business planning process. Each HESSA partner university will constitute a planning team which will be trained by international experts on developing and implementing a strategic plan.

The meeting deliberated on the proposed plan for the third year of project implementation and provided feedback on improvements to the training programs structure under HESSA. These suggestions and recommendations will be incorporated into the program framework moving forward in consultation with academic leadership of all the HESSA partner universities.

PPP condemns incorporation of Hafizabad into Gujranwala constituency

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: General Secretary Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Hafizabad President District Bar Hafizabad Muhammad Arshad Mehind condemned decision to include constituency of National Assembly district Hafizabad to Gujranwala.

While talking to media, he said that merging of district headquarter Hafizabad in constituency of National Assembly Gujranwala was not justifiy at all. He said that during the election of 1977, 1985, 1988, 1993 and 1997, some rural areas of Hafizabad were remained part of constituency of

National Assembly Gujranwala but the city Hafizabad and other big towns were remained part of constituency of National Assembly Hafizabad.

PPP demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan to establish constituency of National Assembly Hafizabad consisting of district headquarter Hafizabad and other areas.

Friends of police program launched: Friends of police programme introduced by the District Police Officer Faisal Gulzar under the vision of Inspector General of Police, Punjab will be bridge gap between police

and people and performance of police will also be improved with cooperation of people as well as positive image of police prevailed among society.

These views were expressed by the Incharge Citizen Police Lesson Committee Hafizabad Rana Khalid Mehmood in a statement issued here. He said that with the establishment of Police Service Centres at Pindi Bhattian, Jalalpur Bhattian and MESAQ Centre at Hafizabad would improve performance of the police significantly and different facilities would be available to people without any hurdle or hesitation at same place.



WELLINGTON: Anti co-governance protesters march on New Zealand's parliament.

Brazil's government starts expelling non-Indigenous people

SAO PAULO (AP): Brazil's government began removing thousands of non-Indigenous people from two native territories in a move that will affect thousands who live in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. The South American nation's intelligence agency ABIN said in a statement that the goal is to return the Apyterewa and Trincheira Bacaja lands in Para state to the original peoples. It did not say whether or not the expulsion of non-Indigenous people has been entirely peaceful.

The territories are located around the municipalities of Sao Felix do Xingu, Altamira, Anapu and Senator Jose Porfirio in Para state. Brazil's government said the country's Supreme Court and other judges had ordered the operation. Indigenous groups estimate more than 10,000 non-Indigenous people are living inside the two territories. ABIN said as many as 2,500 Indigenous people live in 51 villages within. "The presence of strangers on Indigenous land threatens the integrity of the Indigenous (people) and causes other damages, such as the destruction of forests," the agency said in its statement. It

added that about 1,600 families live illegally in that region with some involved in illegal activities such as cattle raising and gold mining. "They also destroy native vegetation."

The Apyterewa territory had the most deforestation of any Indigenous land in Brazil for four years running, according to official data. Footage obtained by local media and shared on social media in September showed hundreds of non-Indigenous people living in a newly built town with restaurants, bars and churches deep inside the lands of the Parakana. Other authorities that participated in the action included Brazil's ministry of Indigenous Peoples, environment protection agency IBAMA, the federal police and armed forces, among many others. Several of those bodies were defanged and did little to protect Indigenous peoples' territories during the far-right administration of former President Jair Bolsonaro between 2019 and 2022.

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva began rebuilding environment protection agencies and has so far created eight protected areas for Indigenous people. Soon after the

beginning of his administration, his government expelled thousands of gold miners from the massive Yanomami Indigenous territory in the northern state of Roraima. State and federal authorities this year also dislodged landgrabbers from the Alto Rio Guama territory. They threatened forcible expulsion of those settlers failing to leave, and pledged to eliminate access roads and irregular installations; nearly all of the illegal residents departed voluntarily.

Encroachment on such territories over recent years prompted Brazil's top court to enshrine Indigenous land rights by denying a suit backed by farmers that sought to block an Indigenous group from expanding the size of its territorial claim. In the case before the court, Santa Catarina state argued that the date Brazil's Constitution was promulgated - Oct. 5, 1988 - should be the deadline for when Indigenous peoples to have already either physically occupied land or be legally fighting to reoccupy territory. Nine of 11 justices of Brazil's Supreme Court ruled against that argument, a decision that has far-reaching implications for territories nationwide.

Fuller picture emerges of 13 federal executions at end of Trump's era

CHICAGO (AP): A day before the federal government executed a Texas man for the killing of an Iowa couple when he was 18, celebrity lawyer Alan Dershowitz pleaded with then-President Donald Trump - a former client - to call the execution off. During a Dec. 9, 2020, call to the White House, Dershowitz told Trump that Brandon Bernard, at 40, wasn't the man he was when Todd and Stacie Bagley were killed in 1999 and that he deserved to have his sentence commuted to life in prison.

Trump sounded sincere when he said he wished he could spare Bernard's life, but he added apologetically that he'd already promised the victims' relatives that Bernard would be put to death. Dershowitz said about the 20-minute call. "They're on their way. They're on their way," Trump kept saying, Dershowitz recalled. The relatives, Trump explained, were on the road to the prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, where federal executions are carried out and it was "too late to pull them back." Bernard was execut-

ed the next day. Secrecy was a hallmark of the 13 federal executions during the last six months of Trump's presidency. Although reporters were allowed to witness them, it was impossible to know at the time what was happening behind the scenes.

Fresh details have emerged since the executions, including from Dershowitz, who spoke recently to The Associated Press. The fuller picture reveals that officials cut corners and relied on a pliant Supreme Court to get the executions done, even when some - including Trump himself, in Bernard's case - agreed that there might be valid reasons not to proceed with them all. Other newly available information includes an autopsy report obtained by the AP for Corey Johnson, convicted of seven drug-related killings. It concluded that during his execution, he suffered pulmonary edema, a painful condition akin to drowning. So much fluid rushed up his trachea that some exited his mouth. More federal executions carried out under much the same conditions may not be far off.

President Joe Biden has-

n't kept a promise he'd abolish the federal death penalty. Although his Justice Department announced a moratorium on federal executions in 2021, that can be lifted easily. So, unless Biden clears death row, "history will repeat itself" if a pro-death penalty candidate, like Trump, wins in 2024, said Robert Dunham, a Temple Law School adjunct professor on capital punishment. Trump's 2016 win didn't particularly worry federal death row inmates, prisoner Billie Allen, who was and remains in the unit, said by email. After all, there hadn't been a public clamor for federal executions to resume following a 17-year hiatus. But guards began practicing executions in 2019, including by wheeling other guards role-playing as inmates out of cells in restraint chairs.

"It was a sign ... executions were about to take place," Allen said. "Many of us knew Trump was going to keep killing ... until he ran out of time." Observers assumed it was Trump's initiative. But in his 2022 book, "One Damn Thing After Another," Trump's attorney general at the time of the executions, Bill Barr, sug-

Fire at police HQs in Egypt injures 38

CAIRO (AP): A huge fire broke out at a police facility in northeastern Egypt, injuring at least 38 people before firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze several hours later, authorities said. The cause of the fire, which ripped through the multistory police headquarters in the Suez Canal province of Ismailia, was not immediately clear.

Interior Minister Mahmoud Tawfiq, whose ministry oversees police forces, rushed to the site in the city of Ismailia, about 125 kilometers (77 miles) northeast of Cairo. He said a committee was set up to investigate the fire. Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry, said in a statement that 12 of the injured were treated at the site, while 26 others were taken to hospitals. All but two suffered from breathing difficulties; seven of the injured were treated and discharged, he said. It was not immediately clear how many police were in the building at the time. Local media reported that the police building was severely damaged in the blaze.

Videos circulating on social media shows flames and black smoke pouring out of the building. The state-run MENA news agency said firefighters managed to put out the fire after several hours. Safety standards and fire regulations are poorly enforced in Egypt and have been linked to many deaths. In August 2022, a fire at a packed Coptic Orthodox church during morning services in Cairo killed 41 worshippers in what was one of Egypt's deadliest fires in recent years. Last year, there were more than 49,300 fires in Egypt, resulting in 203 deaths and injuries to 855 people, according to the country's official statistics agency.

10,000 migrants a day head to US border

MEXICO CITY (AP): Mexico's president said that about 10,000 migrants per day are heading to the US border, and he blamed US economic sanctions on countries like Cuba and Venezuela for the influx. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the number of migrants reaching Mexico's northern border with the United States was partly due to about 6,000 migrants per day crossing into Mexico from Guatemala over the past week.

He said many of those migrants are traveling on a route through Central America that includes the jungle-clad Darien Gap region between Panama and Colombia. López Obrador seemed to join Colombian President Gustavo Petro in blaming the situation on US sanctions on countries like Venezuela and Cuba, whose citizens make up a large part of the migrant flow. Experts say economic mismanagement and political repression are largely to blame for the tide of migrants leaving those countries. The United States has sanctioned both governments over what it considers the suppression of democracy. López Obrador suggested the sanctions are because of ideological differences and not to uphold human rights, and said the "sanctions and blockades cannot be maintained."

Race issues emerge in New Zealand's election

WELLINGTON (Reuters): Race and relations with the indigenous Maori population have emerged as issues in New Zealand's election as right-wing parties likely to be pivotal in forming a government face accusations of stoking racial division. When Jacinda Ardern led her Labour party to a landslide victory in 2020, New Zealand stood out with progressive policies at a time when many countries had elected right-wing governments.

Three years on, New Zealand is seeing a growing populist movement that could hold sway over a coalition government and push to remove programs that were designed to address inequality and boost the presence of Maori. This election, the "racism is more overt," said Naida Glavish, a Maori community leader and president of Te Pati Maori. She was one of a group of high profile elders who wrote an open letter last week condemning what they called unacceptable levels of racism from political candidates running in the Oct. 14 election. Both the right-wing ACT Party and populist New Zealand First are promoting policies that would rewind changes that occurred in New Zealand under the Labour government to better acknowledge Maori as the country's first people.

ACT has railed against "co-governance" or the sharing of some management between the state and indigenous people, and has vowed to wind back the use of Maori language in every-

day life and dismantle the Maori Health Authority, which was set up to counter systemic disadvantage. Both ACT and New Zealand First say their policies are not racist but instead are promoting the equal rights of all New Zealanders, with the argument that non-Indigenous citizens are losing out because of policies designed for Maori. "The public service is meant to serve all New Zealanders, but even administration and service delivery has become focussed on race. This isn't a true focus on equity, serving citizens based on their measured need rather than their ancestry is," ACT leader David Seymour said in a fund-raising message to voters.

Seymour has also said he would shut the ministry set up for the advancement of Pacific People. "I think some of our politicians are certainly playing the race card in this election," Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said at a leaders debate in late September.

Polls indicate the centre-right National Party will win the most seats in the election but will have to co-align with one, if not two, minor parties. It has said its preferred partner is ACT but is prepared to discuss partnering with NZ First. Neighbouring Australia is facing similar issues, with a referendum on Oct. 14 to recognise the country's first inhabitants and enshrine an Indigenous advisory body in the constitution looking unlikely to pass. New Zealand has historically

done better managing race relations than many other formerly colonised countries.

It has had separate Maori seats in parliament for more than 100 years, the language has been revitalised and is used widely, and the government has set about financially compensating tribes for land stolen or misappropriated during British colonisation. However, Maori still have high levels of deprivation and incarceration and worse health outcomes than the broader population. The National Party is not on board with many of the ACT and New Zealand First's policies but has not ruled out winding back some Indigenous resources such as the Maori Health Authority.

The rhetoric is engaging with at least some voters. Both the ACT and New Zealand First are up in the polls, and according to a 1News-Verian Poll on Sept. 27 the two parties hold 18% of the vote. Ben Thomas, a political commentator and former National Party staff member, said race had grown as an issue partly because the government had failed to counter a conspiracy theory that co-governance stood for "a Maori takeover of New Zealand". At the same time, the softer economy and a fall in real wages meant more people were starting to see things as a zero-sum game, believing if one part of society was getting something then maybe they were missing out. "There is always a constituency for race baiting," he said.

US urged to reconsider dropping Ukrainian aid

LONDON (AP): The European Union's foreign policy chief called on US lawmakers to reconsider their decision to omit financial support for Ukraine from a stop-gap budget bill Congress passed to halt a federal government shutdown.

The legislation approved to keep the federal government running until Nov. 17 dropped provisions on providing additional aid to Ukraine, a White House priority opposed by a growing number of Republican lawmakers.

Speaking in Kyiv after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said European officials were surprised by the last-minute agreement in Washington and pledged the 27-nation bloc would carry on helping the invaded country defeat Russia. "I have hope that this will not be a definitive decision and Ukraine will continue having the support of the US", Borrell said.

"We are facing an existential threat. Ukrainians are fighting with all their courage and capacities, and if we want them to be successful, then you have to provide them with better arms, and quicker," the Spanish diplomat added. Ukrainian officials stressed that US backing for

Ukraine would continue despite the stop-gap legislation. Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, said America's relationship with Ukraine had not changed and that Ukrainian officials meet regularly with representatives from both the Democratic and Republican parties. "All of Ukraine's key partners are determined to support our country until its victory in this war," he wrote on Telegram. However, the omission of additional Ukrainian aid from the package has raised concerns in Kyiv, which relies heavily on Western financial aid and military equipment in its fight against Russia's ongoing invasion.

A little more than a week ago, lawmakers met in the Capitol with Zelenskyy, who sought to assure them his military was winning the war but stressed that additional aid would be crucial for continuing the fight. Yet recent voting in the House has pointed to increased US isolationism and a growing resistance to providing further aid as the war, now in its 20th month, grinds on. Writing on Telegram, Ukrainian parliament member Oleksiy Goncharenko said that Kyiv needed to adopt new measures to ensure the continued support of both

American officials and the general public. Without it, Goncharenko said, Ukrainians have "practically no chance" of defending themselves. He set forward a list of proposals that included permanently posting Ukrainian delegates in Washington.

"We need to speak the language of money with the US: How will the United States benefit from Ukraine's victory? What will the US get? What will American taxpayers get?" Goncharenko wrote. "We need to change strategy. We need to act differently. Let's fix this situation. We cannot lose." Over the weekend, Russian shelling hit 11 regions of Ukraine over 24 hours, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported. A man was killed in the Kharkiv region city of Volchansk. Russian forces also launched 30 drones across the country's south, 16 of which were shot down by Ukrainian forces, the ministry said. Five people were wounded during the barrage, which hit cities in Ukraine's Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv and Kharkiv regions, local officials reported. In Russia, five Ukrainian drones were shot down over the country's Smolensk region, Gov. Vasily Anokhin said on social media. He cautioned residents not to leave their homes unless necessary.

Russia deploys punishment battalions in echo of Stalin

LONDON (Reuters): Drunk recruits. Insubordinate soldiers. Convicts. They're among hundreds of military and civilian offenders who've been pressed into Russian penal units known as "Storm-Z" squads and sent to the frontlines in Ukraine this year, according to 13 people with knowledge of the matter, including five fighters in the units.

Five live to tell their tale, the people said. "Storm fighters, they're just meat," said one regular soldier from army unit no. 40318 who was deployed near the fiercely contested city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine in May and June. He said he'd given medical treatment to a group of six or seven wounded Storm-Z fighters on the battlefield, disobeying an order from a commander - whose name he didn't know - to leave the men. He said he didn't know why the commander gave the order, but claimed that it typified how Storm-Z fighters were considered of lesser value than ordinary troops by officers.

The soldier, who requested anonymity because he feared prosecution in Russia for publicly discussing the war, said he had sympathy for the men's plight: "If the com-

mandants catch anyone with the smell of alcohol on their breath, then they immediately send them to the Storm squads." When contacted by Reuters, an officer at unit no. 40318 declined to comment on Storm-Z and ended the call. The Kremlin referred Reuters questions to the Russian defence ministry, which didn't respond to a request for comment.

Russian state-controlled media has reported that Storm-Z squads exist, that they took part in intense battles and some of their members received medals for bravery, but it has not disclosed how they are formed, or the losses they take. Reuters is the first news organisation to compile a comprehensive account of how the squads are put together and deployed, by speaking to multiple sources with direct knowledge of what is happening. Like the soldier from unit no. 40318, the 13 people interviewed - who also include four relatives of Storm-Z members as well as three soldiers in regular units who interacted with the squads - all requested anonymity, citing fear of reprisals. Reuters verified the identities of all the fighters involved using criminal

records, social media accounts, or by speaking to their fellow servicemen and their families.

The penal squads, each about 100-150 strong and embedded within regular army units, have typically been sent to the most exposed parts of the front and often sustain heavy losses, according to Reuters interviews with the people, who identified at least five Storm-Z teams fighting to repel a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the east and south. Three of the five Storm-Z fighters interviewed by Reuters, and the relatives of three other Storm-Z fighters, described nightmarish engagements that saw much of their squads wiped out. One fighter, with a conviction for theft who was recruited from prison, said all but 15 of the 120 men in his unit embedded with the 237th regiment were killed or wounded in fighting near Bakhmut in June.

The deployment of such squads marks a departure for Russia in Ukraine: while the Wagner mercenary group - now being disbanded after a June mutiny - sent convicts to fight on the frontline, the Storm-Z units come under the direct command of the defence ministry. The squads

also combine convicts who volunteer to fight in exchange for the promise of a pardon with regular soldiers being punished for disciplinary breaches, the people interviewed said. The Storm-Z squads are useful to the Russian defence ministry because they can be deployed as expendable infantry, according to Conflict Intelligence Team, an independent organisation that's tracking the war. "The Storm fighters are just sent to the most dangerous parts of the front, in defence and in attack," the group, which was founded in Russia, told Reuters. While the Russian defence ministry has never acknowledged creating Storm-Z units, the first reports of their existence emerged in April when the Institute for the Study of War, a US-based think-tank, cited what it said appeared to be a leaked Russian military report on the formation of the squads.

Reuters wasn't able to determine how many soldiers in total are serving in the units, though the interviews with the people familiar with the matter point to at least several hundred Storm-Z fighters currently being deployed on the frontline. Wagner

had about 25,000 fighters engaged in the conflict, its late leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said at the time of his June mutiny. President Vladimir Putin made reference to convicts fighting in the regular army. At a televised meeting with a small group of regular Russian servicemen, he said he was aware that two of their comrades, former prison inmates, had been killed in action. "They gave their lives for the motherland and have fully absolved themselves of their guilt," said Putin, adding that the convicts' families would be given help, without elaborating.

There is historical precedent for military offenders being pressed into fighting units; in 1942, when the Red Army was retreating from a Nazi advance, Soviet leader Josef Stalin ordered soldiers who panicked or left their posts into "punishment battalions" deployed to the most dangerous parts of the front, according to a decree he signed. Ukraine's government has said it also releases some convicts if they agree to fight in the war. Storm-Z is an unofficial term used by Russian troops, combining a term for assault troops with the letter Z, adopted by the military as a sym-

bol of their invasion of Ukraine.

Artyom Shchikin, a 29-year-old from the Mordovia region in central Russia, was serving a two-year sentence for robbery handed down in December 2021 when defence ministry recruiters came to his jail asking if inmates wanted to go and fight in Ukraine, according to court records and two of his relatives. He signed up because, even though he was scheduled for release in December this year, he wanted to wipe clean his criminal record plus earn money so his family could renovate their home, his family members said. Three Storm-Z fighters said they were offered wages of about 200,000 roubles (\$2,000) per month, though said they had been paid roughly half that amount, on average. By May this year, Shchikin was assigned to a penal unit within the 291st Guards Motorised Rifle Regiment and deployed to the Zaporizhzhia region in southern Ukraine, where Kyiv's forces are trying to break through Russian defences, the relatives added. An official with the regimental headquarters didn't respond to Reuters questions.

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Rectification of past lapses

THE caretaker government has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, and facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities together with the smuggling of commodities, foreign currencies, fertilizers, transportation of theft vehicles, kidnapping of Pakistani citizens and other serious crimes. The government has planned to expel illegal residents in the first phase, unregistered Afghan citizens would be deported in the second phase and the refugees with proof of residence will be repatriated in the third phase of the newly defined operation.

There had been wide-ranging reservations and criticism of the Afghan policy of the military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq on Afghan jihad that brought countless biases in Pakistani society which has now shaped into grave challenges to the country. The menace of extremism, flourishing terrorism, introduction to Klashinkov and heroine culture, the heirloom of lawlessness, the upsurge in street crimes, and skyrocketing inflation all are the outcomes of myopic strategies of Pakistani Political leadership and bureaucrats, who ruined a prospering nation in search of so-called strategic depth over the past four decades. Pakistan's population has reached over 240 million inhabitants while millions of legal and illegal foreigners/ refugees are continuously adding to the already deteriorating economic conditions in the country. The recent upsurge in terrorism and its sponsorship from abroad, unbelievable price hikes and the revelation of the smuggling of essential commodities to neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran which actually choked the Pakistani nation at this time. The grave economic, and security situations sensitized the leaders about drowning the ship of the Pakistani nation, who finally abandoned the policy of appeasement and facilitation of so-called foreign allies on the heavy cost of national image, territorial and economic sovereignty of the country.

Realistically, the issue of repatriation of the illegal immigrants and Afghan refugees had been taken up with Afghan authorities and the UN by the successive Pakistani governments but the solution of this important problem had always been delayed due to law and order situation in Afghanistan, lack of funds and administrative problems on the part of Afghan governments, while no repatriation of Afghan refugees has cost heavy price to Pakistan. Currently, illegally resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of the country, while a sinking economy can not afford this burden anymore. The caretaker government has charted out a strategy for the expulsion of illegal Afghan citizens and dignified return of Afghan registered refugees to their homeland, which is a sane but delayed decision. In fact, the repatriation of Afghan refugees and expulsion of illegal migrants of all nationalities together with thousands of Indians, Bengalis, Afghan and Beharis, is unavoidable at this time if Pakistani leaders intend to prevent further disasters in this country.

As the rulers have taken up a nation building and homemaking agenda, it should be noted that our country needs drastic reforms in all walks of life ranging from Municipality level governance including sanitation and encroachment issues to traffic regulating and preservation of highly essential forests and vegetation. The provision of state owned education and health facilities in all parts of the country are essential to provide quality education and healthcare to the masses. Meanwhile, the introduction of nationwide health insurance programs through public-private partnership which does not cost extra financial burden to the state is of utmost importance. In fact, a five year wholehearted nation building endeavor is urgently needed to reset the course of the country if rulers could spare some moments and sacrifice their political, monetary and family thirst for this great national cause.

Taliban's response to global calls

AFGHAN Acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi has declared that the Islamic Emirate will not take any steps on girls' education that could cause division within the ranks of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. According to the Afghan Chief diplomat, the issue of girls' education is an internal issue of Afghanistan, however any solution which causes rifts within the ruling faction would not be acceptable. While responding to another question about inclusiveness of the Afghan interim government, the Taliban leader was of the view that the Islamic Emirate is an inclusive government which represents all ethnic groups and all geographical regions in the country.

The current geopolitical landscape and internal state of affairs of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan presents a gloomy picture and prompted serious reservations in the global community. Numerous transnational terrorist groups amassed in the country and the government lacks capacity either to defeat determined IS-K or push other terrorist groups including the TTP out of their country. Meanwhile, the interim authorities imposed a ban on women's employment, girls' education, along with putting travel restrictions on women that attracted global criticism and led to halt of the operation of several NGOs, because of non availability of female employees particularly female doctors and nurses in that nation.

The Afghan Foreign Minister has confirmed that girls' education and women's employment rules are an internal issue of Afghanistan. There are no two opinions about it, however the current day world is a global village and due to access to information the people living in one corner of the world are aware about the problems of the people living on other sides. They share each other's grieves and pleasures, and express remorse if humanity suffers anywhere in the world. The world community is of the view that if Taliban rulers seek global assistance in tackling poverty, battling pandemic and reducing effects of ever widening famine, which are purely domestic issues of the country. Then they should also honour the global aspirations regarding rights of women and girls as they exercise in several other Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, and neighbouring Pakistan. The world has virtuous aspirations and good hopes for a bright future for the people of Afghanistan, that is only possible through teamwork and cooperation.

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Nagorno-Karabakh's tragedy has echoes of Europe's dark past

Nathalie Tocci

THE president of the self-declared "Republic of Artsakh", Samvel Shahramanyan, has dissolved all institutions of the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh and almost all Karabakh Armenians are now thought to fled the enclave being reintegrated into Azerbaijan. What lessons can be drawn from the tragic epilogue of this three decades-long secessionist conflict in Europe?

The images of long queues of cars escaping mountainous Karabakh to neighbouring Armenia bring back dark memories of ethnic cleansing that Europe thought had been relegated to its past. Just as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with its imperial follies, trenches and wanton destruction, catapulted Europe back into the harrowing days of the world wars, the flight of ethnic Armenians reminds us to the Balkans of the 1990s - or even further back, to the end of the Ottoman empire during the first world war. To be clear: there is no question that Nagorno-Karabakh lies within the officially recognised borders of Azerbaijan. Europe and the international community have never questioned this, and the war in Ukraine has highlighted once again the significance of sovereignty and territorial integrity as the linchpins of international law. As such, there are no legally sound reasons to oppose the reintegration of Karabakh into Azerbaijan. It is also important to underline that the Azerbaijani president, Ilham Aliyev, has not ordered the 120,000 local Armenians to leave, let alone pointed a gun at their heads. Baku has offered to extend citizenship to all Karabakh Armenians who lay down their weapons and the political struggle for independence.

Yet beyond form there's content, which points dramatically towards yet another case of ethnic cleansing in Europe. Aliyev may be willing to reintegrate Karabakh Armenians, but Azerbaijan is not a democracy. Being reintegrated into a country in which individual human rights and fundamental freedoms are not protected - let alone group rights, which are highly unlikely to be granted to Armenians

- is hardly an attractive proposition. Furthermore, hatred between Armenians and Azerbaijanis runs deep, far deeper than that between Georgians and Abkhazians or Ossetians, or Moldovans and Transnistrians. While distinct from their relationship with Azerbaijan, this hatred is tied to the even deeper wounds surrounding the 1915 Armenian genocide, unrecognised by Turkey, which has welcomed Azerbaijan's move in the enclave. While incomparable in violence and magnitude, the exodus of Karabakh Armenians from Turkic-Azerbaijan will probably end up being

For 30 years, Karabakh Armenians were intransigent, unwilling to move an inch on their demands for self-determination through independence. Armenia proper, up until the election of Nikol Pashinyan in 2018, was ruled by a Karabakh clan, in what appeared to be a clear case of the tail wagging the dog. I recall during my first visit to Nagorno-Karabakh in 2001 being surprised to learn how little, if any, room for peace negotiations there was. Even then, before Azerbaijan's oil boom, the profits of which were heavily invested in its defence industry, it seemed clear that Karabakh would never become an independent state. But rather than facing reality and using their temporary leverage to secure a victor's peace, Armenians assumed they would enjoy the upper hand for ever.

woven into a larger and older story of Armenian victimhood and dispossession. Far from healing, Armenian wounds are bleeding again.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has seen a dramatic reversal of the tide. The 1988-94 war with Azerbaijan was squarely won by Armenia, with Russia's support. This led not only to the establishment of the breakaway statelet of Nagorno-Karabakh, but also to the Armenian occupation of seven further regions of Azerbaijan, surrounding Karabakh, and the displacement of 1 million Azeris from their homes. For 30 years, Karabakh Armenians were intransigent, unwilling to move an inch on their demands for self-determination through independence. Armenia proper, up until the election of Nikol Pashinyan in 2018, was ruled by a Karabakh clan, in what appeared to be a clear case of the tail wag-

ging the dog. I recall during my first visit to Nagorno-Karabakh in 2001 being surprised to learn how little, if any, room for peace negotiations there was. Even then, before Azerbaijan's oil boom, the profits of which were heavily invested in its defence industry, it seemed clear that Karabakh would never become an independent state. But rather than facing reality and using their temporary leverage to secure a victor's peace, Armenians assumed they would enjoy the upper hand for ever. For decades, they didn't budge on their demands for independence, and now tragically end up displaced and

dispossessed. It is a lesson that other conflict parties elsewhere should take note of. Even in conflicts where power is heavily skewed to one side, no one can know what the future holds. In the Middle East, Israelis have entrenched their land grab of the occupied Palestinian territories, exploiting their military might and unconditional US and European support. They now feel even stronger as Arab countries normalise relations with Israel, with the big prize of Saudi Arabia finally within reach. Yet global power balances are changing in ways that will profoundly affect the Middle East. This could further strengthen Israel, but it could weaken it too. Israelis would do well to learn the lessons of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Back to Nagorno-Karabakh, alongside Azerbaijan's rearmament leading to the 2020 war - in which Baku retook control

of the occupied regions around Karabakh - the 2023 epilogue has been triggered also by Russia's abandonment of Armenia. Here too, Yerevan and Stepanakert, the breakaway capital, thought Moscow would never give up on Christian Armenians in favour of Muslim Azerbaijanis. They were wrong. Russia, whose "peacekeepers" were present in the region, did nothing over the 10 months of Baku's blockade of the Lachin corridor connecting Karabakh with Armenia, depriving Karabakh residents of food and medicine. It simply turned the other way as Azerbaijan made its final military move to retake total control of the enclave.

Vladimir Putin abandoned Karabakh Armenians to their fate partly because he has bigger fish to fry in his failing invasion of Ukraine, and partly out of spite towards Pashinyan, who has sought to move his country towards Europe and the west. In a well-rehearsed playbook, Moscow hopes to regain control over Armenia by triggering Pashinyan's fall from power, paving the way to a more congenial government in Yerevan. What easier way to do this than stand back, allowing Armenia to be defeated, and hope this will trigger regime change there? Indeed, the last weeks have seen crowds of angry Armenians calling on Pashinyan to resign. Yet at the same time, Armenians are clear-eyed and well aware that without Russia's abandonment, things would not have turned out this way. Their sense of betrayal by Moscow is deep. Both Washington and Brussels are seeking to fill that void and show solidarity towards Armenians, with USAid chief Samantha Power's recent trip to Yerevan being testimony to this. It will take more than words and cash to consolidate Armenia's path to democracy. It will require a sustained commitment over the years, first and foremost by Europeans. As the EU reopens its enlargement file through the accession process towards Ukraine, Moldova and potentially Georgia, there's no better way to do so - were Yerevan to signal its interest - than to offer the prospect of EU membership to Armenia as well.

The Guardian

Decline of US political debate should worry the world

Chris Doyle

WITH just over a year to go until the 2024 US presidential election, the country's primaries should be the place to observe the sharpening of political debate in the world's leading superpower. It is the toughest testing ground for political talent, as candidates get exposed to the furnace of live televised grillings. It should sort the political grown-ups from the juveniles.

Yet this was not the story of last week's second Republican debate, or the first in Milwaukee last month. The Republican candidates should be put through the wringer, with the best candidate rising to the top. Instead, they are all sinking faster than the Titanic. It says something that the winner of the debate was the man who was not even at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. Yes, Donald Trump once again ducked the chance to debate his rivals or, if you are skeptical, give them a chance to challenge him directly. He was missing, but he was also very much in action. He will not bother with November's debate in Miami either, but be assured he will be in the headlines.

Trump's message was clear: The seven also-rans can tear chunks out of each other and bicker away, while he was in Michigan reaching out to blue-collar workers. Trump has started his presidential campaign and is skipping the primaries as a foregone conclusion. He is wondering out loud why he is not just reappointed as the chosen one. He has a point. The polls show that he has a lead of more than 40 points. The former president is not bothering to reach out to the Republican base, as is usual in the primary season. Typically, pre-nomination candidates focus on core Republican issues such as abortion and immigration. Such is Trump's confidence, he is skipping that phase and is instead focusing on reaching out to independents.

The counterarguments would include pointing out that Trump is facing numerous indictments and legal battles. In all, he is the defendant in four cases and he faces 91 felony charges. He also failed in 2020 and may struggle to win over those who have never voted for him before. Trump is much derided, but he is a very street-smart campaigner. He sucks the oxygen of publicity away from rivals by even making a virtue of his absence. The story always reverts to him. Every time one of the candidates pointed out Trump was not there, viewers just started thinking, "who can blame him?" I doubt Chris Christie's rehearsed label of Trump as "Donald Duck" will catch on. These candidates are fishing for votes in a pool well stocked with Trump backers.

Vivek Ramaswamy, the founder of a biotech company, has clearly wound up all the other candidates, who can barely conceal their loathing for him. They did not appreciate being labeled as having been "bought and paid for," given, as Tim Scott stated, Ramaswamy himself was "just in business with the Chinese Communist Party and the same people who funded Hunter Biden." It was Ramaswamy who best summed up the quality of the debate when he said:

"Thank you for speaking while I'm interrupting." Nikki Haley, the former US ambassador to the UN under Trump, best summed up Ramaswamy when she quipped: "Honestly, every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say." Not many viewers would have felt any candidate left them smarter. They all just spoke over each other in an unintelligible swell of noise.

It is not clear anyone emerged from the pack. Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor, did little to stem his slide in the polls. Did Haley just about edge it? Maybe. But a single anti-Trump candidate did not come to the fore - someone who could unite the part of the Republican party, largely the traditional wing, that objects to Trump. Those less critical of Trump from the podium may well harbor ambitions of becoming his running mate, but he may well look beyond them all. What makes all this worse is that the Democrats are not in a healthy position either. Whatever one's views on the record of President Joe Biden, voters are skeptical about his age and whether he should run for another term. The polls have him nine to 10 points back in a contest with Trump. If a second-term Biden administration is unpalatable, where are the serious Democrat challengers? Where are the Democrats' big ideas?

What should the outside world make of this? Above all, everyone should be worried about the lack of genuine commitment to democracy and the rule of law on display. The denigration and dehumanization of immigrants should also be seen as chilling and an inspiration to the far right everywhere. International affairs have scarcely made an appearance in the two debates. Yet, one clear dividing line in the Republican ranks is what to do on the issue of Ukraine. The isolationist streak that Trump has personified wants to cut down support for Kyiv. DeSantis and Ramaswamy are in favor of this approach. A more traditional approach of backing Ukraine was adopted by Haley, Mike Pence and Christie. The candidates attacked Ramaswamy for his business ties with China, highlighting the way Trump has made an anti-China position a given in Republican circles.

Climate change should be a major concern to many. Ramaswamy considers the climate change agenda a "hoax." Haley stood out for acknowledging that it is real. Other candidates tended to duck the issue entirely. Nobody on the outside should be happy to see this decline in the standard of American political debate. The world has plenty of grave challenges ahead. A top-level, forward-looking American leadership is required. Fresh political plans, strategies and ideas should be developed and debated.

But where are the big ideas? Worse, where are they going to come from? The two Republican debates thus far have been a festival of boredom, lame jokes and third-rate candidates. Meanwhile, the federal government narrowly avoided another shutdown. Bipartisan relations remain Siberian. This is not the time to be having a shutdown about the debate over the future of America and the world.

Arab News

Strengthening diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia in a changing world

Michael Kindsgrab

ON our national day, Oct. 3, we celebrate German reunification. After the end of the Second World War, a war - and this is something we will never forget - started by Nazi Germany and accompanied by unprecedented atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity, our country was divided into East and West, separated by the infamous "wall," a guarded concrete barrier.

During the decades that followed, the wall stood as a symbol of the Cold War, a global rivalry between the "West," led by the US and the "East," led by the Soviet Union, dominated by its biggest member, Russia. In November 1989, the wall fell and on Oct. 3, 1990, Germany was officially reunified. The date stands for one of the happiest days in our nation's history.

Like the symbol of the Cold War, the Cold War itself came to an end, and with it, or so it seemed at that time, the threat of another war on the European continent with the global repercussions. The developments were a historical milestone, met with joy and relief in all corners of the world. Today, war has returned to the European continent through the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The invasion shook Germany and its European friends to the core. It seemed like a bad dream from the times of the Cold War had become reality in the 21st century - a century of an increasingly globalized, multipolar world. The Russian war of aggression has an effect on the whole world's stability and security, be it through increased gas prices or a shortage of grain. Stability and security are central to our foreign policy.

This is why Germany published its first national security strategy this year. The strategy recognizes the changing global landscape caused by the Russian war of aggression, the rise of multipolarity and a growing systemic rivalry in international relations. Within this framework, the concept of our security encompasses multiple dimensions. First of all, we will always defend our borders and those of our allies against external threats, and we will invest whatever it takes to deter and, if necessary, fight any potential aggressor. But security also involves the diversification of our energy sources to ensure resilience. Security means addressing the threat posed by the climate crisis through the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and at the same

time counteracting the current effects with adaptation strategies.

For Germany, security means a close partnership with friends who, together with us, advocate for an international order based on the UN Charter. In this regard, Saudi Arabia stands as a key partner. Our partnership with Saudi Arabia has flourished, as demonstrated by the numerous high-level visits between our countries last year. Both Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock have been to Saudi Arabia since September 2022, and numerous high-level meetings in between have reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening relations. Esteemed Saudi ministers, including Khalid Al-Falih, Ahmed Al-Khatieb, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman,

Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan and Bandar Al-Khorayef, have reciprocated this commitment through visits to Germany, highlighting their keen interest in enhancing collaboration.

Germany's commitment to global security and stability persists through our role in international crisis management. Saudi Arabia has played a pivotal role in the efforts to solve the crisis in Sudan and provided a safe haven for German citizens and citizens from around the world. We are sincerely grateful for this support. The climate crisis does not end at our countries' borders. Saudi Arabia and Germany have a shared interest in security and stability in the field of energy, in particular in hydrogen technology. As we anticipate a substantial demand for clean hydrogen imports by 2030, Saudi Arabia plays an important

role in this endeavor, with German companies actively engaged in various energy projects within the Kingdom.

By celebrating our National Day, we celebrate German unity, a historical event that would not have been possible without the support of our Western allies and also the former Soviet Union. Today, we celebrate our National Day in a world that is undergoing fundamental change. In a world where, in order to overcome global challenges, every country needs allies and key partners who share the goal of a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. I look forward to working with our Saudi friends and partners on a positive agenda under which our relationship will achieve its potential to contribute to our shared goals.

The myth of the ‘wonder weapon’

Russia's war on Ukraine will soon enter another winter. And as surely as the seasons roll around, the debates over US provision of military aid to Ukraine are following their own familiar and predictable cycle. Supplies of HIMARS rocket artillery, Patriot air defence systems, Abrams tanks, cluster munitions and F-16 fighter jets to Kyiv have all followed the same pattern: initial refusal by Washington, followed by resistance to months of lobbying by Ukrainian officials supported by public opinion across the West, eventual hints of a change of view and finally confirmation that Ukraine will receive the weapons.

The latest equipment on the table is the long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems (also known as ATACMS) - currently at the 'hints' stage despite long being recognised as a critical enabler for Ukraine's efforts to evict its Russian invaders.

As with each iteration of this cycle, emotions are running high among Ukraine's supporters. Nobody can say with certainty that giving Ukraine all it asked for in 2023 would have enabled its armed forces to evict the Russian invaders by now. But what is certain is that delay and hesitancy has cost lives - not least by extending the time Russia had to build its layers of mined and fortified defensive lines. But while campaigns for Ukraine to be granted whatever high-profile weapon system is top of its shopping list at the time have been an essential component of maintaining public support, they have also distracted from the flows of less glamorous and more mundane materiel that have been constant throughout the war - such as munitions, clothing, vehicles and medical supplies.

Focusing on a single capability

at a time has risked elevating it to the status of a "wonder weapon" that will win the war independently, as opposed to an integrated part of a long-term and evolving building of capability. The paradox is that the US has been by far the greatest provider of military support to Ukraine by volume, but also receives the most criticism for not giving Ukraine what it needs precisely because it has the most to give.

The public criticism centers around the US's perceived excessive concern over triggering Russian 'escalation.' US officials point out that technical aspects like logistics, training, support, infrastructure and delivery all impose real delays on provision of new capabilities to Ukraine. And they're right - but the biggest delay has consistently been the political hold before that process even starts. Once the political brakes are off, coalition partners have shown willingness to move fast even on immensely ambitious projects like the provision of F-16 fighter jets. The UK, in particular, has consistently led the drive to give Ukraine what it asks for, as well as disregarding US concerns about what Ukraine can strike with what it is given.

Meanwhile, though, the language of 'Russian red lines' still seems to drive US policy. There's an extraordinarily tenacious idea among some Western policymakers that the US has no leverage, initiative or agency and instead can only be a party to this confrontation on Russia's terms. It's led to persistent suggestions that the US is reluctant to enable convincing Ukrainian victory because of a tacit or explicit agreement not to defeat Russia. And disagreements over Ukraine within the US system have been reflected not just in policy contradictions, but in a

Keir Giles

whispering campaign of anonymous briefings to US media, casting doubt both on Ukraine's conduct of the war and its ability to win it.

The net result is the US leads a coalition of the unwilling among Ukraine's supporters, where Germany has repeatedly pointed to America in an effort to justify its own reluctance to supply arms, or in the case of Leopard tanks, even holding back others from doing so. But as the war grinds towards its third year, there's a strong argument that restraint has been a self-defeating strategy. It's not only that the emphasis on avoiding escalation reassures Russia that it can continue to pummel Ukraine's economy and murder its civilians through drone and missile strikes with impunity.

Anything that draws out the conflict - such as decisions on support for Ukraine that were driven by caution on what to supply - play to many of Russia's advantages and the West's weaknesses. And as the fighting drags on into 2024 and potentially beyond, Western backers will find it ever harder to provide what Ukraine needs. The US's generous support for Ukraine is under threat from political trends there even before a potential change of presidency.

So with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the US this week to appeal for international support once again, it's not only wavering members of the UN he is addressing. He knows there's a risk that the window may eventually start to close on backing from Washington itself.

And even without considering the tolerance of voters for the economic cost, failure to restart European defence industries in earnest means searching ever harder and wider around the world for the munitions and weapons that

are essential for Ukraine to survive.

For example in the UK, eager support is constrained by 30 years of defence cuts that have left the cupboard bare. Critical deficiencies in munitions stocks were identified well before 2022, supplying howitzers to Ukraine necessitated an emergency purchase of replacements from Sweden, and there are strong indications that the UK's tiny donation of 14 Challenger 2 tanks represented a substantial proportion of the number of tanks the British Army had still in working order. But making Ukraine stronger is a key ingredient for Europe's long-term security as well as for the outcome of the present war. For Russia, this is a 'forever war' that taps into fundamental ideas of Russian identity and for which President Vladimir Putin is willing to inflict vast economic and human losses on his country.

Even evicting every last Russian soldier from occupied eastern Ukraine and Crimea won't end the war while Russia still has artillery, missiles and drones to launch destructive attacks while rebuilding its land forces for the next offensive. Most Western leaders have done an exceptionally poor job of explaining to their electorates that that means huge reinvestment in defence and the industries supporting it is vital and overdue. As the US becomes increasingly focused on China, the defence of Europe will increasingly rely on those front-line states that understand the threat and are willing to take it seriously.

After decades when it could pretend to itself that military threats were a thing of the past, the rest of Europe needs urgently to realise that the cost of defence is not an optional luxury. Instead, it is the price that must be paid for sharing a continent with Russia.

C/N

Hezbollah, Israel urgently need a deconfliction mechanism

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

Tensions between Lebanon and Israel are peaking once again. The Israeli defense minister last month showed a picture of an alleged Iranian airport in the south of Lebanon that he said was being used "for terror purposes" against Israelis. Though no action was taken, the tension is very high on both sides. The fact that neither side actually wants a war does not mean that one will not break out. One faux pas can lead to war and this is why it is imperative to have a deconfliction mechanism.

Wars are not necessarily always a conscious and voluntary decision. The First World War, for example, was effectively caused by a single assassination. Tensions at the time were so high because of the competition between states, especially regarding colonies, that this act escalated into a world war. Something similar could happen in Lebanon. The 2006 war was not planned, but tensions were high in Lebanon after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, with Syria and its ally Hezbollah in the spotlight. In Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert wanted to outperform his predecessor, Ariel Sharon, on national security. This is why Hezbollah's kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers on the Blue Line, which otherwise could have been contained through indirect negotiations, led to all-out war. Even Hassan Nasrallah, the

head of Hezbollah, later admitted that the war took the group by surprise.

One might argue that the situation is different now, as we have the UN mission in the south of Lebanon that is supposedly ensuring peace between the two countries. However, the presence of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is not enough. UNIFIL does not have control over Hezbollah and it does not have direct communication with the group. Hence, if an unfortunate act like the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers happened again, it would be taken by surprise just like everyone else.

This is why a deconfliction mechanism is needed. Deconfliction is not a process established with a friend, but rather a process one uses to prevent a clash with an enemy. For sure, Israel and Hezbollah do not want to talk to each other. Israel considers the group to be "terrorist," while Hezbollah describes Israel as "Satan" and calls for its death during Friday prayers. Its legitimacy is based on animosity toward Israel and the degree to which it is truthful about it.

So, how can this dilemma be solved? Each party needs a guarantor and a deal should be established between the guarantors. It is important to note that both Hezbollah and Israel have had an unofficial agreement brokered by a guarantor before. The April

Understanding was an indirect 1996 agreement mediated by the US to end the Israeli operation on Lebanon known as Grapes of Wrath.

The Lebanese army has a channel of communication with Hezbollah and, as long as the political powers accept the group, the army has to deal with it. It can use its communication channel to make sure the group is contained. On the other side, the Americans can be the guarantor for the Israelis. In this setup, the Lebanese army liaises with Hezbollah and the Americans liaise with the Israelis. The US and the Lebanese Armed Forces would also hold regular briefings to make sure that the southern front in Lebanon and the northern front in Israel were quiet. This is necessary, as neither country wants a clash to take place.

Also, the maritime borders have been agreed and both countries are keen to benefit from the Mediterranean gas fields. Israel has already started extracting gas, while a drilling rig arrived in Lebanese waters last month to start exploration. This means both countries have an interest in establishing a deconfliction mechanism that will prevent any unplanned war.

For Hezbollah, the situation today is different to 2006. The group will probably not get the support it received from the different factions of society back then.

Regionally, it is unlikely that Arab nations will pour money in the same way they did in the aftermath of the July war. So, the group knows that, this time, the war will be lethal.

But it will not only be deadly for the group - it will also be a knock-down blow to the entire country. Lebanon's state institutions are crumbling and they cannot absorb the shock of an Israeli strike the same way they did in 2006. The international community, especially Europe, does not want to see Lebanon broken up and waves of refugees making their way across the Mediterranean.

As for Israel, its society is now more fractured than ever. Does Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu want war? Not really, especially now that he is trying to play nice with Arab states and progress the normalization process. Though a war might momentarily create a rally round the flag effect, it would soon create yet more divisions. Netanyahu would also be subjected to the same pressure that was exerted on Olmert to resign in the aftermath of the 2006 war. The difference today is that Netanyahu is in an even more precarious situation than Olmert was. Therefore, despite the narratives, both parties need this deconfliction mechanism. Everyone needs calm on the Lebanese-Israeli front. This means it is up to the US to initiate such a process and for the Lebanese army to follow up on it.

New Golda Meir movie sells war crimes as empowerment

Ramzy Baroud

A new movie glorifying the legacy of Zionist leader and fourth Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir was released in selected theaters in the US and Europe in August. The movie is typical Israeli propaganda. In "Golda," director Guy Nattiv has tried to whitewash Meir's legacy of violence and outright anti-Arab racism by portraying her as the "Iron Lady" of Israel, a "lioness" who triumphed as a politician and persisted as a military leader.

The narrative in the movie gets more complicated when Ukraine is thrown into the mix. "When I was a little girl in Ukraine, people were beating Jews with clubs," she is quoted as saying, asserting that "I am not that little girl anymore." Centering the movie's geographical and historical context on Ukraine is critical to "Golda." Nattiv shrewdly taps into the media-infused imagery of Ukrainian heroics against advancing Russian armies, thus rewriting the legacy not only of Meir but also of Zionism. The message to be gleaned is that, although at times the morality of the choices of Zionism are not always perfect, neither Meir nor the founders of Zionism had a choice - existential wars in a world filled with enemies, pogroms and antisemitism require difficult choices.

The movie is centered on the supposedly difficult choices during the 1973 war. Meir, like most Israeli Zionist leaders, is presented as someone in constant conflict between multiple loyalties to ethnicity, cultural background and religious and national identities. For Meir, the conflict was resolved through the prioritization of Jewish

identity exclusively. This was demonstrated in a famous exchange Meir had with then-US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. In a letter he wrote to Meir, Kissinger said that he considered himself "an American first, secretary of state second, and a Jew third." Her reply, accentuating her own priorities and how she wanted to perceive Kissinger's relationship with Israel, was: "In Israel, we read from right to left."

Propaganda aside, when Meir arrived in Palestine in 1921 at the age of 23, she was not coming directly from Kyiv, then part of Soviet Russia, but from the US. It was mostly in the city of Milwaukee that Meir developed her ideas about Zionism and the supposedly innate rights of all Zionist Jews to "return" to Palestine. Meir's utter hatred for Palestinians and Arabs generally was, therefore, formulated long before she had met a single Palestinian. No Arabs played any role in the victimization of Jewish communities in Russia or anywhere else in Europe. This indicates that Meir's anti-Arab racism - a staple of her political discourse throughout her life - was an outcome of largely Western historical dynamics.

Arabs viewed Zionists as colonialists and imperialists not because Arabs were antisemitic; rather, Arab nations viewed the Zionists in Palestine through the same lens as they viewed the French colonialism in Syria, the British in Egypt and the Italian in Libya. Zionist and pro-Israel historians have labored to create a separation between Western colonial-

ism in the Middle East and Zionist colonialism in Palestine. Such a misinterpretation of history hardly examines the issue in a truthful manner. Even worse, at times, Zionist colonialism is presented not as a British implant in Palestine as a result of the Balfour Declaration, but as an opposing political force to British colonialism and the country's "mandate" in Palestine.

Much of Meir's political life is based on the same legacy that is shared by all founders of Zionism: She wanted to be part of constructing a Zionist state in Palestine, today's Israel, while simultaneously denying the very existence of the Palestinians who have lived for numerous generations on that same land. "Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us," she once said, sowing the seed of the racist notion that Arabs and Palestinians hate their children, which played a major role in the portrayal of Palestinians in the US media during the Second Intifada of 2000 to 2005.

In an interview with The Sunday Times in June 1969, Meir denied the very existence of Palestinians. "It was not as though there was a Palestinian people in Palestine considering itself as a Palestinian people and we came and threw them out and took their country from them. They did not exist," she said. She maintained that line until her death in 1978. Meir, however, could hardly be credited for originating that racist notion, which has been functional in dehumanizing the Palestinians throughout

history. Such language was fundamental to the early Zionists, who wanted to see in Palestine "a land without a people for a people without a land," which remains useful to modern Zionists. Bezael Smotrich, Israel's current far-right minister of finance, in March declared that "there is no such thing as a Palestinian people" during a visit to France.

The intellectual orientation of the "Golda" movie can be seen in two different ways: either as creative Israeli hasbara aimed at taking advantage of a growing worldwide movement that celebrates women and their contributions or as an act of desperation. Indeed, the Israeli brand has lost much of its former appeal as a liberal, democratic and even socialist project. Such terminology is hardly marketable when many Israelis are themselves questioning if their version of democracy is even a democracy at all. When images of Israeli military brutality and racism are viewed daily by millions of people across the world, it is difficult for Israel to continue to portray itself as a beacon of light and democracy in an otherwise backward, undemocratic and violent Middle East.

This is why "Golda" is a functional piece of propaganda, albeit its impact is limited in both time and scope. At best, it is a belated attempt at reinventing Zionism. Oppressed Palestinians - in fact, the whole war-torn region - are in urgent need of a future that is founded on justice, freedom, equality and lasting peace. Glorifying war and lionizing war-hungry individuals like Meir cannot be the way to achieve this coveted end.

Rising ethnic tensions won't tear Russia apart

Joshua R. Kroeker

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, many observers in the West have predicted that the so-called "nationality question" will catalyze the disintegration of the Russian state. In fact, this theory has become so popular over the past year that any trace of tensions between ethnic Russians and one of the over 180 different nationalities that comprise the Russian Federation is instantly catapulted into the headlines as evidence of the country's supposedly inevitable collapse.

There is, however, little to no reason to conclude that ethnic tensions will bring about the end of the Russian state as we know it. Rather, looking at history and the current state of the Russian political system, the opposite is far more likely. Ethnic tensions will continue to rise, but the Kremlin's repressive tactics will prevent them from spinning out of control. It is understandable why many today believe, and moreover hope, that the disintegration of Russia along its ethnic borders is a likely scenario. If the Russian state falls apart, they posit, Ukraine's victory will be all but certain. And Russia's ethnic divisions appear to be the most likely area where cracks could form among its forces in Ukraine. In one example, an August 2023 firefight between Chechen and Russian soldiers in the occupied Ukrainian region of Donetsk left at least 11 dead. The next month, Russian media reported that ethnic tensions motivated the beating of a Russian soldier upon his return from fighting in Ukraine was also due to ethnic strife. Minorities are also disproportionately represented among the ranks of dead Russian soldiers.

It is easy to imagine that history will repeat itself. But it rarely does. Looking back at the collapse of the Soviet Union, the former Soviet republics, all of which except for Russia had a non-Russian ethnic majority, seceded from the Union one by one until all that was left was a bureaucratic body that governed over nothing. Weeks later, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. In contrast, nearly all regions that make up the Russian Federation today have an ethnic Russian majority. In others, such as Yakutia, the

most profitable industries like gas, oil, and minerals are concentrated in regions dominated by ethnic Russians. Nor is there a clear desire from regional governments to secede. In Chechnya, the region with the lowest percentage of ethnic Russians, Ramzan Kadyrov and his draconian regime are completely loyal to the Kremlin. Any parallels between 1991 and the present simply do not hold up.

Russia's forced subjugation of the many regions and peoples that make up the federation is a lifeline for the regime's existence. As part of its practice of "Internal Colonization," the Russian Empire drained the natural resources from newly conquered lands and settled them with ethnic Russians, eradicating any chance of autonomy for the indigenous locals. Today, initiatives that have fought back against this subjugation and seek to defend their cultural and national identities, such as the Free Yakutia Foundation, are forced underground or into exile. While Russia's neo-imperial aspirations and war are a matter of concern for much of the world, the internal colonization and forced subjugation of these regions are a sadly forgotten and whitewashed aspect of Russian history. All the more, the state maintains a firm monopoly on violence across Russia thanks to the legacy of the Soviet power structures.

Furthermore, despite the repeated occurrence of ethnic disputes between Russians and other ethnicities, Russia's "carrot and stick" strategy will prevent any republic from attempting to break away like Chechnya. In the past two decades, Russia has flooded Chechnya with money and granted the republic a degree of autonomy not found elsewhere in the country. The recent arrest and transfer of Nikita Zhuravel to Chechnya at the behest of Chechen authorities after he publicly burned the Koran demonstrates the unique relationship between Moscow and Grozny. Kadyrov published a video showing his 15-year-old son physically assaulting Zhuravel, inciting no response from Moscow. Had it occurred anywhere else, it would have been a national scandal. This cooperation works in the other

direction too. During the Wagner mutiny, Kadyrov and his army unequivocally backed Putin. Despite rumors of Kadyrov's failing health, the chances that Chechnya could mount another rebellion against the Kremlin are slim. The majority of the region's separatists are in exile, divided a m o n g s t themselves. Meanwhile, the Kremlin would snuff out any unrest in the event of Kadyrov's death and throw its full weight behind a successor to keep the peace and preserve the region's dependence on Moscow.

Lastly, rising Russian ethnonationalism makes the danger to ethnic separatists even greater. Russian identity has become increasingly central to Russia's concept of us-versus-them, while the Kremlin has framed its war in Ukraine as a war to defend ethnic Russians against a "genocidal" Ukrainian regime and the Russian-hating West. Movements that align with Western values to push back against Putin's regime are likely to garner the full attention - and wrath - of the Kremlin. Unsystematic, chaotic, and poorly armed uprisings among ethnic minorities have little chance of success against an inevitably swift and bloody response. On a smaller scale, ethnonationalists may violently take matters into their own hands, punishing minorities for perceived transgressions against the Russian majority. For centuries, relations between Russians and ethnic minorities in the country have been fraught with tension. The end of the Russian Empire and the collapse of the Soviet Union both saw regions with non-Russian ethnic majorities seek autonomy and independence from Moscow. Today, Ukraine is fighting tooth and nail in hopes of achieving that centuries-long goal.

Nevertheless, predicting Russia's ultimate demise will come from ethnic tensions inside the country is a misreading of history. The brutal subjugation of ethnic minorities, centuries of internal colonization, and the Kremlin's policy of stoking ethnonationalism make it highly unlikely that Russia will break apart along ethnic lines. Though tensions and violence are likely to increase in coming years, they are unlikely to topple the Kremlin or end Russia's neo-imperial aspirations.

The Moscow Times

The West must choose: Borders, or destruction

Tim Stanley

We have all been told that Suella Braverman is an evil racist, yet the "deplorable" speech she gave on immigration last week echoed the sentiments of at least one lovely liberal: Jack Straw. In 2001, Straw, then Labour's home secretary, argued for reforming the Geneva convention on refugees so as to tackle people smuggling.

"The convention was designed for an era when international flows of people were on a much smaller scale than they are today," he explained, whereas mobile technology and cheaper travel now mean "long-distance migration is a realistic option - and a widespread aspiration... Thousands of would-be migrants are taking advantage of one aspect of the convention - namely, that it places an obligation on states to consider any application for asylum made on their territory, however ill-founded."

Straw was worried about the pressure on Britain of 76,000 refugee applications, of which a majority were initially refused. By contrast, 2022 saw 81,000 applications, of which just 24 per cent were initially rejected - the lowest point since 1990. If, as Braverman has suggested, so many asylum seekers are false, why are arrivals approved in such numbers? You might say the Tories have been historically more pro-immigration than Labour. Yes, Labour welcomed arrivals early from Eastern Europe: Straw later expressed regret for that decision. But at its peak, net migration ran at

268,000 under New Labour, within the EU, whereas last year it hit 606,000, despite Brexit. The Government will probably never rewrite the Human Rights Act because a minority of Tory MPs would block it - and if the Tories are the KKK in tweed, how do we explain the ethnic mix of the Cabinet?

No, the Conservatives are not far-Right, and Braverman is only articulating a growing global consensus that developed nations must, once again, strengthen their borders in the wake of a mass movement of people. Why, then, do some lobbyists characterise the rhetoric of her party as almost uniquely political and wicked? Because these critics have a desire to help the unfortunate, no doubt, but also because many of them regard the nation state as outdated, borders as illiberal, and the line between economic and humanitarian migration as a mirage. They have a desire to trust the weak, much as when a fellow knocks on your door selling sponges, one desperately wants to believe he is a rehabilitated offender trying to get back on his feet, not a conman casing the joint for antiques.

This debate isn't just about who we let in but what kind of country we see ourselves as, hence the horror at Suella's suggestion that multiculturalism might have failed. Straw was always a fan of the project. But even he caused a stir by asking constituents to remove their veils in his surgery, and Tony Blair once

called the veil a "mark of separation". It is rational to worry that a society cannot cohere if some groups live apart from it. If left uncontrolled, mass migration confirms Right-wing anxieties and undermines Left-wing projects. The South African state, for example, confers limited rights upon all residents, regardless of nationality, and attracts millions in search of work; truly, it is a rainbow nation.

It is also weakened by competition for jobs and resources, and has an anti-immigration party, Operation Dudula, that makes Ukip look like the New Seekers. Last year, even a spokesman for the sainted ANC said foreigners "come here to sell drugs", to live "here illegally, undermine our sovereignty, create illegal business". Sound familiar? A UK poll found that 66 per cent of Britons agree with Braverman's core argument that uncontrolled and illegal immigration is an existential challenge to the West - because it is. This view can be shaped by philosophy or prejudice, of course, but it's also a plain statement of fact. By contrast, the conviction that the West's primary responsibility is to fling open its doors seems to be wholly ideological and the most radical position. I guess we all have our hobby horses. The same people who will tell you global warming is beyond debate, and fighting it a matter of survival, will also insist that immigration, even as it is propelled by climate change, is merely "dogwhistle politics".

The Telegraph



PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 129 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 129.72 points, showing positive change of 0.28 per cent, closing at 46,756.80 points against 46,627.08 points the previous day.

A total of 213,188,395 shares valuing Rs 6.094 billion were traded during the day as compared to 202,598,801 shares valuing Rs 7.404 billion the previous day.

As many as 326 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 142 of them recorded gains and 154 sustained losses,

whereas the share price of 30 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 60,699,742 shares at Rs 1.25 per share, Cnergyco Pk with 19,001,237 shares at Rs 3.28 per share and Oil and Gas Dev. With 9,902,658 shares at Rs98.55 per share.

J.D.W. Sugar witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 23.75 per share price, closing at Rs 388.75, whereas the runner-up was Pak Hotels with a Rs 20.72 rise in its per share price to Rs 297.04.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum decr-

ease of Rs 70.00 per share closing at Rs 20,480.00, followed by Sanofi Aventis with a Rs 43.00 decline to close at Rs 657.00.

Rupee gains Rs 1.04 against US Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed 20th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs 1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.76.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 286.3

respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased Rs 3.34 to close at Rs 299.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa to close at Rs1.90, whereas a decrease of Rs 4.08 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 345.42 as compared to the last closing of Rs 349.50.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 29 and 28 paisa to close at Rs 77.78 and Rs 76.17 respectively.

Elevating women: SLIC prioritizes fight against cancer by partnering with Pink Pakistan



F.P. Report

KARACHI: State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), the nation's largest and leading life and health insurance provider, announces strategic partnership with Pink Pakistan, a non-profit and non-government organization dedicated to improving the lives of the women. This collaboration demonstrates a shared commitment to addressing the pressing issues related to women's health and well-being in Pakistan. By focusing on raising awareness about women's health and providing financial enablement through SLIC's Sinf-e-Aahan Cancer Protection Plan, this partnership recognizes the multifaceted challenges women in Pakistan face, especially concerning healthcare and financial security.

The statistics highlighting the impact of cancer on women's mortality and the financial challenges associated with cancer treatment in developing countries like Pakistan underscore the

urgency of such collaborations. Speaking about the partnership, Shoaib Javed Hussain, CEO of SLIC emphasized that by addressing gender inequalities and adopting an inclusive approach to reduce the burden of cancer for women is forward-thinking and aligns with the broader global effort to promote gender equity in healthcare. Mr. Hussain continued, "This partnership has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of women in Pakistan, ensuring they have access to the healthcare they need and are financially protected during challenging times. It's a step towards a healthier and more equitable future for women in the country."

"We are thrilled to join hands with State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan in this important endeavor," said Zubaida Qazi, President Pink Pakistan. We are committed to improving the lives of women across the nation, and this strategic partnership with SLIC aligns perfectly with our mission.

Cancer affects not only the individual diagnosed but also their families and communities. By working together, we hope to empower women with knowledge about cancer prevention, early detection, and access to the necessary healthcare resources."

Increasing awareness of cancer risk factors and symptoms among women is a crucial aspect of addressing the challenges associated with female cancer in Pakistan. SLIC and Pink Pakistan plan to generate awareness by hosting seminars with the first one starting at State Life Principal Office during the month of October. This can make a significant impact in reducing the burden of cancer and ensuring a healthier and more secure future for our nation.

State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, established in 1972, stands as a pillar of reliability and excellence in the insurance industry. With a commitment to securing the future of individuals and families nationwide, State Life's

comprehensive range of insurance products caters to diverse needs. With 69 percent of market share, the corporation's total premium sales witnessed a growth of 67 percent year-on-year in 2022, while the new business sales incurred a staggering growth of 143 percent. This growth makes SLIC the leader in the industry and one of the most successful state-owned entities which is continuously adapting to meet the evolving needs of Pakistanis.

Pink Pakistan is a non-profit and non-government organization dedicated to improving the lives of the women belonging to marginalized communities in Pakistan. The organization launched several initiatives to ensure their goal of empowering these women, by safeguarding their right to well-being and welfare in our society. Pink Pakistan in its initial phase aims to create awareness around breast cancer, its early detection, and prompt treatment. With the aim of promoting primary prevention in the society, Pink Pakistan has set up awareness centers in the slums of Karachi. Through HEC, we reach out to the 2.4 million students across Pakistan and conduct sessions throughout the year. We also provide free and effective treatment referrals to the patients. Our goal is to improve the quality of basic health services by rebuilding and strengthening our basic health care units.



HYDERABAD: Women labourers busy sorting out green chili at vegetable market.

Pakistan earns \$70.969m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$70.969 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. This shows a decline of 5.32 percent as compared to \$74.960 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding month of the fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the month under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed a decrease of 50.95 percent, going down from \$19.960 million last year to \$9.790 million during the months under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services dipped by 70.32 percent from \$13.510 million last year to \$4.010 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also decreased by 10.39 percent from \$6.450 million to \$5.780 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport rose by 7.43 percent going up from \$53.120 million last year to \$57.069 million during July 2023.

Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services increased by 2.97 percent, from \$34.990 million to \$36.030 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 36.47 percent, from \$3.290 million to \$2.090 million, in addition, the export of other air transport services increased by 27.69 percent from \$14.840 million to \$18.949 million.

KP Textile Mills Association elctions: Kamran elected new chairman

PESHAWAR (APP): Muhammad Kamran Shah of Amin Group of Industries (Sarhad Textile Mills Ltd & Royal Textile Mills Ltd) has been elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA), with Mr. Sikandar Kuli Khan Khattak of Bibojee Group of Companies (Rahman Cotton Mills Ltd, Bannu Woollen Mills Ltd & Janana De Malucho Textile Mills Ltd) being elected unopposed as the Vice Chairman during a general body meeting held on Tuesday.

These elections, conducted under the chairmanship of Mr. Afan Aziz, marked a significant moment for the association, which plays a pivotal role in the textile industry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The meeting was graced by the presence of eminent members, including Barrister Assad Saifullah Khan, Mohsin Wadud, Haroon Ur Rashid, Syed Aftab Hayat, Mohammad Israr Khan, Usman Gul, Usman Paracha, Liaquat Ali Khan, Malik Abdul Muqeet, Imtiaz Ahmad, Faizan Ahmad, Barrister Ibrahim Khan Afridi and Muhammad Yasir Khattak Advocate.

Established in March 2020, KPTMA stands as the primary representative body for textile mills in KP, boasting a total capacity of 750,000 spindles and a range of state-of-the-art machinery and modern textile mill equipment. This sector significantly bolsters the regional economy by generating

over 45,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities throughout its value chain.

The newly elected Chairman, Muhammad Kamran Shah, addressed the general body meeting and reiterated his commitment to addressing the challenges facing the KP textile industry.

He particularly highlighted the energy-related issues and pledged to engage with both federal and provincial governments to find sustainable solutions.

Operating in the industry, he noted, has become a challenge due to rising energy prices, causing several mills to halt operations.

Mr. Muhammad Kamran Shah underscored his dedication to reviving the textile sector, especially for units that had ceased production.

He expressed his intention to prioritize problem-solving, focusing on the industry's most pressing issues, including those related to electricity and gas supply.

In his concluding remarks, the newly elected Chairman thanked the members of KPTMA for their trust and confidence in his leadership. He assured them that he would spare no effort in the pursuit of industrial development within the province.

The election of the new KPTMA leadership heralds a new chapter for the textile industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the association looks forward to working collectively toward the betterment of the textile sector.

PRCS inaugurates cutting-edge BSL-III lab at National HQs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a significant stride towards enhancing public health services and reinforcing disaster response capabilities, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, officially inaugurated a cutting-edge Biosafety Level-III (BSL-III) laboratory at the PRCS National Headquarters on Tuesday.

This advanced facility, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, is poised to offer a diverse range of laboratory tests to the public at significantly discounted rates, underscoring PRCS's steadfast commitment to community service.

The ceremony was attended by Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, Secretary General of PRCS, as well as delegations and officers from the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Turkish Red Crescent, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and PRCS staff.

Adhering to stringent specifications set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international benchmarks, the PRCS PCR Lab with BSL-



III standards sets a new standard for laboratory safety.

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari underscored the pivotal role this facility will play in mitigating health-related risks associated with handling infectious agents, toxins, and biological hazards.

The laboratory's strategic design aims to enhance safety operations and cultivate an environmental culture crucial for effective responses to pandemics and epidemics.

During the inauguration,

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari remarked, "The commencement of this cutting-edge BSL-III laboratory marks a significant milestone in our continuous efforts to serve the community and fortify our disaster response capabilities. By offering PCR testing at reduced rates, we not only make advanced diagnostics more accessible but also contribute to the overall health resilience of our nation."

This laboratory stands as a testament to PRCS's unwavering dedication to leading in disaster manage-

ment and response. Collaborating with various international societies, PRCS has played a pivotal role in mitigating the impact of disasters and natural calamities.

The addition of the PCR testing facility strategically enhances the organization's capabilities.

Expressing gratitude to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and stakeholders, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari highlighted the collaborative efforts aimed at advancing healthcare services in Pakistan.

Markets fall on rate concerns

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Markets fell Tuesday on concerns over interest rates following hawkish comments by a senior Federal Reserve official indicating the central bank was likely to keep them higher for longer. US inflation remains stubbornly above the Federal Reserve's long-term target of two percent despite falling sharply over the past 12 months, leading most Fed officials to predict last month that another hike is needed this year.

Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Michael Barr told a confer-

ence in New York on Monday that he expected rates would need to remain at a "sufficiently restrictive level" for "some time" to rein in inflation.

Barr's comments echo the views of the majority of his colleagues who recently lowered the number of rate cuts they expect in 2024, suggesting a longer period of high rates. The Fed has raised its key lending rate 11 times since March 2022, lifting to a 22-year high.

With inflation well above its target, "the Fed is gonna keep rates high and we are expecting higher rates for longer". Xi Qiao, managing director for wealth management at UBS, told Bloomberg Television.

"That could be good for the US dollar, but more caution on the equity markets." Wall Street ended mixed following a congressional deal to avert an

immediate US government shutdown, with traders fueling a bond market selloff.

"Any 'relief rally' from the US government spending deal appears to have been short-lived as bond markets witnessed a deepening selloff, leading to rising yields across the curve," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes. Treasury yields remained high with the yield on the 10-year US Treasury reaching the highest level since 2007 while the 30-year bond yield was at its highest since 2010. Treasury bond yields are seen as a proxy for US interest rates and are closely watched.

"This yield surge reflects the market's response to messaging from the Federal Reserve, indicating the central bank's commitment to keeping borrowing costs elevated to combat inflation," Innes said.

"The global bond market selloff has gained momentum, partly driven by the reprieve from a US government shutdown," he said.

Hong Kong led the equities decline in Asia, falling

nearly 2.7 percent as the market reopened following a holiday weekend.

Going against the flow, heavily indebted Chinese property giant Evergrande saw its stock jump as it resumed trading in Hong Kong days after it announced its boss was under criminal investigation.

Tokyo ended down 1.6 percent while Sydney, Taipei, Bangkok and Singapore were also well in the red. Manila and Kuala Lumpur were flat, with Jakarta the sole advance.

Markets in mainland China and South Korea were closed for holidays.

In Europe, London was up 0.2 percent after reversing its opening losses while Frankfurt and Paris were down. On forex markets, the yen was hovering close to the psychological level of 150 to the dollar.

The yen's weakness is fuelling speculation that the government may step in to prop up the currency, which has been hammered by the Bank of Japan's refusal to move away from its ultra-loose monetary policy even as the Fed considers lifting interest rates further.

Court Notice

In the Court of Maliha Allauddin Senior Civil Judge Family Court Kohat. Suit No. 497/FC date of hearing 07-10-2023. Titled:- Laila Zainab Vs Aurangzeb.

Notice against:- Aurangzeb Son of Muhammad Ilyas R/o Seni Gumbat Mohallah Bazar District Kohat presently R/o (in Abroad Hawa Al Madina Trading International City England Cluster Building Y08 Shop. 8.Dubai UAE (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of Khula against you defendant in which date of hearing 07-10-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/ service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 07-10-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 23-09-2023 (Court of S C J F.C. Kohat).

Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 152/1, Institution 16/2/2023. Date of hearing 26/10/2023. Khan Bahadur VS Taj Mohamad etc. Notice to No. 3/1. Mst. Nosia Baha widow of Bakht Bahadur. 3/4. Mst Marwa d/o Bakht Bahadur residents of Bhail Kalay tehseel Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 26/10/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Sadia Ali Civil Judge -IV, Bannu, Suit No. 184/1, institution 04.07.2023 next date of hearing is 12.10.2023. Case title: Shakir Ullah Khan etc. vs. Banaras etc. To: Defendant No. 02 Mr. Fazal Mahmood Khan Son of Ghulam Sher Khan R/O Mumtaz Barakzai Bannu presently abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 12.10.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this court.

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Abdul Rehman Warraich, Commissioner, Securities Market Division Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) formally inaugurated the World Investor Week 2023 in Pakistan in a grand ceremony organized by the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) in Karachi.

The said week (Oct 02-08) will comprise of week long investor outreach, education, and awareness events titled 'Financial

Inclusion Festivals' organized by Pakistan Mercantile Exchange with the support and guidance of Investor Education Department SECP. These events will comprise of exhibitions by stock and commodity brokers and asset management companies at Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MiTE), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), KElectric, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited, and a Pakistan Investment Road Show in Multan with the

collaboration of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The ceremony was attended by the leadership of entities from the Capital Market, academic institutions, respected professional bodies, futures and commodity brokers, and leading asset management companies.

Commenting on the occasion, Abdul Qair Memon, Chairman of PMEX, said, "As we launch into World Investor Week 2023, PMEX stands committed to

empowering investors through knowledge and best practices. This week symbolizes our relentless drive to increase financial literacy within Pakistan. We aim to shape a future where informed financial decision-making becomes second nature to all Pakistanis."

During his keynote address as chief guest, Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich, Commissioner - SMD, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) remarked that

"SECP will continue to spearhead the initiatives of Financial Literacy to contribute in the development of the economy especially in terms of reaching out to the masses and educating them about the reasons, benefits, and risks of investment in the capital market, during and after the World Investor Week 2023."

He also spoke in detail about the untapped potential of the commodities market and SECP's role in its development and growth.



In brief

Huzaifa continues impressive run in USA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's tennis sensation Huzaifa Abdul Rehman continues his impressive show at the international level as he has clinched another title in Florida, USA. Huzaifa overpowered his rivals in the first and second round fixtures, quarterfinal and semifinal before emerging triumphant in the final. According to information received here on Tuesday, the Inspiration Academy UTR \$2,000 event was held in Florida. This is Huzaifa's fourth title in his recent outings. In first round, Huzaifa overpowered R. Perazollo Junio of Brazil in a one-sided affair 6-0, 6-0. In the second round, he edged passed C. Rozpedski of USA 6-0, 6-0. In quarterfinal, Huzaifa outwitted Zhou China of 6-2, 6-0. In the semifinal, he defeated Lucas Castillo Sanchez of Columbia 6-3, 6-1. In the final, Huzaifa beat Dian Nedev of Bulgaria in an exciting contest 6-3, 7-5.

C'ship starts from Oct 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation in collaboration with Sindh Ten Pin Bowling Association, Pakistan Open Tenpin Bowling Championship would kick off from October 24 in Karachi. According to President of Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation Ijaz ur Rehman, all preparations for the event were completed. He said male and female players from all over the country would participate in the championship. Competitions are held in eight categories including open singles, amateur, ladies, under-22, senior, media, doubles and mixed team, he said. Players who wish to participate in the championship can register their names from October 10 to 20. The championship would continue till October 29 and prizes will be distributed among the winning players at the end of the championship.

England face New Zealand

AHMEDABAD (AFP): Defending champions England take on New Zealand in Thursday's opening match of the World Cup in a rematch of their epic showdown in the 2019 final at Lord's. Jos Buttler's men come into the 10-team tournament with the depth to live up to their billing as one of the title favourites. They will also benefit from the return of star all-rounder Ben Stokes when their campaign begins at the world's biggest cricket arena, the 130,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar believes England are comfortably placed to become the first back-to-back champions since Australia claimed three-in-a-row in 2007. "Because of the kind of talent that they have at the top of the order... they have got two or three world-class all-rounders who can change the game with both bat and ball," Gavaskar told Indian broadcaster Star Sports. Enland's formidable fast bowling line-up has Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood and Chris Woakes alongside Stokes, who came out of one-day retirement ahead of the World Cup although he will play only as a batsman. England have eight members from the squad that triumphed on home soil in the last World Cup in 2019 under Eoin Morgan. Buttler has slipped into the role of England's white-ball captain with relative ease since Morgan's retirement, leading them to the Twenty20 World Cup crown in Australia last year.

Big blow for Pakistan as Arshad ruled out of Asian Games

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem was ruled out of the Asian Games due to a knee injury on Tuesday, officials confirmed, in a major dent to the country's chances of winning another medal at the event.

An official of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) confirmed that Nadeem informed them and the Pakistan contingent that he would not be able to participate in the event due to a chronic injury.

The blow to Pakistan came just 24 hours before the athlete's participation

at the event as he was scheduled to appear in the men's Javelin Throw finals on Wednesday evening.

A statement attributed to Pakistan's chef de mission, released by POA said that Arshad complained of pain in his knees after the first session in Hangzhou.

"After arrival at Hangzhou at the first training session on 27th September 2023, Mr Arshad Nadeem revealed and complained to Dr Asad Abbas, who was accompanying him on the trip, that he has been grappling with persistent pain for several months, a concern that has become particularly pressing in the aftermath of the World Athletics Championship," the statement highlighted.

"On 2nd October, he again complained of pain in the right knee and expressed a desire to undergo an evaluation to determine the impact on his ability to participate in the Javelin Throw event. The chief medical officer of the Pakistan Contingent recommended a comprehensive check-up."

After this, Nadeem underwent a medical examination, including a non-invasive test i.e. magnetic resonance imaging



(MRI) at a local hospital in Hangzhou, which revealed a long-standing injury.

The statement further said that the Javelin thrower, after consulting the medical personnel, decid-

ed not to participate in the Asian Games in order to prevent any untoward situation that may hinder his training program and participation in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Pakistan moves in Asian Games cricket semis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan downed Hong Kong by 68 runs in the 19th Asian Games Men's Cricket quarter-finals at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field in Hangzhou, China on Tuesday.

Pakistan would now feature in the second semi-final on Friday, against the winner of the third quarterfinal between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

After being put into bat first, Pakistan scored 160 on the board, courtesy of Aamir Jamal's fiery batting display at death. In the second innings, the Qasim Akram-led spin attack proved too difficult a task for the Hong Kong batters who folded for 92 runs in 18.5 overs.

Nizakat Khan won the toss for Hong Kong and elected to field first. After a bumpy start to the innings, Pakistan eventually ended with a solid total of 160, owing to Aamir's extraordinary hitting in the final overs of the innings. Coming to bat in the 17th over, Aamir took only 16 balls to score 41 runs, including four maximums and two boundaries.

Earlier in the innings, veteran Asif Ali and debutant Arafat Minhas stitched a partnership of 36 runs from 26 balls for the seventh wicket. Asif (25, 21b, 1x4, 2x6s) and Arafat (25, 16b, 2x4s, 2x6s) were the second highest scorers after Aamir. Hong Kong had an impressive day with the ball; Ayush Shukla ended the innings with four wickets and Mohammad Ghazanfar grabbed three wickets.

In turn, Pakistan spinners rose to the occasion, allowing the side to completely command the game. The Hong Kong batters fell victim to the web Arafat, Sufiyan Muqem, Qasim Akram and Khushdil Shah spun around them. Khushdil got three wickets while the remaining three got two wickets each. Babar Hayat was the highest scorer for the side, after making 29 runs in 27 balls, hitting three boundaries and two sixes.

Scores in brief: Pakistan: 160 all out in 20 overs (Aamir Jamal 41, Arafat Minhas 25, Asif Ali 25, Omair Bin Yousuf 21; Ayush Shukla 4-49, Mohammad Ghazanfar 3-26). **Hong Kong:** 92 all out in 18.5 overs (Babar Hayat 29; Khushdil Shah 3-13, Qasim Akram 2-5, Sufiyan Muqem 2-11, Arafat Minhas 2-19).



Hyderabad: Pat Cummins struck early to kickstart Pakistan's downfall.

Paris Olympics 2024 hockey qualifiers shifted

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced that the men's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers for the Paris Summer Olympics 2024, which is scheduled to take place from January 15 to 21, is shifted from Pakistan to Oman.

The hosting rights of Hockey Olympic Qualifiers were taken away from Pakistan considering the recent suspensions of several Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) officials by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) in August. Moreover, PSB has also mandated fresh unbiased elections to be held within PHF.

Meanwhile, the other men's qualifying tournaments of the Paris Olympics, which were scheduled to take place in Lahore will now be hosted by Valencia, Spain and Muscat, Oman.

A total of eight teams will feature in each of the Paris 2024 hockey qualifying tournaments, and the top three teams will qualify for the Paris 2024 Games, making a total of 12 teams per gender. The seedings for the Olympic qualifiers will be finalized after the conclusion of all continental championships in 2023, moreover, the champions of these continental championships will directly qualify for Paris Olympics 2024.

Maxwell and Babar hit their stride as Australia pip Pakistan

HYDERABAD (Agencies): Australia beat Pakistan by 14 runs in the sides' final warm-up game before the World Cup, propelled by a team effort with bat and ball. In a game that Australia controlled significantly more than the scoreline suggested, Australia posted 351 and struck early several times, before a Babar Azam-Iftikhar Ahmed partnership dragged Pakistan back into the contest.

Winning the toss and batting first, David Warner's 33-ball 48 got Australia off to a flier, but Pakistan struck repeatedly through the middle overs to peg them back. Hasan Ali was economical up top but it was Usama Mir who took the wickets, while Mohammad Nawaz played his usual, reliable role of container.

But Pakistan's bowlers lost momentum through the death overs against a fierce onslaught by Glenn Maxwell and Josh Inglis, with 126 runs coming off the final 12 overs. Cameron Green, too, tucked in towards the death with Mohammad Wasim and Haris Rauf coming in for particular punishment, with the all-rounder reaching an unbeaten 50 off the last ball of the innings as Rauf leaked 97 in 9 overs.



Iftikhar Ahmed provided a good reminder of his batting abilities

Pakistan began brightly but soon ran into trouble. Imam-ul-Haq was undone by a lovely seaming delivery from Pat Cummins, while Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique fell to ungainly slogs.

Marnus Labuschagne, who took three wickets, opened his account by removing a promoted Shadab Khan early, and as the run rate dropped, Pakistan were in trouble at 83 for four.

But instead of finishing the game off quickly, Australia decided they wanted to squeeze a little more juice out of this warm-up. The next 20

overs or so saw them turn to the part-time spin of Labuschagne and Maxwell, and the even more part-time spin of Steve Smith and David Warner. The latter nearly picked up Iftikhar with a rank full toss, but once Josh Inglis shelled that, carnage ensued.

Warner went for 41 in his two overs, and the two piled on 144 in just under 18 overs before Iftikhar finally holed out to the straight boundary. Babar Azam, who looked in sublime touch, gave way once he reached an unbeaten 90, but with 87 required off 13 overs, Australia began to get serious again as Cummins returned, removing Salman Ali Agha in his first over. Pakistan continued to chip away thanks to a half-century from Nawaz, but Australia burrowed ever further into the tail with wickets.

With 21 to get in the final three overs and one wicket in hand, Cummins turned to Labuschagne once more. He conceded six off his first three balls, before a Hasan Ali slog found Mitchell Marsh at long-off, ending a chaotic game where Australia wrapped up a win that might easily have been more comfortable, if they so wanted.

Ronaldo sparks fightback

RIYADH (Reuters): Cristiano Ronaldo was on target as Al-Nassr survived a scare in the Asian Champions League on Monday with the Saudi Pro League side coming from a goal down to hand Tajikistan's Istiklol a 3-1 defeat in Riyadh.

Senin Sebai scored on the break to put the club from Dushanbe in front with a minute left in the first half and Istiklol held out under relentless pressure until Ronaldo levelled with a clever clipped finish in the 66th minute. Anderson Talisca headed the Saudi outfit in front six minutes later and the Brazilian put the result beyond doubt with 13 minutes remaining when he stroked a low shot into the corner.

The victory was Al-Nassr's second in a row in the group stage of the competition and moves Luis Castro's side three points clear at the top of Group E.

Iran's Persepolis are in second place following a 1-0 win over Al Duhail of Qatar, with Omid Alishah scoring in the 63rd minute to earn the 2018 and 2020 runners-up their first victory of the campaign. Al-Itihad's meeting with Iran's Sepahan in Group C was called off as players from the Saudi club refused to leave their dressing room due to a statue of assassinated Iranian general Qasem Soleimani being placed at the entrance to the pitch.

The Asian Football Confederation said the game, which was due to be played in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium, had been "cancelled due to unanticipated and unforeseen circumstances". Also in Group C, Air Force Club beat AGMK 2-1 after Ali Jasim scored his third goal in two Asian Champions League games to give the Iraqis a second-minute lead over the Uzbekistan team with Sanzhar Tursunov's own goal doubling the visitors' lead.

Siavash Haghnazari pulled one back for AGMK with nine minutes to go but Air Force Club held on to win and reach four points, one ahead of Al-Itihad. In Group B, Uzbekistan's Nasaf climbed into pole position after claiming their second win in a row when Azizbek Amonov struck twice in a 3-1 win over Al Sadd of Qatar. Ruzikul Berdiev's team hold a two point lead over Sharjah from the United Arab Emirates, who beat Jordan's Al-Faisaly thanks to a 20th minute goal from Moussa Marega, an Asian Champions League winner with Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in 2021.

Five bowlers to watch at the 2023 World Cup



NEW DELHI (Reuters): The following are five bowlers to watch at the World Cup in India:

Mark Wood (England)

Mark Wood's lethal pace made him an integral part of England World Cup-winning side in 2019, taking 18 wickets in the tournament, but injuries have limited him to just eight ODI matches since 2020.

However, he has been in great touch in test cricket this year with 14 wickets in three matches and if he can translate that form into the 50-overs format he could once again prove to be a crucial asset for England.

Adam Zampa (Australia)

Adam Zampa will be the only specialist spinner in the Australia squad for the World Cup. He has taken 45 wickets in the 50-over format since the beginning of 2022, and played a key role for Australia in their ODI series victory over India in March.

While he equalled an unwanted record by bowling the joint-most expensive spell by an Australian in an ODI defeat to South Africa last month, the 31-year-old recovered well, picking up six wickets in his last three matches in the build-up to the World Cup.

Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)

After aggravating a knee injury during last year's Twenty20 World Cup final in Australia, Shaheen Afridi did not play white-ball cricket for Pakistan for several months, only returning to the squad in April.

Since his return, he has taken 24 wickets in 12 matches, including a devastating four-wicket haul in a Group A clash against India at the Asia Cup in which the 23-year-old dismissed both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Kuldeep Yadav (India)

While India's bowling attack has no shortage of weapons, Kuldeep Yadav could prove to be the difference for the hosts with the wristspinner having taken 33 wickets in the 50-overs format this year.

The 28-year-old's miserly bowling can put heavy pressure on batters to score, allowing other bowlers to pick up wickets.

He was named Player of the Series at the Asia Cup, boasting an economy of 3.61 and an average of 11.44, even though four other bowlers took more wickets than his haul of nine for the tournament.

Matheesha Pathirana (Sri Lanka)

Matheesha Pathirana has enjoyed a breakout year since making his ODI debut for Sri Lanka in June, taking 15 wickets in 10 matches.

The 20-year-old, who has modelled his round-arm action on compatriot Lasith Malinga but with an even lower release point, took 11 wickets at the Asia Cup to top the charts for the tournament.

He is also accustomed to playing in India, taking 19 wickets for the Chennai Super Kings in their title-winning campaign in this year's Indian Premier League (IPL).

Medvedev eases into China Open final



Beijing (AFP): Daniil Medvedev hailed his "perfect" serve as he eased into the men's final of the China Open with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Alexander Zverev in Beijing on Tuesday.

The world number three faces a showdown on Wednesday with either Italy's Jannik Sinner or second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz -- the tournament favourite in the absence of tennis legend Novak Djokovic.

The semi-final got off to a close-fought start but Medvedev then notched a crucial break of serve and managed to see out the first set. It was a similar story in the second set, with the Russian breaking for 5-3 and serving out the match with a pair of fierce aces.

"Today was a perfect service match. I don't think there was one bad thing I can say about my serve," Medvedev said at a post-

match news conference.

"I think the fact that the play was faster -- the faster the court is, the easier you can hit aces... (and) the easier you feel when stepping into the serve," the 27-year-old said. "Today I was going faster and I was really not thinking much about anything, just serving."

Scare for Sabalenka

The top-ranked women's player Aryna Sabalenka said her performances in "key moments" were crucial to surviving a major scare in the second round, after she defeated unseeded Katie Boulter 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) in Beijing. Sabalenka saved seven break points at 5-5 and then forced the stubborn Briton, ranked 56th in the world, into a rare backhand error to clinch the opening set.

The Belarusian notched another must-win break in the second set to again draw level at 5-5 before triumphing in a tie-break by slamming down an unreturned serve.

She will battle Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the next round for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I think what made the difference was that in the key moments I played a little bit better than her," Sabalenka said at a post-match news conference.

"I think it was all about those last games in each set. She had the opportunity and I'm super glad that I didn't give her those sets easily." "I kept fighting, kept trying, and that's what made the difference," she said.

Gauff hails 'mental victory' US Open champion Coco Gauff also had to dig deep to get the better of Croatia's Petra Martic in a rollercoaster tie that lasted three hours.

Martic was serving for the match against Gauff but the world number three fought back to take the game and went on to dominate the ensuing tie-break, winning 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2).

"Today was a mental victory. I was happy I was able to get



through it," said Gauff, who will face Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in her next match.

"I was just telling myself to keep suffering, it will be over in a couple of seconds," the 19-year-old said. "I knew I could outlast her. I just had to be consistent, but also aggressive."

World number two Iga Swiatek shook off a rain delay to glide past France's Varvara Gracheva 6-4, 6-1 to set up a date

with fellow Pole Magda Linette. "I didn't want to rush. I just wanted to be patient and really consistent with my tactics. I'm happy that I did that," Swiatek said.

Fourth-ranked Jessica Pegula bounced back from a set down to beat Russia's Anna Blinkova 6-7 (2/7), 6-2, 6-1. The China Open is taking place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing ditched its isolationist zero-Covid policy.



In brief

Anti-polio drive lead by ACs

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a bid to ensure the success of the ongoing anti-polio campaign, all the Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad accompanied by polio teams visited different areas under their jurisdictions on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad. The Assistant Commissioner City also held a morning assembly with the polio teams to discuss the next day's planning and grievance redressal. Assistant Commissioner Neelore checked the assembly points of DHA and Rout Polio teams in the morning and issued necessary instructions for further improvement of arrangements. Assistant Commissioner Rural attended the morning meeting at DHSF XI. The Assistant Commissioners are supervising the anti-polio campaign on a daily basis to ensure that all children under the age of five are vaccinated against the poliovirus.

Six held for possessing arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted six accused for possessing 56 liters liquor, two 30 bore pistols and ammunition. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Baroni, Jatl and New Town police held Iqbal, Riaz, Adnan and Mushtaq and recovered 56 liters liquor from their possession. Similarly, New Town and Sadiqabad police rounded up Shahbaz and Ammar and recovered two 30 bore pistols and ammunition. The SSP said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon holders would continue.

Two bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered 12 stolen motorcycles from their possession, said a police spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Race Course Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Tamoor Ijaz and Muhammad Waqar and recovered 12 stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar, Muhammad Waqas Khan said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operation against the bike and car lifters would further be accelerated.

156,800 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 156,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 90,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.77 feet and was 139.77 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 48,000 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1224.05 feet, which was 174.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 10,300 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.

More women should join workforce after completing their education: President



ISLAMABAD (NNI): President Dr. Arif Alvi has emphasized that more women should join the workforce after completing their education.

Addressing the convocation of Foundation University in Islamabad Tuesday, the President said responsibility rests with the state to provide the women protection

against harassment. The President pointed out that about twenty million children are out of school and every segment of society should come forward to address this issue.

"Offering competitive job opportunities and creating a favourable work environment is essential to reduce the loss of our precious intellectual elite," he said.

President Alvi said the country invested its resources in doctors, engineers, and other professionals, however, the flight of skilled human capital had a negative impact on the economy and developmental growth.

He said the effective way to reduce the need for skilled doctors to seek employment abroad was to

create better employment opportunities for them within the country. Pakistan, he said, needed 900,000 nurses compared to the available 300,000 at present to cope with the requirements in the field of health services.

Dr Alvi said only nine percent of students of FSc (Faculty of Sciences) Pre-Medical got admission to

medical colleges in Pakistan, while the statistics were 25 percent in India and Bangladesh. The situation needed a strategy to set up more medicine schools to accommodate greater number of students, he added.

The president pointed out that the women doctors who quit their professional fields while in a struggle to balance their family lives was a huge loss to the country. He urged them not to walk away from their professions and contribute towards the betterment of society. Also, he said, creating a harassment-free environment for women doctors at workplaces and welcoming them to productive circles after their maternity leave was important.

The president advised the medical graduates to adopt the values of empathy and kindness while treating their patients. He highlighted the importance

of preventative rather than curative medicine by educating the masses about communicable diseases and oral hygiene.

Director of Foundation University School of Health Sciences, Major General (ret'd) Imran Fazal said the institution was providing best quality dental education to undergraduate and postgraduate students covering all aspects of patient care and management. The nursing department, he said, was delivering excellent education and producing high-quality graduates.

The president gave away medals and merit certificates to the graduates. The best graduates of the previous year as declared by the university included Dr. Eman Ahsan, Dr. Beenish Hassan, Dr. Iqra Batool, and Dr. Sehreen Javed. A total of 54 graduates of Bachelor of Dental

Sciences (BDS), 23 of Bachelor of Science in Nursing and 34 graduates of pre-Bachelor degree in nursing were given degrees.

Commandant Armed Forces Institute of Dentistry Major General Nadeem Ahmed Rana, Rector Foundation University Nasir Dilwar Shah, Registrar Amir Gulzar, faculty members, and parents of the graduates attended the ceremony.

The FUSH consists of Foundation University Medical College (FUMC), Foundation University College of Dentistry (FUCD), Foundation University College of Physical Therapy (FUCP), Foundation University College of Nursing (FUCN) the University Secretariat and Fauji Foundation Hospital (FFH) (Teaching Hospital of FUMC).

Azerbaijan ambassador meets Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov on Tuesday held a meeting with caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation in the field of health, were discussed. The minister informed the ambassador about the healthcare initiatives being undertaken in Pakistan.

"We are implementing concrete measures to protect the public from diseases and epidemics."

The minister highlighted ongoing efforts to improve the availability of medicines and the establishment of pharmaceutical parks in Pakistan. The minister emphasized to utilize technology transfer for molecular manufacturing in Pakistan. The minister informed that Pakistan was hosting first Global

Health Security Summit.

This summit will bring together top health leaders, officials, and technical experts from around the globe. The Global Health Security Summit and the pharmaceutical park initiatives were lauded by the ambassador.

He said the health leadership of Azerbaijan was expected to reach out Government of Pakistan to discuss these initiatives. In the field of medicine, both countries will benefit from sharing experiences, and there is cooperation in allowing medical students from both nations to enroll in government-approved universities, the Ambassador said.

NIH diagnoses conjunctivitis epidemic: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has diagnosed the epidemic of conjunctivitis.

In a statement, Caretaker Federal Minister

for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the National Institute of Health was a scientific and technical institution.

He added that the National Institute of Health was responsible for diagnosis and monitoring of epidemics.

According to the National Institute of Health, the recent outbreak was caused by Coxsackievirus A24, Dr Nadeem Jan added. He said that due to this virus, there was a medium outbreak in different countries.

"People need not worry and take precautionary measures," Dr. Nadeem Jan said. He said that citizens should follow the SOPs issued by the federal and provincial governments to prevent conjunctivitis. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the government was ensuring coordinated measures to keep people safe from epidemics.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan. —INP Photo

Police takes action against criminal elements

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police took robust measures against criminal elements resulting in a substantial decrease in robbery and theft incidents during the last nine months, a public relations officer said.

He said that during the last nine months, the Islamabad Capital Police apprehended a total of 1,355 criminals which is 20% higher than the last year, while 546 criminal gangs have been dismantled.

The crime in the federal capital indicates a remarkable 11% reduction in incidents of robbery and dacoities compared to the last year. Additionally, the crackdown on criminal groups has increased by 33% in comparison to the previous year.

The successful apprehension of criminals has led to the recovery of valuables Rs 260.7 million, reflecting a significant 65% increase from the previous year. Furthermore, 451 illegal foreign residents have been arrested, resulting in the registration of 65 cases against them, underlining the commitment to maintaining law and order in the federal capital.

In a proactive approach to enhancing security of important government installations and foreign embassies, an additional 1,605 security personnel have been deployed in high-security zones, marking a 35% increase from the previous year.

Due to effective investigations in criminal cases, the conviction rate is 18% higher than the previous year. Moreover, 18,320 cases have been registered in 2023 which is 05% more than the last year.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that, the Islamabad Capital Police is utilizing all available resources to combat criminal elements while providing enhanced security and facilities for citizens.

He urged the public to cooperate by ensuring that all necessary documentation is in order for legal residence in Pakistan, and to report any suspicious individuals or activities to the helpline Pucar-15.

Aneeq emphasizes unity among Muslim nations for global influence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said the Muslim countries would have to portray a soft image of Ummah with concerted efforts on the globe.

He said this in a meeting with Bahraini Parliament Member and former Speaker Sheikh Adel bin Abdulrahman Almuawda, who called on him here in his office.

Sheikh Almuawda met with Minister Aneeq along with Pakistani scholars including Maulana Abu Turab, Maulana Atiqur Rehman Shah Kashmiri, Professor Sajjad Qamar, and Maulana Hafiz Maqsood Ahmad.

During their discussions, both leaders emphasized the promotion of unity within the

Muslim Ummah, addressing common issues, and combating Islamophobia.

Minister Aneeq reaffirmed that Pakistan's foundation was rooted in the Quran and Sunnah, and stressed the need for Muslim nations to work collectively to manifest the teachings of Islam. He highlighted that as Muslims, it was crucial to align their actions with Quranic guidance and promote Islamic values to the world.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of nurturing the younger generation lamenting that many young individuals were not seeking solutions to contemporary issues within the Quran's teachings.

Sheikh Almuawda expressed his country's deep affection for Pakistan as the only state established

in the name of Islam. He also drew attention to historical instances of Islamophobia and the need to change the world's perception of Islam by removing the veil of ignorance.

Both leaders concurred that gradually incorporating religious education in educational institutions and spreading the message of Islam in a gentle and informative manner was essential. He also extended an invitation to Minister Aneeq to visit Bahrain to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Bahrain, with the ultimate goal of fostering unity, promoting Islamic values, and addressing the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah on a global scale.

Education's standard to be improved: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has said that the government was working to improve the education standard in the country in order to ensure holistic development and better economic growth.

Speaking as chief guest of the interuniversity business plan competition organized by ICCI in collaboration with universities here on Tuesday, he said that education is the basic right of every child and an important tool for the progress and development of any nation and human resource development through better education is the central pillar of the government's policy.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that the government has formulated the first ever National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy, which aims to cater to the needs of industrial sector by adding value to human capital through imparting requisite training and skills.

He lauded the initiative of ICCI for organizing the business plan competition among university students that has provided them a good opportunity to show

their innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial skills. He said that his ministry is ready to collaborate with ICCI in various initiatives to upscale the education sector in order to produce trained and skilled manpower for business and industry.

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the purpose of organizing the business plan competition among university students is to provide them a good platform to present their innovative business ideas and get the attention of investors for their commercialization.

He stressed that the government should take solid measures to create a conducive environment for innovators and start-ups and focus on fostering a culture of entrepreneurship in the country in order to turn around the economy and achieve sustainable economic growth.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that due to the falling standard of education in the public schools, the people prefer to send their children to private schools and stressed that improving the education standard of public schools should be the

top priority of the government to educate the nation and achieve better development. He said that a model school in Islamabad should be handed over to ICCI to make it a role model for other public schools.

The ICCI President proposed that to improve the standard of education in public schools, a Board of Governors should be constituted and ICCI should also be given representation in it. He further proposed that surplus land of public schools be given on lease rent to generate funds for schools. He hoped that many business ideas presented in the business plan competition would get the attention of investors for commercialization. He resolved that ICCI would continue to organize such events to foster a culture of innovators and start-ups so that many of them could emerge tomorrow's rising business enterprises.

Faaz Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the industry is facing the shortage of skilled workers to improve industrial productivity and stressed for close academia-industry linkages to produce demand-driven students for industry.



ISLAMABAD: Children of Kachi abadi busy in study at open to sky park school in f-6 area. —INP Photo

Senate body on National Heritage, Culture meets

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Senator Afnan Ullah Khan presided over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture.

In attendance were senators including Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, Khalida Ateebe, Fawzia Arshad, Falak Naz, Keshoo Bai, and Rubina Khalid.

The meeting was also graced by the presence of the Secretary of the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, along with other key officials.

During the meeting, the Committee unanimously resolved to dismiss the consideration of the "The Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023," based on the committee's consensus that the bill had been previously rejected in a prior committee meeting.

The Ministry officials presented a compliance report on the recommendations made by the committee to date. Out of the 40 recommendations received, 32 were fully compliant.

The committee was also apprised of the Ministry's

initiative to develop indigenous cultural educational material for children in various mother tongues, including Urdu. Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture confirmed that steps have been taken in this direction and discussions have been initiated with the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training. The Committee was also informed that a conference highlighting the "indigenous cultural education material for children in all mother tongues including Urdu" was held in Pakistan Academy of Letters on Sep 19-20, 2023.

Highlighting the importance of preserving culture and heritage as part of our national identity, the Committee emphasized the need to take ownership of these aspects, considering their crucial meeting points within society, particularly for the youth.

In response to concerns about language and translation, the Committee acknowledged the significance of Urdu as a unifying language for Pakistanis. It was suggested to address translation errors on sign-

boards and airports, and the DG "Idaare Farogh e Qomi Zuban" pledged to pursue appropriate translations with relevant authorities.

The Committee also deliberated on designating the "Karoanjhar Mountain Tharparkar" in Sindh as National Heritage. While recognizing its cultural and historical significance, Senator Keshoo Bai emphasized the importance of preserving this site for the Hindu community and the people of Tharparkar. The Committee called for the mountain to be protected from mining activities and recommended involving the Sindh Government in this decision.

Senator Mushahid Sayed emphasized the potential economic impact of preserving tourist sites to boost tourism, citing culture and sports as unifying factors within society.

Looking forward, the Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture revealed plans for the launch of a heritage app next week and a Heritage TV channel, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

Highway reopened

KABUL (Agencies): Kabul-Jalalabad highway which had been closed two weeks ago due to a landslide, was reopened. The highway was blocked due to a landslide at a distance of three kilometers from Kabul entrance, and two days after the incident, a side road was created for the movement of vehicles. The Ministry of Public Works announced in a press release that the ministry has reopened the main route of Kabul-Jalalabad highway after three days of works using personnel and machinery.

Open Letter calls for action

KABUL (TOLNews): 19 international organizations in an Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to UN in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security urged them to “take action to realize the foundational demand of Resolution 1325 (2000)—ensuring women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peacemaking.” In the letter they called to support the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation and leadership of the women of Afghanistan.

Cultural cooperation expanded: Officials

HERAT (TOLNews): Officials of the Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Office in Herat said that cultural cooperation is expanding between Afghanistan and Turkey. They said cultural relations have a long background between these two countries, and they will work to restore these relations. “Classical Persian literature is strong but along with Persian we have Turkish literature as well; mostly we want to define the classic literature of our people to show the value of more

commonalities,” said the head of the coordination and cooperation office of Turkey in Herat. Meanwhile, the book of poems and the biography of Waisal (the famous poet) of Turkey, which were recently translated from Turkish to Persian by an Afghan student, Mujtaba Jawid, in Turkey, has been unveiled in a ceremony in Herat. Poets and cultural activists said that the mindset and poems of Waisal have the same point of view as Maulana Jalaluddin

Muhammad Balkhi. “Languages that have the same culture and civilizational commonalities make the people closer,” said Sayed Haqiqi, a cultural activist. “Maulana Jalaluddin was born in Balkh and his sepulcher is in Konya, and this is one of things that bring these two countries closer,” said Wali Shah Bahra, a cultural activist. In the past decades, when Turkey was in a state of crisis, Asheq Waisal brought unity to his country with his poems.

Chinese view Afghanistan differently than others

KABUL (Agencies): A Chinese tourist Luli recently visited Afghanistan and found that the global perception of the country contrasts sharply with her personal experience. She expressed that impressions formed within China significantly differed from those she developed after her visit to Afghanistan. The tourist was pleasantly surprised by the safe environment established under the rule of the Islamic Emirate, which has attracted tourists from around the world, including herself.

She embarked on this journey with friends to immerse herself in Afghan culture and explore the country’s historical and natural attractions. Hailing from Sichuan, China, this is Luli’s third international trip. During her conversation with Bakhter News Agency, she shared her plans to travel by car from Kabul to Band-e-Amir Dam in Bamyan province, and then to Kandahar and Herat provinces to visit historical sites.

She encouraged fellow Chinese citizens with a penchant for travel to visit Afghanistan, experience its unique culture firsthand, and gain a closer understanding of the country’s realities.

With the establishment of the Islamic Emirate and improved security throughout Afghanistan, there has been a steady increase in foreign tourists visiting the country’s historical and natural attractions. Currently, Afghanistan welcomes hundreds of tourists daily from various countries, including those from Europe and America.

Afghan ambassador meets Iranian entrepreneurs

KABUL (Agencies): Mawlawi Fazal Mohammad Haqqani, the acting Afghan ambassador in Tehran, recently held a meeting with several Iranian businessmen involved in the oil and gas sector.

According to a statement released by the embassy, the Iranian businessmen discussed their challenges related to oil exports to Afghanistan during the meeting. They sought the cooperation of the Afghan side to address these issues.

In response, Mawlawi Fazl Mohammad Haqqani assured the businessmen that he would communicate their concerns to the relevant institutions in Afghanistan. Acting Afghan ambassador Mawlawi Fazal Mohammad Haqqani committed to seeking solutions to alleviate their problems.



Afghani increases against dollar, says Central Bank of Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLNews): The Central Bank of Afghanistan said that the value of the afghani has increased significantly against the dollar in the past month.

A spokesman for the Central Bank, Hassibullah Noori, considers the better implementation of monetary policies as one of the factors of the increase in the value of the Afghani currency against foreign currencies, especially the dollar.

“Currently, the Afghan currency is at a good level among the world currencies, and its value is increasing day by day, compared to other years, the use of the Afghan currency in trade has increased,” said the spokesman of the bank.

The Union of Money Exchangers of Sarai Shahzada said that stabilizing the value of afghani currency in the country’s markets, trade and com-

merce in all provinces should be done in Afghan money, and the smuggling of dollars should also be prevented.

“It is a good thing to prevent the smuggling of dollars to other countries, and attention has been paid to the matter,” said Abdul Rahman Zarak, spokesman of the Union.

The Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that maintaining the stability of the afghani against

other currencies, especially the dollar, has a positive effect on maintaining prices in the country’s markets.

“It is because we are an importing country, and it has an effect on the market price and the price of all food products,” said Khanjan Alokoza, a member of the ACCI.

Earlier, foreign media reported that the Afghan currency increased by 14% last year and ranked third in the world list.

Muttaqi to attend Trans-Himalaya Forum



KABUL (Agencies): Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi left Kabul for China to participate in the third Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation, it was announced Tuesday.

Hafiz Zia Ahmad, deputy spokesman

for Foreign Ministry, said on X that Muttaqi had received an official invitation from China.

Deputy Minister of Economy Abdul Latif Nazari and a number of other officials of the Islamic Emirate are accompanying Muttaqi in the visit.

Ahmad said that in the meeting, the countries surrounding the Himalayas will discuss economic cooperation, regional connectivity and ecological changes.

He added that the Islamic Emirate delegation will also have a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of China and representatives of other countries on the sidelines of the forum.

Daikundi almonds quality and rate decline this year

NEILLI (Pajhwok): Some businessmen of central Daikundi province have said that local almonds which are considered worldwide one of the top quality dry fruits have faced dwindling market condition this year.

The linked the stagnating market condition of almonds yield with lack of water, no processing and packing facility and the absence of investment in almond crop development sector.

According to the businessmen the price of seven kilogram almond was 950 afis last year but this year it had declined to 650 afis.

Haji Habibullah, one of the businessmen, said due to drought the almond yield in Daikundi affected seriously and this had left negative impact on the prices.

“Due to water shortage half of the fruit is dried and for this reason its price had declined,” he said.

He added the main income source of farmers in Daikundi was almond and some farmers earn a small amount from almond yield.

Haji Khudadad, another farmer, said that Daikundi

almonds had lost its market value and this year.

He inked that almond market value decline with drought, deteriorated transportation routes and absence of proper market address. He said due to drought the almond nest was dried therefore its price had declined.

He said: “Now I will process them and take them to Kabul for sale, roads are in deteriorated condition and no foreign businessman had arrived to buy Daikundi’s almonds.”

He also wants the government to provide investment opportunities for foreign businessmen and export almonds abroad so that people can sell their products at a better price.

He also wants the government to provide investment opportunities for foreign businessmen and export almonds abroad so that people can sell their products at a better price.

Khan Ali Shahrstani, head of the Commerce and Industries Department, said that almond price was not constant and last year’s drought badly affected the

quality of almond.

He also linked the lack of investment in processing and packing of almond a reason behind the deteriorating rate of almonds.

Afghan refugee population in Iran surges to 5 million

TEHRAN (Khaama Press): Recent investigations reveal that the number of Afghan refugees in Iran has surged from approximately 2 million to 5 million over the past two years despite ongoing reports of mistreatment.

Fadahassein Maleki, a member of Iran’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, recently announced that the “migration trend from Afghanistan” has been reviewed by this commission.

Maleki told the ILNA news agency: “The influx of many migrants, most of whom enter illegally, has raised concerns for our people, and these concerns are valid.”

He also called on Iran’s representative to the President’s Office for Afghan Affairs to reconsider their strategies regarding the Taliban administration: “The diplomatic apparatus or the special representative of the president, who has extensive powers, should reconsider their policies towards the Taliban, who are the current rulers of Afghanistan.”

Meanwhile, some Tehran newspapers have also addressed the issue of Afghan migrants in Iran.

The state-owned newspaper “Iran” highlighted the words of a political analyst in its headline, stating that “anti-Afghan sentiment is a security threat.” The analyst mentioned that out of 5 to 6 million people, only 10% entered illegally, and the rest obtained visas to come to Iran.

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Special Representative of the European Union for Afghanistan has stated that the arbitrary detentions of Afghans defending their rights and those of others are unlawful.

Thomas Nicholson has said that these detentions undermine the necessary trust for domestic legitimacy and constructive dialogue.

In highlighting the consequences of these detentions, Thomas Nicholson draws attention to their broader implications on the social fabric and political landscape.

His statement underscores the importance of preserving trust within a nation to facilitate a more harmonious and effective exchange of ideas and perspectives, ultimately contributing to a healthier and



more vibrant democratic process.

Mr. Nicholson has joined the campaign to release individuals such as Matiullah Wesa, Julia Parsi, and Neda Parwani on his social media platform X, advocating for

their freedom.

Nabila Massrali, the spokesperson for the European Union, had previously called on the Taliban to halt arbitrary detentions and release human rights activists, including Julia Parsi and

Neda Parwani, along with their family members.

Nabila Massrali has also called for the release of Maitullah Wesa, an education rights activist in Afghanistan, who has been in Taliban detention for six months.

Reconciling families happy with life, praise jirga’s efforts



KABUL (Pajhwok): Reconciling families say enmity had deprived them of happiness and insist on reconciliation between rival families through mediation of jirga.

As many as 433 enmities that claimed 691 lives have been resolved in Afghanistan last year.

According to reports, conflicts and enmities between people occur over land ownership, pastures, forests, water distribution and other issues. These enmities begin with small verbal disputes and escalate into long and bloody feuds.

In Afghanistan, enmities are traditionally resolved through jirgas. Families engaged in long

and bloody enmities lead a miserable life and endure suffering.

Jirga brings harmony among tribes

Mullah Noorullah Noori, acting minister of borders and tribal affairs, on Sept. 20, told the Government Accountability to the Nation program: “We established 34 jirgas under the title ‘unity and harmony between tribes’ and through these jirgas, about 433 enmities and disputes between tribes and families were resolved throughout the country.”

He said: “Last year, due to mediation from religious scholars, tribal elders and ulema, about 133 major and 300 minor disputes between tribes and

families were resolved. Around 691 people had been killed and hundreds of others injured in these enmities.”

According to him, a 23-year-old enmity in Nijrab, a 30-year-old in Aqcha of Jawzjan, a 37-year-old enmity in Shinwari district of Nangarhar and a 91-year-old enmity are some of the examples resolved through the jirga.

Enmity brings miseries and deprivation

Noorullah Kawsar, a university teacher and religious scholar, said: “Islam does not only insist on prayers and fasting, it also emphasizes on doing good deeds and also prohibits Muslims from doing bad deeds, dis-

putes and enmity destroy families, destroy individuals and society and even cause destruction at the country level.”

He said Muslims should accept each other, spread the message of brotherhood and if any small problems arise between them, they should solve them at the very beginning.

Ahmad Basharmal and Shafiullah, residents of Kandahar city, are members of two families were engaged in a 13-year-old enmity over land ownership which claimed lives of six people, but the enmity was turned into friendship last year.

Shafiullah said: “For these 13 years, we did not enjoy life, we could not study, had no happy Eid, did not meet friends and relatives, but today Alhamdulillah we live at peace with each other, we can study, do business and have a prosperous life.”

Basharmal also says: “Man’s success in life is courage, tolerance, knowledge, and forgiveness, and strong and honorable people always forgive, and weak people opt for revenge. For us this [the end of enmity] gives us a feeling of happiness, we really feel like we have started a new life.”

The 35-year-old enmity between two families in Nahrin district of Baghlan province – in which six people were killed on both sides – has also been resolved through the Jirga.

A member of one of these families says: “Enmity is very

bad, you will have no good night or day, you will afraid of your own shadow. You will not be able to travel from one place to another.”

These people praised efforts of the Jirga members and thanked them for turning their enmity into friendship.

Disputes resolution through Jirgas a positive initiative: Experts

Noorullah Kawsar, a university teacher and religious scholar, termed the current IEA strategy positive but said the consensus of disputing families should be sought in every method used for reconciliation between the two families and the dispute should be resolved forever.

He said according to the IEA policy disputes should be resolved through the court, tribal and traditional Jirgas or the disputing families should be encouraged to take steps towards reconciliation.

Mohammad Yaqoub Ahmadzai, assistant head of reconciliation Jirgas at the Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs, said the only method to address disputes was tribal Jirgas because this a historic and acceptable method in Afghan society throughout the history.

He said: “People also give importance to Jirgas, they are committed to the decision of Jirgas, we have seen many people not referring to the court because cases are delayed in court and their decisions make one party to cherish and another

to cry, but in Jirgas both sides are satisfied with argument and then the Jirga announce its decision which make both parties happy and they start a happy life.”

He said in current circumstances, disputes resolution through Jirgas was the best mechanism disputing parties acknowledge and accept the Jirga decisions despite severe enmity.

Kabul University Teacher Wadir Safi Families in Afghanistan engaged in enmity from the past several years and the best way to end these disputes was tribal Jirgas.

“Modern mechanisms are not here, in current condition the tribal and traditional Jirga is the best mechanism for dispute resolutions,” he said.

He said government should provide education and improve the literacy level of people because when people are educated then they better understand that peace is in their interest.

The state of Jirga decision making

Esmatullah Habibi, a tribal elder in Kandahar province who participate in Jirgas, termed the role of Jirga in disputes resolution vital the participants of Jirga considered Islamic and local traditional values and then make their decision.

He said: “We termed exchanging women to address disputes illegal because this practice is considered illicit by Islam and our culture, one individual should not be compensated against another individual,

ual, we try to find reality and then try to pave the way for reconciliation.”

Peace ensure welfare

Religious Scholar Abdul Mobin Mahir said that peace is a noble act and though out the Islamic history huge importance and value is given to peace and it is considered valuable.

He said Allah (SWT) in the Holy Quran said that there is peace is goodness and it means that no reconciliation is bad, peace is goodness irrespective of its method because peace encourages man towards decent actions and good acts take individuals closes to Allah (SWT).

The is a Hadith in Abu Dawod in which Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) said: “Should I direct you towards an action which is better than prayer, fasting and charity and it is making reconciliation among people.”

He said Islamic history showed that the prophet gave importance to peace and reconciliation in several occasions.

Maher said: “When there is peace man could worship better, get better education, travel, trade, peace ensure optimism for humans and fighting encourages prejudice, enmity and rivalry which is forbidden by Allah (SWT) and by the prophet (PBUH).”

He said Islam is the religion of peace and brotherhood and making peace is the duty of every Muslim therefore all should ensure peace and brotherhood among people.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Bugti addressing a press conference.

No reason, logic behind any delay in polls: Siraj

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj-ul-Haq has said that there was no reason and logic behind any delay in upcoming general elections, adding the JI was staunchly committed to resisting any unconstitutional actions that might infringe upon the fundamental right of the people to vote.

Talking to media in Mansoorah on Tuesday, he pointed out that the constitution unequivocally stipulates the holding of elections within 90 days following the dissolution of assemblies. Sirajul Haq stressed that stability was contingent upon upholding the constitution and conducting transparent elections.

He criticized those who advocate for prioritizing economic reforms before elections, asserting that

such calls merely echo past slogans, specifically the rhetoric of "accountability before elections." He noted that proponents of these ideas were acutely aware of their dwindling popularity among the masses and were anticipating an impending defeat.

Underscoring the responsibility of the state and its institutions to combat smuggling and corruption, the JI chief emphasized that an elected government was better equipped to address these challenges. He highlighted the people's admiration for the armed forces, attributing it to the constitutional mandate of safeguarding the nation. He emphasized that adherence to the constitution by all institutions would enhance the respect and affection accorded to them by the public.

He expressed regret that the two previous coalition

governments had led the nation's economy astray in past five years, resulting in profound hardship for the people. He criticized the caretaker government, characterizing it as an extension of the previous administration, and accused it of adhering to the directives of the IMF. He also pointed out that caretaker governments in two provinces were operating beyond their constitutionally defined tenure. The caretakers, he added, also lacked the authority to increase electricity and gas tariffs.

Siraj said the JI would not enter into any electoral alliances and would contest the elections under its own symbol, the scale. He affirmed the JI's unwavering commitment to advocating for the people's rights and combating inflation until relief is delivered to the citizens.

PPP statements against PML-N no big deals, tells Rana

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that the party's legal team was prepared to secure former premier Nawaz Sharif's protective bail.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Sanaullah lashed out at the political opponents, saying, "The country would not have been dragged into the quagmire if the politicians were not subjected to the political vendetta during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)." "Even if we keep nabbing people, it will be a big injustice to the country. Those who had subjected us to the political vendetta, we did not forget them," he added.

Speaking about the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the former interior minister said: "This is not a big deal that the PPP is making statements against the PML-N to garner votes."

Last week, PML-N stalwart Mohammad Zubair said on Thursday that the party workers wanted to see Nawaz Sharif as the country's premier for the fourth time. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Mr Zubair made it clear that the PML-N supremo's return to the country was on October 21.

He said, "The journey of development in the country that ended in 2017 will be restarted again". "Nawaz Sharif, who was voted to power as the country's premier three times, was ousted," Mr Zubair rued. He took a jibe at the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), saying, "The PPP-led government had a flop show in Sindh. We will contest against the PPP with great verve." Taking a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, he said, "It was harmful for the country to see the PTI chief intact as the prime minister."

FM to attend Forum in China today

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will represent Pakistan at the third two-day Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation, beginning in China's Nyingchi city today (Wednesday).

The Trans-Himalaya Forum was initiated in 2018 to deepen practical cooperation among regional countries on diverse subjects, including geographical connectivity, environmental protection and ecological preservation. The theme of this year's Forum is "Ecological Civilization and Environmental Protection".

Arrest of accused on bail: PHC orders KP CS, IGP to appear

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Justice Waqar Ahmad declared arrest of Irfan Salim null and void while ordered Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to appear before court for assuring that accused on bail wouldn't be arrested without the consent of court, on Tuesday.

During hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Irfan Salim was produced before the court while Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar was also present in person for arrest of petitioner under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) on PHC orders. Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed and counsel for petitioner Ali Zaman Advocate along with Shah Faisal advocate appeared before the PHC.

Chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan inquired whether DC had read court's order while Advocate General answered that of course, he did it. Then Chief Justice inquired from DC why the petitioner was arrested despite the court's order and added that if court orders weren't implemented then we have no right to sever the judiciary.

Chief Justice observed that DC and police become so powerful that they didn't obeying court's order because this was direction of PHC's divisional bench as well as of CJ. He further added that if we didn't implement high court orders then would say goodbye to the chair/position (as Judge). However, DC Peshawar argued that he wasn't aware regarding

court's order and PTI's leader Irfan Saleem was arrested under new MPO orders as demanded by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operation in a letter regarding law and order situation.

In the meanwhile, Chief Justice observed that DC had thrown court's order to basket because PHC had issued clear direction while it was forwarded to Session Judges and police. Chief Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan remarked that DC had arrested Irfan Salim on orders of someone else.

Moreover, the court may initiate action against DC Peshawar but he can't stand on his own feet, Chief Justice remarked. He added that we wouldn't compromise on the integrity of High Court and would implement the court's order at the cost of any consequences. PHC will act against anyone for violating court's orders and directed release of PTI's leader Irfan Salim as well as suspended MPO along with other similar directions.

The divisional comprising Chief Justice PHC Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Waqar Ahmad ordered Chief Secretary along with IGP to appear for assuring that court's order wouldn't be violated in future on next hearing to be fix. Meanwhile, another PHC's divisional bench comprised Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah stopped arrest of PTI's leaders including parliamentarians for seven as well as directed the petitioners to approach competent court for Bail before Arrest pleas.

PTI's leaders including former provincial ministers Taimour Jaghra, Kamran Bangash, former Members

of National Assembly Arbab Sher Ali, Amir Ayub, former deputy speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Mahmood Jan, former members of provincial assembly Asif Khan and Fazal Elahi approached PHC seeking provision of record of cases and inquiries against them.

The counsel Ali Gohar advocate argued that the petitioners were nominated in different cases of vandalism after arrest Imran Khan on 9th& 10th May which is initiated for political victimization. He argued that PHC had granted bails to other petitioners in identical cases.

The counsel argued that the government neither providing record of cases registered against petitioners nor informing regarding inquiries initiated against PTI's leadership. He added that police are raiding the residences of petitioners in the fabricated cases.

In the meantime, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked that we will look into how accused are arresting despite court's orders? He observed that PHC will act on violation of court's orders because it is reporting on daily basis.

However, Additional Advocate General Danyal Chamkani argued that a report would be submitted in this regard before PHC. The counsel for applicants argued that petitioners are willing to appear before court but there is fear regarding their arrest on their appearance.

PHC's divisional bench had stopped competent authorities from arresting PTI's leaders for seven days and ordered provincial government to submit report in this regard while adjourned hearing for today (Wednesday).

Senate Body to dismiss Bill

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture, Senator Afnan Ullah Khan presided over a meeting of the committee held here on Tuesday.

Senators Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, Khalida Ateeb, Fawzia Arshad, Falak Naz, Keshoo Bai and Rubina Khalid attended the meeting. Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture along with other key officials graced the meeting with their presence.

During the meeting, the Committee unanimously resolved to dismiss the consideration of the "The Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023," based on the committee's consensus that the bill had been previously rejected in a prior committee meeting. The Ministry officials presented a compliance report on the recommendations made by the committee to date. Out of the 40 recommendations received, 32 were fully compliant.

The committee was also apprised of the Ministry's initiative to develop indigenous cultural educational

material for children in various mother tongues, including Urdu. Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture confirmed that steps have been taken in this direction and discussions have been initiated with the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training. The Committee was also informed that a conference highlighting the "indigenous cultural education material for children in all mother tongues including Urdu" was held in Pakistan Academy of Letters on Sep 19-20, 2023.

Highlighting the importance of preserving culture and heritage as part of our national identity, the Committee emphasized the need to take ownership of these aspects, considering their crucial meeting points within society, particularly for the youth.

In response to concerns about language and translation, the Committee acknowledged the significance of Urdu as a unifying language for Pakistanis. It was suggested to address translation errors on signboards and airports, and the DG "Idaare Farogh e Qomi Zuban" pledged to pursue appropriate translations with relevant authorities. The Committee also deliberated on designating the "Karoanjhar Mountain Tharparkar" in Sindh as National Heritage. While recognizing its cultural and historical significance, Senator Keshoo Bai emphasized the importance of preserving this site for the Hindu community and the people of Tharparkar. The Committee called for the mountain to be protected from mining activities and recommended involving the Sindh Government in this decision.

Senator Mushahid Sayed emphasized the potential economic impact of preserving tourist sites to boost tourism, citing culture and sports as unifying factors within society. Looking forward, the Secretary Ministry of National Heritage and Culture revealed plans for the launch of a heritage app next week and a Heritage TV channel, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

Furthermore, the Committee recommended an increase in the number of stores at Kartarpur Sahib and expressed their intent to visit the Kartarpur Corridor, emphasizing the enhancement of religious and heritage tourism in Pakistan.

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Ministry appoints special court judges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law and Justice has notified the appointment of four special court judges in different districts of Punjab on deputation basis.

According to a report on Tuesday, District and Sessions Judge Amjad Ali Shah will perform his duties as Special Judge Central Rawalpindi with District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Naem Sheikh deputed as Special

Judge Central Gujranwala. Similarly, two other district and sessions judges – Rana Zahid Iqbal and Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh – are appointed in special courts established for Faisalabad and Lahore respectively.

The special courts are sanctioned under Section 8 (i) of the Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014 to provide protection against waging of war or insurrection against the country, prevention of acts threatening its security,

speedy trial of offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In this connection, the process stipulates that the government, after consulting with the chief justice concerned, may appoint any person as a special court judge who is or has been a sessions judge in any province of Pakistan, or has been an advocate of the high court for a period of not less than 10 years, and is not more than 70 years of age.

ECP writes to MoFA for inviting int'l observers

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dispatched a letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday seeking to invite international observers for upcoming general elections. The ECP in the letter to Foreign Office said that it wanted to invite international observers under section 238 of the Election Act.

"The ECP ensures the participation of international observers for the transparency of the general elections, urging the Foreign Office to provide the list of organisations of foreign observers," the letter read. The letter noted that Secretary Election Commission has summoned a meeting regarding the participation of observers in polls. "The Foreign Office will be informed about the meeting", it added.

The decision to international observers was taken at a meeting of the Commission in Islamabad with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja in the chair. It was also decided to expedite process of cases of those international observers who have already made request to observe the electoral process.

The Commission also directed to convene Inter Ministerial Meeting on 16th of this month in which a course of action will be decided on this issue. The Election Commission accorded approval to the code of conduct for International Observers and also allowed to publish it on priority basis. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024.

IHC hears plea for security of Imran in jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday heard former first lady Bushra Bibi's petition for the security and protection of her husband Imran Khan in prison. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition with the objections of the Registrar's Office. "My husband is feared to be poisoned through food in jail," Bushra Bibi stated in her petition.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is not allowed home meals as the under-trial prisoners in the past were allowed," she added. "Supply of pure food should be ensured by the medical officer concerned. The adulterated food may be injurious to the life of my husband," she pleaded. "My husband is not even being given the facilities which he is entitled to as per the jail manual. The court order regarding the provision of facilities in the jail should be implemented," she added.

"The inhuman treatment being meted out to my husband in prison is a violation

ECP fixes case to remove PTI chief from party leadership

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued the schedule of upcoming cases including the petition to remove the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman from the party headship and to withdraw the party's symbol (bat).

The preliminary hearing for removal of the PTI Chairman from his position will be held on October 10. Khalid Mahmood Khan had filed a petition requesting the PTI chief's removal, while Muhammad Aun Saqlain called for the withdrawal of the party symbol. The Election Commission has sent notices to the petitioners and will conduct the initial hearing for both cases on the next date.

of Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution. The PTI chairman should be given the walk and exercise facility in jail," she pleaded further.

Petitioner Bushra Bibi's lawyer Latif Khosa Advocate appeared in the court which removed the objections of the Registrar's Office. The court also ordered to number the petition and fix it for re-hearing on Thursday. "An objection has been made to the petition. What

are you pleading for in the petition?" the IHC chief justice questioned Latif Khosa.

"The PTI chairman's life is in danger. He was attacked in Wazirabad. A petition has been filed for the security and protection of his rights in the jail," Latif Khosa told the court. "The court has removed the objections of the Registrar's Office. When should the petition be fixed for hearing?" the chief justice questioned.

PTI writes letters to Caretaker PM, CEC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: PTI has raised the issue of enforced disappearances of its party leaders and workers in letters to Caretaker PM and the Chief Election Commissioner. The party's secretary general Omar Ayub in separate letters addressed to the Caretaker PM and the CEC has raised the issue and demanded for recovery of

disappeared party leaders. The PTI has also sent the copies of letters to four caretaker chief ministers. PTI's Farrukh Habib, Sadaqat Abbasi, Usman Dar and Awais Younus have been missing for last several days, the party's official wrote in his letter. "The party's Irfan Saleem, Abdul Karim Khan and Awami Muslim League's Sheikh Rashid have also been missing," Umar Ayub

wrote. "All disappearances are blatant violation of the fundamental rights given to the citizens in the constitution," he said. "It will be a question mark over the transparency of the next general elections until these people are not released," PTI official said. Hopefully, immediate orders will be issued over enforced disappearances of these persons, he said.

How law diminishes SC's powers: CJP

(Continued from Page 1)

We should give respect to Parliament. This court has provided legal channels for martial law. We must understand where our judiciary stands in the world ranking. A single authority, no matter if it's a dictator or someone else, has destroyed the country. Forget about the privileges of the chief justice, we should keep in mind the benefits of people, the Chief Justice observed.

Chief Justice Isa went on to say that the Supreme Court confirmed several martial laws. "You are saying we should stick to the same line, you want to open the door to the next martial law," Justice Minallah asked if there are any laws which are above the rules of Parliament in the world. Justice Mandokhel remarked that the Supreme Court Rules under Article 191 could not be unconstitutional.

The Chief Justice observed that Article 184-3 authority of the Supreme Court is extraordinary and Article 184-3 authority does not exist

anywhere in the world. "If extraordinary authority can be given to the Supreme Court, can it not be returned? Parliament has given powers to the Supreme Court before. Now the rules are changing, so what is the problem? Will it be better if more brains think together instead of one brain of the chief justice," the top judge remarked asking the lawyer to explain how the SC practice law is diminishing the rights of the chief justice. CJP Isa said that he has not sworn to protect the decisions of the Supreme Court. Rather he has sworn to protect the Constitution. Justice Ijazul Ahsan wondered if such a legislation had never been done before, why it was done now. He remarked that the right of appeal is necessary but it should be given through proper legislation.

After that, the court also announced a 30-minute break. When the hearing resumed after a 30-minute break, the arguments of Tehreek-e-Insaf's lawyer Uzair Bhandari were continuing. Justice Athar Minallah asked PTI's

counsel that if Parliament enacts a data protection law that is inconsistent with the Constitution. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked that many laws, including the Competition Commission Law, are not included in the Constitution, so what will happen to them? Lawyer Bhandari said that if special tribunals have been formed, an appeal can be filed against them.

Chief Justice Isa asked whether it is written in the constitution. Justice Ijazul Ahsan remarked that the right to legislate on certain subjects has been given in the constitution, the power to legislate has not been given anywhere in Article 191. The Chief Justice said that if this is the case, the words in Article 191 about making rules subject to law would become ineffective. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked that if your arguments are accepted, the right of appeal in the Competition Commission Act is also unconstitutional. Lawyer Bhandari said that he would not give opinion on a law which is not under discussion in the court. The Chief Justice inquired that

what is the problem of Tehreek-i-Insaf with the right to appeal in Article 184/3? Why did PTI not raise its position in Parliament, he asked. Lawyer Bhandari said that he will not defend any political decision, to which the Chief Justice remarked that if you are a lawyer of a political party, you have to answer. The PTI lawyer argued that resigning from the assembly was a political decision, he is not responsible for every move of Tehreek-i-Insaf.

Justice Ijazul Ahsan remarked that all SC decisions could not be correct, if right to appeal is granted in every case, then every person will enter his appeal. The chief justice remarked right now, there is no right to appeal. How many judges will hear the appeal, it's a matter that will arise later, he added. The CJP went on to say if the full court hears a case then who will hear the appeal? The simple answer is that, if the full court makes a wrong decision, then the matter ends. He observed if the law is invalidated, then the right of appeal will

end. He said the right to appeal is different and to learn from one's mistakes is a different thing. The Chief Justice said that Islam and democracy do not allow to entrust all powers in the hands of just one person. At the last hearing, the full court had asked the parties concerned to submit written replies on a set of nine challenges to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act. The federal government had submitted a response to the court's questions in the case. The full court bench of the Supreme Court has so far conducted five hearings of the case with an eight-member larger bench.

The erstwhile PDM government regulated the powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan through an act, the authority to take suo motu notices, constitute benches, and assign cases was given to a committee of three senior judges. The eight-member larger bench led by then Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial had stayed the implementation of the law during the first hearing of the case on April 13.