

Ex MPA Sarfraz quits PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former MPA of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Malik Sarfraz Khokhar on Friday announced to quit the party. Condemned the May 9 vandalism, he Malik Sarfraz said that he would not take part in politics anymore due to health issues. He said he would announce the future political plan in consultation with his colleagues. The former MPA said that he left the PTI because of the policy of confrontation with institutions.

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Actions against illegal activities to be continue, says COAS

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Karachi today and attended meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqar.

During the Apex Committee meeting, COAS was briefed about Revised National Action Plan, Operation in Kacha Area of Sindh, Security of Foreign Nationals employed on CPEC/ Non CPEC/ Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures, Karachi Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives.

COAS emphasised "LEAs and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities".

COAS underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the landmark initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier, upon arrival, COAS was received by Commander Karachi Corps.

President for boosting trade with Bahrain

F.P. Report

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to expand bilateral trade volume with Bahrain, besides exporting high number of skilled labour force to the country.

Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the international market. Therefore, he said the ambassador-designate should be fully focused on capturing the market demand by exporting the required skilled workforce from Pakistan.

President Alvi said Pakistan attached special importance to the brotherly relations with Bahrain. He stressed that economic, educational and cultural ties with Bahrain, should be strengthened. He said the Pakistan embassies abroad should play their due role in exporting skilled labour force from Pakistan and increasing foreign remittances for the country.

Solangi shocked over death of ex-PTV official

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former PTV director MZ Sohail.

In his message, the minister expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased PTV officer. Murtaza Solangi said he was saddened to hear the news of MZ Sohail's death who was an asset of the PTV.

Murtaza Solangi said that late MZ Sohail was associated with the news department of Pakistan Television for over four decades and his services for PTV were unforgettable. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

US shoots down Turkish drone over Syria

ANKARA (Agencies): The Pentagon says United States warplanes have shot down a Turkish drone, which was deemed a threat to its forces in Syria, in an incident that might raise tensions between the NATO allies.

The development came as Turkey targeted Kurdish forces in Syria following a suicide bombing in Ankara that was claimed by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). US troops observed drones carrying out raids, some of them inside a "restricted operating zone" (ROZ) near Hasakah, about a kilometre (less than a mile) from Washington's troops, Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Pat Ryder told journalists.

A few hours later, a Turkish drone returned to the ROZ and flew towards American forces despite what a US official said were a dozen calls to Ankara's military. Ryder said "US commanders assessed ... the UAV, which was now less than a half kilometre from US forces, to be a potential threat," using an abbreviation for an unmanned aerial vehicle. "US F-16 fighters subsequently shot down the UAV in self-defence," he said.

Defense Secretary

Lloyd Austin spoke with his Turkish counterpart Yasar Guler, urging "de-escalation in northern Syria and the importance of maintaining strict adherence to de-confliction protocols and communication through established military-to-military channels." Ryder said in a statement. Turkey's defence ministry confirmed the call, saying the two officials discussed "the latest developments in Syria". Al Jazeera's Sinem Koseoglu, reporting from Istanbul, said the UAV did not belong to the Turkish military, according to a statement.

"It is not only the Turkish military that conducts counterterrorism operations in northern Iraq and Syria," she said. She said that the Turkish intelligence and interior ministry's gendarmerie also joined operations. Turkish military air attacks killed 26 fighters and destroyed 30 Kurdish fighter targets in northern Syria, including an oil well, a storage facility and shelters, and "neutralised" many fighters, the Turkish defence ministry said.

Al Jazeera's Alan Fisher, reporting from Washington, said Turkish officials say operations are carried out as part of

the country's right to self-defence. "Turkey has warned other countries to stay away from areas controlled by groups it will continue to target," he said. The US has about 900 troops deployed in Syria as part of international efforts to combat the ISIL (ISIS) armed group, and carries out frequent raids targeting the fighters.

US forces are partnered with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which led the fight that dislodged ISIL fighters from the last territory they held in the country in 2019. However, Turkey views the Kurdish People's Protection Units that dominate the SDF as an offshoot of the PKK, which is considered a "terrorist" group by Ankara and its Western allies.

Turkish attacks on military and infrastructure targets in Kurdish-held areas of Syria killed at least nine people, according to Kurdish security forces. Syria contains a dangerous mix of often antagonistic forces operating on the ground and in the air, including those from President Bashar al-Assad's government, Russia, the US, Turkey, Iran-linked armed groups and the Kurdish fighters, among others.

Putin hints Russia could return to nuclear testing

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin has suggested that Russia could return to nuclear weapons testing and might withdraw its ratification of a landmark nuclear test ban treaty. In an address that touched on topics such as nuclear weapons, energy, and the war in Ukraine, Putin also said that Russia had tested a new nuclear-powered missile delivery system but had not decided whether to resume the testing of explosives.

"I think no person of sound mind and clear memory would think of using nuclear weapons against Russia," Putin said in the speech at a forum of foreign policy experts in Sochi. "I hear calls to start testing nuclear weapons, to return to testing," he added. "I am not ready to say whether we really need to conduct tests or not."

He announced that Russia has effectively completed the development of the Burevestnik cruise missile and the Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile and will work on putting them into production. "We conducted the last successful test of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered global-range cruise missile," he said. His statement was the first announcement of a successful test of the Burevestnik, which trans-

lates as "Storm Petrel." It was first mentioned by Putin in 2018.

Little is known about the Burevestnik, which was code-named Skyfall by NATO, and many Western experts have been sceptical about it, noting that a nuclear engine could be highly unreliable. It is believed to be able to carry a nuclear warhead or a conventional one, and potentially could stay aloft for a much longer time than other missiles and cover much more distance, due to nuclear propulsion.

Putin's speech is the latest in which the Russian leader underscored the country's nuclear capabilities, as relations between Russia and Western powers remain tense over Russia's war in Ukraine. Putin said that it was "theoretically" possible for Russia to withdraw from the nuclear test ban treaty, which generally prohibits the testing of nuclear weapons, but that no decision has been made.

He also noted that the United States has not signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, stating that Russia, which ratified the agreement in 2000, may follow in its steps. In the wide-ranging speech, the Russian president said that the West was trying to create "a new Iron Curtain" and laid respon-

sibility for the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the feet of Western powers.

"The war, which was started by the Kyiv regime with active support from the West, has been going on already for 10 years," he said. "The special military operation was launched to stop it." Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Since then, thousands of civilians have been killed and millions of others have fled the country, according to the United Nations. Tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed or wounded on each side and large swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine have been devastated in the fighting.

Earlier, Ukrainian officials reported that a Russian missile strike had slammed into a grocery store and cafe near the city of Kharkiv, killing at least 51 people. In his speech, Putin also said that Russia was attempting to create a "new world" in defiance of Western "hegemony", praising the rising influence of Eastern countries such as India and China. He also reiterated Russia's opposition to Ukraine's accession to NATO, which he deemed a tool of US foreign policy, but said that he has no objections to Ukraine joining the European Union.

KP CM commends efforts of health dept for launching HRMIS

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As an important initiative under institutional reforms, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has successfully launched Human Resource Management and Information System (HRMIS) digitizing the entire record of employees across the province. Besides, verifiable E-posting/transfer/appoint/leave orders have also been introduced under the HRMIS whereas it has also been integrated with the system of Provincial Public Service Commission and Post Graduate Medical Institute. Moreover, the department has issued necessary direc-

tives to all its subordinate bodies to implement and use the new system.

It was told in a briefing given to caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan here the other day. It was informed that the department has a total human resource of about 90,000 employees, and due to non-availability of digital record of those employees, the department faced various challenges with regard to policy decision and other human resource related matters adding that the need for a verifiable digital record of the employees was being felt for a long time.

The Chief Minister was

told that the IT team of health department had been able to develop the HRMIS without incurring a single penny from the government exchequer. Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister termed the launching of HRMIS as a good initiative for further streamlining the HR related matters of the department, ensuring transparency and enhancing efficiency in the department.

He lauded the efforts of Advisor Health and his entire team for successfully introducing the HRMIS, and said that the system will definitely improve the overall performance of the department.



DAMASCUS: Soldiers carrying a casket during funeral of victims of a drone attack targeting a Syrian military academy, outside a hospital in Syria.



Electricity tariff hiked for K-Electric consumers

F.P. Report

KARACHI (INP): The Power Division has notified a hike in electricity tariff by Rs4.45 per unit for Karachi consumers following NEPRA's decision.

The latest hike in the electricity tariff was made in terms of the first quarterly adjustment of the previous fiscal year. The additional payments will be received from K-Electric consumers in October and November. The electricity tariff for K-Electric consumers was increased from Rs1.49 per unit to Rs4.45 per unit. On Thursday, giving another shock to the already burdened power consumers, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved an increase in tariff by Rs1.71 per unit.

Afghan strain of poliovirus detected in samples

ISLAMABAD (INP): The environmental samples collected from Peshawar city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Dera Bugti district in Balochistan have tested positive for wild poliovirus on Friday. According to an official at the polio laboratory of the National Institute of Health (NIH), both viruses, found in sewage samples, are similar to Afghanistan's poliovirus.

Polio, a highly infectious and incurable disease, mainly affects children under the age of five. The virus invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death in some cases. Third polio case of the year 2023 was confirmed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Bannu district on Wednesday as Pakistan struggling to get rid of the crippling disease, ARY News reported citing sources at the Ministry of National Health.

"Polio virus has been confirmed in an 18-month girl at UC Ghora in Bakakhel," sources added. In the year 2022, as many as 20 cases of poliovirus were reported across the country. Pakistan was come near to eradication of disease in year 2021 when only one case was reported in the country. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday launched a five-day anti-polio vaccination drive targeting around 44 million children across the country.

Nawaz will become PM, claims Shehbaz

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The former premier and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif asserted that if PML-N voted to power, the party chief Nawaz Sharif would become the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

In a recent series of statements, the former premier, Shehbaz Sharif highlighted various points during his tenure after the PTI Chairman was dethroned from his position as a Prime Minister of Pakistan. The prominent political figure – Shehbaz Sharif – congratulates the nation on the expansion of GSP plus – the GSP+ allows Pakistan to export goods to the EU at zero import duties on 66 percent product tariff lines.

Shahbaz Sharif extended a warm welcome to his brother – Nawaz Sharif, as he is expected to return to Pakistan on October 21. He expressed confidence that the country is on the verge of improvement and better times are ahead. He attributed the rising inflation, unemployment, and mismanagement during the previous government's term.

"The PTI government steered the country towards the potential default, however, the policies and decisions of the coalition government have effectively controlled the soaring inflation, and revived the country's economy," Shehbaz Sharif stated. The former premier criticized the previous government for negotiating terms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and then failed to fulfill the agreements.

The former Chief Minister of Punjab stressed the significance of good governance, remarking that politics should serve the purpose of better governance rather than chasing power for personal gains.

At the outset of his address, the PML-N president talked about the 16-month tenure of the erstwhile Pakistan Democratic Movement under his premiership and recalled the challenges that confronted the then government, including floods, inflation, protests and a risk of default. "What would have happened if Pakistan had defaulted?" he asked and then outlined the "consequential impacts" of such a situation. "But God helped us avert default and I am thankful to Nawaz for standing by us.



"If our quaid told us to save our politics, I would have resigned, but he told us to take up the challenge and save the country instead," he said. Shehbaz elaborated on the elder Sharif's contributions to Pakistan, which included the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and making the country an atomic power, but lamented how a series of "painful events overturned Pakistan's journey of growth".

"I want to clarify that in 2017-18 the PML-N won the elections but the results were changed in massive rigging and a pre-prepared model was introduced to ruin the country." But now, Shehbaz continued, the journey of prosperity would resume with Nawaz's arrival. "He will himself tell his plan to change the country's future at Minar-e-Pakistan on Oct 21. It is a programme that will expedite Pakistan's growth and change its fate."

He added that Nawaz shared good relations with a number of foreign countries, such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, and he would use these ties not to "take loans but to get investment".

When asked about remarks regarding being the "establishment's man", Shehbaz said if that was true, "what benefits did I get?" and talked about how he and his elder brother spent months in jail. On a question on accountability of former army generals, he lamented that in the 75-year history of Pakistan, accountability was only restricted to politicians and called for answerability across the board. Furthermore, the PML-N president stressed that free and fair elections should be held and that the outcome should be accepted by everyone.

PTI seeks CJP timely intervention to ensure polls

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was constitutionally bound to hold elections within the stipulated 90 days; hence the electoral watchdog and the caretaker government have only 34 days to meet the constitutional deadline.

He categorically stated that the nation would not tolerate any unconstitutional attempts to delay the polls beyond the constitutional deadline come what may. The PTI spokesperson made it clear that it was electoral body's main constitutional responsibility and the fundamental right of the people to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days.

Therefore, he demanded that the honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan should intervene pre-emptively in order to thwart any attempt of violation of the

Constitution and to make the ECP and the caretaker government bound to ensure holding elections within the constitutional time limits. PTI spokesperson went on to say that the state was subject to the constitution and the constitution made the free will of the public the basis of the political and governmental system.

"Suspension of any article or part of the Constitution is akin to suspending the entire Constitution, which is a serious crime," he said, adding that the constitution did not give any authority to any state institution alone or in association with others to take any decision contrary to its intent regarding holding of the elections. PTI spokesperson underlined that the constitution was very clear about the five-year term of the elected assemblies and about conduct of elections in the wake of the timely or premature dissolution of these

assemblies.

He stated that in case of premature dissolution of the assemblies, the constitution mandated the conduct of elections within timeframe of 90 days, which was interpreted by the top court and approved by the President. PTI spokesman made it clear that the ECP and the caretaker government have only 34 days to conduct the elections, as the President of the state in his letter to the electoral watchdog suggested November 9 as the date for the elections.

He alerted that if the constitution was violated by avoiding holding polls within 90-day limits, then the ECP and the caretaker prime minister along with his cabinet would be guilty of constitutional violation, which was punishable crime under Article 6. PTI spokesperson vowed that the nation would not accept any attempt to delay the poll for an indefinite period at any cost.

Dengue tally reaches 1,477

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Rawalpindi's dengue total tally had reached 1,477 positive cases with the arrival of 56 more patients during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Friday said that 20 patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area, 11 from the Municipal Corporation, five from Potohar rural, and three from Rawalpindi Cantonment area.



PCG seizes huge quantity of drugs from Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on Friday seized a large quantity of drugs worth millions from Balochistan.

According to a spokesman for the PCG, a patrolling team of the PCG spotted a suspicious vehicle in Bandari, area of Gwadar. The team chased the said vehicle upon which the driver and his accomplices left the vehicle and escaped from the spot.

During a search of the vehicle, the PCG officials recovered 743kg hashish and 57kg methamphetamine (Ice). The approximate value of the seized drugs in the international market was 21.84 million dollars. The vehicle and drugs had been taken into custody and further investigations were underway.

Transport dept to boost revenue through commercialization

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Transport Ibrahim Murad has said that the Transport department aims to boost its revenue through commercialization. He said that as part of this initiative, the branding and renaming of metro stations are on the agenda, says a DGPR press release issued here on Friday.

The minister expressed these views in a recent review meeting held to discuss the transportation plan prepared by CBP Punjab.

During the meeting, the Minister extended an invitation to CBP Punjab to consider purchasing branding rights for Kalma Chowk Metro Station. He highlighted that mass transit projects, such as the Orange Line Train, cater to 260 million passengers, while the Metro Bus service accommodates one hundred seventy thousand passengers, surpassing its designed capacity by 73%.

With the increasing fuel prices, the public is now turning to Metro Buses and the Orange Line Train for their commuting needs, he said and added that plans are underway to introduce the Feeder Bus system in other cities, to meet the transportation demands of the people.

LESCO detects 643 power pilferers

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 643 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 28th day of the grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Friday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 617 electricity thieves, out of which 360 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 46 accused have been arrested.

No undocumented alien to be allowed to stay in Punjab: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has asserted that all foreign nationals residing illegally in Punjab should voluntarily depart as the initial data of foreign residents has been compiled.

He made these remarks during a media interaction after inspecting the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects.

The CM issued a stern warning that any foreigner staying unlawfully in the province would not be permitted to dwell. Naqvi stressed the importance of self-eviction by illegal immigrants in Punjab, cautioning that a comprehensive crackdown would ensue if they failed to comply. However, the government would not abuse anyone, he maintained.

The CM observed that the closure of schools had led to a noticeable decrease in pink eye cases.

In response to a query about his health, he conveyed that he is feeling better. Mohsin Naqvi provided updates on the progress of the Shahdara flyovers project, highlighting the rapid completion of the bridge and ongoing activities. Anticipating that the flyovers would be opened to traffic next month, he disclosed that 90 percent of the work had already been accomplished. Additionally, he informed that two construction companies are working tirelessly to complete the Bund Road project before 120 days.

Simultaneously, numerous pending

projects in Rawalpindi, including the Ring Road and safe city authority, have been initiated. These projects are slated for completion within 90 to 180 days, with a portion of the Rawalpindi Ring Road nearing completion. Mohsin Naqvi also mentioned that safe city projects in Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi were scheduled for simultaneous completion within 150 days.

Before this, the chief minister inspected the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects, directing an expedited focus on asphalt and surrounding roads. He emphasized the acceleration of the new Ravi bridge project. The CM received updates on the nearing completion of both towers of the flyovers and the ongoing installation of electric poles.

Subsequently, CM inspected the Bund Road controlled access corridor project and underscored the necessity for timely project completion. He directed efforts to improve traffic flow during the construction period. The 7.3-KM long controlled access corridor on Bund Road is slated for completion in four months. The first package covers construction from Niazi Chowk to Sagian Interchange, and the second package spans from Sagian Interchange to Babu Sabu Interchange. Additionally, link roads around the controlled access corridor will also be constructed.

Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, commissioner, DC Lahore, and others were also present.

Gas theft crackdown

214 connections disconnected in Punjab, KP and Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 214 connections while imposing fine of Rs. 13 million and 368 under billing cases processed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 22 connections on illegal use of gas and another five on use of compressor and 48 under billing cases have been processed.

In Bahawalpur, the regional team disconnected ten connections on use of compressor while another 1 against illegal use and 12 under billing cases processed. The company disconnected 19 connections on illegal use of gas while another 4 on compressor use in Multan. The regional team imposed fine of Rs 0.059M against gas pilferers. In Sheikhupura, twenty connections were disconnected by the region.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 64 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal connections. The regional team also imposed fine of Rs.0.465M against gas theft. In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected six gas connections and one under billing case processed. SNGPL's team in Mardan 44 under billing cases processed and six connection were disconnected on illegal use of gas.

In Sialkot, the company disconnected 04 connections on use of compressor and amount of Rs 0.06M booked against gas theft. In Sargodha 43 under billing cases processed and Rs 0.09 million has been booked against under billing cases.



NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING SINGLE STAGE SINGLE ENVELOPE PROCEDURE

Gomal Zam Irrigation Division DI Khan Irrigation Procurement Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, invites electronic Bids from the eligible firms / contractors in accordance with KPPRA procurement rules 2014 on single stage single envelop procedure for the following works: -

Sr.#	Name of Work / Sub Works	E/Cost In Rs.	Earnest Money+ Stamp Duty	PEC Relevant Code
CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS, IRRIGATION CHANNELS AND PONDS AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR IRRIGATION TUBE WELLS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, ADP NO.2106/210455(2023-24), Sub Works:-				
01	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR BASED IRRIGATION TUBEWELLS IN DISTRICT DI KHAN. Construction of 03 Nos. Solar Based Irrigation Tube Wells in Villages Rori & Garra Sheikh Area. <i>(Supply of Power by Solar System i/c Pumping Machinery along with all accessories) (2nd Time RE-Tender)</i>	6.000	138750	CE-04 EE-11
02	CONSTRUCTION OF 08 NOS. SOLAR BASED IRRIGATION TUBEWELLS IN DISTRICT DI KHAN. Construction of 01 No. Solar Irrigation T/Well in UC Maddi District DI Khan. <i>(Supply of Power by Solar System i/c Pumping Machinery along with all accessories) (2nd Time RE-Tender)</i>	6.000	138750	CE-04 EE-11
03	CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION / AUGMENTATION TUBE WELLS AND LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEMES AT REQUIRED PLACES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, ADP NO. 2052/170597(2023-24). Re-Location / Shifting of Irrigation / Augmentation Tube Well at Kerri Shamozai to Village Yarik District DI Khan. <i>(Supply of Power by Solar System i/c Pumping Machinery along with all accessories) (2nd Time RE-Tender)</i>	4.00	86250	CE-04 EE-11

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR E-BIDDING

- Bidding Documents including instruction to bidders, Terms and conditions and Evaluation Criteria can Irrigation Department Website (www.irrigation.gkp.pk) and KPPRA official Website, for each package separate Bid documents are to be submitted by the interested bidders.
- The bidder shall submit their bids through leading courier service on or before the deadline along with required documents as per detail mentioned in bid solicitation documents.
- Electronic Bid shall be done on "above / below" System on BOQ / Engineer estimate.
- All the participating firm will be evaluated as per Criteria duly included in Bid Solicitation documents and the firms who failed in the criteria will be considered non-responsive.
- Venue of Bids Opening is Executive Engineer Gomal Zam Irrigation Division DI Khan.
- If the evaluated electronic bid costs of two or more bidders are equal, then the successful bidder will be declared through draw / toss.
- Two percent (02%) Bid Security / Earnest Money + Stamp duty + Tender Fee of the Estimated cost from the account of firm / bidder / contractor who submits the bid must be accompanied with the tender document / Quotation through any scheduled bank in favor of **Executive Engineer, Gomal Zam Irrigation Division, DI Khan**. Failure to submit the 2% CDR will lead to rejection of the bid.
- Firm must have successfully completed Solar System i/c Pumping Machinery, Auto Sun Tracker along with accessories, having more than 0.5 cusec discharge in past 3 years also must be attached sales Tax returns, Income Tax returns and Financial audited Balance Sheet (As appropriate).
- The bidders who quote their bids / rates more than 10% below on Engineer's Estimate shall submit additional security as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14) / Vol 1-24/2021-22, dated 10-05-2022.
- Bid security of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd lowest electronic bidder for the specific work may be retained by the Department till one week after issuance of LOA.
- All the bidders / firms must be register with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority.
- All the prevailing KPPRA Acts / Rules and other Government Notification will be applicable, issued from time to time.
- Funds release depends upon policy of Provincial Government; hence payment will be made accordingly. Bidder / Contractor agreeing with the financial constraints in respect of payment etc are at liberty to participate in the instant E-Bidding as no claim whatsoever will be entertained in this regard.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held **24-10-2023** at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer Gomal Zam Irrigation Division DI Khan.
- The Last date & time for Submission of the Bid along with relevant documents is **31-10-2023** up to 12:00 PM which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in the office of the undersigned in presence of Contractor and their representative who wishes to attend.
- All Government notifications / rules / taxes implemented from time to time shall be applicable.
- Any further information regarding the above tender can be obtained from office of the undersigned on any working day prior to bid opening date.
- The employer has the authority to reject any bid or all the bids assigning cogent reasons.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Gomal Zam Irrigation Division DI Khan INF(P)#2474/23
Gomal Zam Irrigation Division DI Khan opposite Peshawar High Court Circuit Bench DI Khan
Telephone & Fax No. 0966-9280336, (E-mail Add: xengomalzamdik@gmail.com)

21x3

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA)

TENDER NOTICE

HIRING OF MISC MANPOWER THROUGH OUTSOURCED CONTRACTOR FOR CAA OFFICERS' MESS, STAFF MESS NO. 1 & STAFF MESS NO. 2 PESHAWAR

1. RFPs are hereby invited from registered companies / firms to provide misc. manpower i.e. five (05) Cooks & six (06) Mess Attendants for CAA Messes located at Peshawar.

2. The interested companies / firms fulfilling the following terms and conditions with documentary evidence are eligible to submit the bids:-

a). Having minimum of 03 years of experience of similar services with at least 03 number of clients.

b). Should be registered with Income Tax Authorities (EOI), & ESS, have valid NTN, should pay all regulatory dues, taxes, minimum wages etc., and should have sound financial background.

c). Submit an Affidavit to non-judicial stamp papers of appropriate value for not having been a defaulter of / black listed by any Government or Semi Government Organization including PCAA and not having previous litigation against Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority as well.

3. The agreement will be executed with the successful bidder for period of two (02) years (extendable for another six months only) upon satisfactory performance of the contractor and mutual agreement of both the parties.

4. The intending firm / bidder shall submit a fixed bid security for an amount of Rs. 443,520/- (Rupees: Four Hundred Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty only) in the form of demand draft in favor of PCAA.

5. Bids should be dropped in the Tender Box placed in the office of the Chief Operating Officer / APM CAA Bldg, Peshawar by 1200 hours on 31-10-2023, which will be sealed at 1200 hours and no bid shall be received / entertained thereafter. Tenders shall be opened at 1230 hours on the same day in the presence of concerned bidders / authorized representatives who may wish to be present.

6. PCAA reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons, a PCAA's decision will be final and not open to challenge.

7. RFPs can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director (HR) and for further details, please feel free to contact on any working day from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on Phone No. 091-9211509.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER / APM
PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
BACHA KHAN INT'L AIRPORT, PESHAWAR
Tel: 091-9211509 / Fax: 091-9211507

PID(K)#1073/23 www.caa.gov.pk

DG NAB announces crackdown against illegal housing societies

LAHORE (APP): The affectees of various housing societies participated in NAB Lahore's 'Open Court' held by Director General (DG) NAB Lahore Amjad Majeed Aulakh, to lodge their complaints seeking speedy redressal.

As per details, the DG NAB Lahore participated in monthly open hearing which was massively attended by housing sector affectees i.e. Ashrafi Town, Park Lane Housing Society, Khayaban-i-Amin Housing Society, Theme Park View Society, Gwadar City project,

Golden Palm Gwadar, Rahim City (Phase-2), State-Life Housing Society, Al-Haram Garden, Anwaar Garden and Aashiyana-e-Quaid Project.

The DG NAB Lahore carefully listened to the affectees and issued appropriate directives, accordingly.

While talking to the affectees of Ashrafi Town, the DG NAB Lahore maintained that issues between affectees and administration of said society would be settled down in accordance with law, however, NAB

Lahore will review all queries raised by the complainants as per law and merit to bring a fitting solution to the matter. The DG NAB Lahore also announced to hold considerable crackdown against every illegal, un-lawful and un-approved housing society falling under purview of NAB Lahore. Addressing the affectees of Gwadar Housing Projects and Golden Palm Gwadar, he stated that the matter would be taken up with the authorities of NAB Baluchistan.

Wafaqi Mohtasib Inspection Team visits Allamma Iqbal Open University

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: On receipt of large number of complaints against AIOU, the Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi deputed Wafaqi Mohtasib Inspection Team comprising of Senior Advisor Mr. Ahmad Farooq, Advisor Dr. Inam ul Haq Javed Deputy Advisor Mr. Pervaz Haleem Rajpoot and Senior Investigation Officer Mr. Adnan Ahmad to visit the main campus of the Allamma Iqbal Open University (AIOU) located in Islamabad which is imparting education to 1.1 million students with 54 Regional Campuses all over Pakistan, AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan.

The visiting team held meeting with the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members to learn about the issues being confronted by the University. The team members also had interaction with the university stu-



dents and ascertained issues faced by them. Later the team went around different departments of the AIO University to see for themselves the root causes of persistent complaints.

It was revealed that the students were facing with

delayed receipt of results, denial of admission despite fulfilling required qualification, late or non delivery of semester assignments and delay in checking of the assignments, registering incorrect particulars of the students, delayed reim-

bursement of admission fee in case of refusal to admission and other such like complaints. The team members proposed to the Vice Chancellor AIOU for the optimal use of vast piece of land held by the University for enhancing the scope of educational activities.

To facilitate the students in accessing the faculty and university management, the inspection team recommended for uploading on AIOU Website five E-mail addresses in the University Facilitation Centre. The team will submit its detailed report to Wafaqi Mohtasib within 10 days.

Government of Pakistan

PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR FM RADIO BROADCAST STATION LICENSES THROUGH BIDDING IN THE MERGED DISTRICTS (EX-FATA) AND DISTRICT BUNER IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) invites application on prescribed Application Form alongwith application processing fee (non-refundable) amounting to Rs. 10,000/- in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of PEMRA, Islamabad under Section 19 of the PEMRA Ordinance 2002 from the companies registered with Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) meeting the eligibility criteria for the FM Radio Broadcast Station licenses in following Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province:

S.NO.	NAME OF DISTRICT	NO. OF LICENCES
1	Khyber	02
2	Kurram	02
3	Mohmand	02
4	North Waziristan	02
5	South Waziristan	02
6	Bajaur	02
7	Orakzai	02
8	Buner	01

The eligibility criteria, application form, base price and bidding procedure can be obtained from the address given below during working days i.e. Monday to Friday (0900-1700 PST), or downloaded from PEMRA website

(https://pemra.gov.pk/fm_merged_districts.php & https://pemra.gov.pk/fm_buner.php).

Pre-qualified/ shortlisted companies will be invited to participate in the bidding process under section 19 of the PEMRA ordinance 2002 and FM Radio broadcast station licenses will be awarded to the successful applicants after completion of all legal requirements under PEMRA laws and payment of requisite fee.

Duly filled application forms alongwith requisite documents must reach the address given below on or before **6th November, 2023** till **1700 hrs**. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.

The submission of applications or pre-qualification/shortlisting shall not establish any right or claim of any applicant company whatsoever for the grant of a license. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications by recording reasons in writing in the light of PEMRA laws.

Director General Licensing (Broadcast Media-I)
PEMRA Headquarters
4th Floor, Mauve Area, G-8/1, Islamabad
Phone No. 051-9107117, 051-9107151 Fax No. 051-9107165

www.pemra.gov.pk

PID(I) 2162/23

FRONTIER CONSTABULARY FOUNDATION

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT

FC Trust Building located at Sunehti Masjid Road, Peshawar Cantt has vacant spaces of more than 6000 sqft for rent. Interested parties are requested to contact the following for details.

Assistant Admin Officer
1st Floor, FC Trust Building,
Sunehti Masjid Road,
Saddar Cantt, Peshawar.
Contact No: 091-9212504

SUIT NOTICE

In the Court of Jehangir Khan, Judge Banking Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar camp Court at D.I.Khan Case No: 92/1 Next Date: 14-11-2023 Suit for recovery of Rs. 3029194/05 HBL Muslim Bazaar Branch Vs. Ghulam Abbass Bhakkar. Ghulam Abbass S/o Alam sher R/o chah chingri, Daggar Shada P/o Saray Muhajir Teh. & Distt Bhakkar Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.3029194/05 against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an expertee decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

SUIT NOTICE

In the Court of Miss Ambareen Navid Judge Banking Court-1 Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 83/1 of 2023 Date of hearing: 15-11-2023 Suit for the recovery of Rs. 1,277,607/- Bank Alfalah Limited, Consumer Finance Centre Lamsy Arcade, Fakhre-e-Alam Road, Pesh: Cantt. Notice Versus:-Ziyad son of Faridoon shah, R/o:- Choti Pul, Peshawar Road, charsadda office Add:- Sheraz Filling station, Gulbela Peshawar Road, charsadda Where as the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.1,277,607/-against you under section 10(2) of the Financial institution (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspapers. Failing which an expertee decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued Today On 03-10-2023 under my signature and seal of the Court.

Registrar Banking Court-II Peshawar

COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT (Merged Areas)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDING DIVISION TRIBAL DISTRICT NORTH WAZIRISTAN, MIRANSHAH.

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING (Single Stage Two Envelope E-Bidding System)

The Communication & Works Department, Building Division Tribal District North Waziristan, Miranshah invites Technical and Financial (Electronic Bids) on the basis of Single Stage Two Envelope from prequalified Government Contractors/Firms enlisted with Communication & Works Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who have renewed their enlistment and PEC license in relevant category including having a specialized code for Solar System (EE-11-Solar Energy, and EE-11-Solar Energy System & EE-11-General Electric Works) with such work experience, for the year 2023-24 for the following work.

S No	Name of work	Estimate d Cost (Rs in Million)	Category of PEC	Bid Security i/c Stamp Duty	Tender Fee @ 0.03%	Last Date/Time of Submission of E-Bids	Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid	Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid	Period of Completion
1	Establishment of Emergency Rescue Services (Rescue-1122) in 7 Tribal District of KPK (AIP No. 1287/200179). Sub Head:- At Razmak (Provision of 12KVA Solar System).	2.725	C-6 EE-11	Rs. 61300/-	Rs. 1000/-	27/10/2023 12:00 PM	27/10/2023 12:30 PM	After approval of technical bid from competent authority.	As Per work order

1. Bid solicitation documents and instructions to bidders can be obtained from the office on my working day or downloaded from C&W website www.cwd.gkp.pk before the submission date/time. The bidders should submit their E-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. SRO(14)/Vol.1-24/2021-22/6058-71 dated 10/05/2022. 3. No work order shall be issued and no work shall be started without attaining prior Administrative Approval, Technical Sanction and allotment of funds (As per KPPRA notification No. S.R.O. (16)/Vol: 1-26/2022-23/6349-60 dated: 05/09/2022. 4. All the bidder are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority, established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. XXI of 2013. 5. The bidders are required to get security clearance from HQ 7 Division, as per Deputy Commissioner NW Miranshah letter No. 4568-69/3F&P dated: 27/07/2023 6. Venue of bids opening is Office of the Executive Engineer Building Division Tribal District North Waziristan, Miranshah.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
INF(P)2478/23
Building Division Tribal District North Waziristan Miranshah Phone #-: 0928-310040

Seminar in connection with Rabi ul Awal held



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A seminar on the eve of the sacred month of Rabi ul Awal on the following topic was organized in NAB KP Office on Friday, on the directives of Chairman NAB by A&P Wing NAB KP.

The Seminar was attended by Vice Chancellors / Deans Officers of various Universities like Islamia College University Peshawar, Engineering University Peshawar, Khyber Medical College, Ghadhara Medical College, Institute of Management Sciences, Sarhad University Peshawar Qurtaba University, Rehman Medical College etc., NAB officers / officials and other distinguished guests.

Mr. Ghazi Rehman, Senior Director NAB KP

welcomed the participants. In his opening address he emphasized on following the preaching of Quran and Sunnah for the betterment of society and economy of Pakistan.

Chief guest Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman, Islamic Ideology Council Pakistan while sharing his wisdom and thoughts, highlighted the importance of Peace and Climate change in the development and economic activity of Pakistan through implementation of the economic model set by Prophet PBUH and his companions. Furthermore, he addressed that Prophet PBUH has emphasized the importance of accountability across the board.

Professor Habib ur Rehman of Sarhad University Peshawar focused on the implementa-

tion of Seerat ul NABI S.a.w.w. in all walks of life will lead to economic stability and self-awareness is need of the hour.

Mian Muhammad Waqar, Director NAB KP concluded the seminar and urged the young officers of NAB and participants to follow Prophet Muhammad PBUH as role model, he also dilated upon the economy of Pakistan within the teachings of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. He thanked all the participants and distinguished guests on behalf of Chairman NAB Lt Gen Nazir Ahmad Butt and DG NAB KP Waqar Ahmad Chochan. In the end, Qari Ghafoor Sb of Rehman Medical College Peshawar made a Dua and prayed that Pakistan may prosper and become economically independent and stable.

FC distributes ration in needy families in Khyber

F.P. Report

KHYBER: Frontier Corps (FC) North is steadfast in its commitment to providing essential support to the underprivileged residents of the remote areas of Bara, Khyber District.

As part of this ongoing initiative, the "Assistance at Doorstep" program has been launched, aimed at assisting widows and orphans in these communities. Under Phase I of this program, Frontier Corps North has distributed vital aid packages that include ration supplies along with a cash grant totaling Rs 10,000 to 10 widows and 10 orphans from the Sipah Tribe.

This assistance was meticulously delivered directly to the homes of the beneficiaries, ensuring their dignity while respecting local customs and traditions. To ensure the inclusivity of the local community and to foster a collaborative effort, Frontier Corps North engaged with tribal Mashrans and local welfare organizations in compiling lists of widows and orphans in each area.

This multi-pronged approach allowed for a more comprehensive and effective outreach. The local residents have expressed their heartfelt appreciation for this compassionate endeavor, recognizing Frontier Corps North's invaluable support during these times of dire need.

Faiq demands to make NDMA a vibrant

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) chairman Muhammad Faiq Shah demanded to make National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) a highly-trained and strong institute to cope with incidents, tragedies and natural calamities. He lamented that over 70 years had so far passed but this institute didn't put on modern lines.

Incidents and tragedies were happening on a routine basis in different parts of the country but things cannot move forward as rulers and officials are merely restricting statements and meaningless sittings, he added. Faiq was replying to various queries of general masses during his visit to various parts of the country on Friday. He said it is incompetence of the governments and mismanagement that a modern network wasn't crafted for this important natural disaster institution till now.

This institute was only remembered during natural calamities, he added. Shah went on to say that technology has made it easier in major work and tasks but our institutions are lacking proper relevant training, technology and passion for service. Such a picture of neglect exists in every department and authorities of the government, he added. He said people have no trust and believe in governments and their arrangements for coping with disaster situations. The ATP chairman noted failure is visible whether we talk about tax culture or contact between government and people.



PESHAWAR: PPP central leader Sharjeel Inam Memon during his visit to China Window. — F.P. photo

Financial crisis hampers studies in majority of KP universities

PESHAWAR (APP): Higher education is a rich cultural and scientific asset that prepares students for future challenges besides promoting economic, technological, and social change in society. Primarily, it is the public sector universities and higher educational institutes (HEI's) that encourage exchange of knowledge, research and innovation.

It also equips students with skills and expertise required to meet the ever changing demands of labor markets, and overseas employment and expedite engine of economic growth in Pakistan. Despite enormous significance of higher education in the country's socioeconomic development, majority of public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were currently facing financial crisis, which are adversely affecting the process of learning and research studies besides negatively impacting on students' enrollment in MS, M.Phil and PhD programs in the province.

Out of total 34 public sector universities including 24 general and 10 specialized in engineering, technology, agriculture, medical, animal husbandry and management sciences for 40,856,097 population with 1,298,278 persons per university, seven public sector universities including UET Peshawar, Gomal University DI Khan, Agriculture University Peshawar, University of Science and Technology Bannu, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Peshawar and University of Shangla were facing significant financial crunch due to pension liabilities and depleting budgets balances. KP Universities 2021-24 Report has revealed that the initial balances of budgets of 34 public sector universities and HEI's, which was Rs 6,560 million in 2021-22 has been decreased to Rs 5,316 million in 2022-23 and was further slashed to Rs 4,740 million in 2023-24.

A significant concern is predominant allocation of expenditures towards current operations, with no provision for capital expenses of funds creation due to substantial weight of establishment charges. The decrease of opening of balance budgets of these universities has not only created serious financial challenges but also encompassed financial fluctuations as well as economic stagnation for research studies, salaries and pensions.

During the last three years, the provincial grant to public sector universities which was Rs 3,962 million in 2022-23 was slashed to Rs 3276.125 million during 2023-24 and only Rs 1231.897 million were recorded during 2021-22. The financial crisis in most universities has been further deepened after nonpayment of the promised annual provincial grants of Rs 3,000 million, impacting negatively on the universities' abilities to maintain infrastructure, support academic programs, research studies and ensure quality in education disciplines.

However, the federal grants to KP universities had witnessed a substantial growth i.e. Rs 10,133.214 million in 2021-22, Rs 10,909.202 million in 2022-23 and Rs 10,954.014 million in 2023-24. But 18 universities of KP have faced decrease in federal grants including University of Agriculture

Peshawar, University of Lakki Marwat, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar, University of Haripur, Bacha Khan University Charsadda, Fata University Kohat, University of Science and Technology Bannu, Hazara University, University of Swabi, Khushal Khattak University Karak, Women University Swabi, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Dir Upper, Gomal University DI Khan, KMU, Institute of Management Sciences, Islamia College Peshawar University and University of Malakand during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Similarly, no provincial grant was received by University of Agriculture Peshawar in 2021-22 and 2023-24, University of Buner and UET Peshawar during the current fiscal year. Moreover, University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat, University of Chitral, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology Haripur and Gomal University DI Khan had received no provincial grants during 2021-22. Despite provision of Rs 20 billion grants to old universities, the situation was still dismal and regular support of Higher Education Commission was imperative to stand the recently established universities on their own feet in KP.

In the last three years, the annual receipts of these universities were Rs 46 billion while annual expenditures remained Rs 41 billion. Despite reforms and interventions, KP's universities saw only modest revenue growth of Rs 7 billion in 2021 and Rs 2 billion in 2022, thus falling short of the mandatory progressive targets.

Alike, university surpluses for 2021 and 2022 were Rs 4,113 million and Rs 3,938 million while only Rs 545 million surplus projected for current fiscal year due to over-recruitment, high inflation, lack of saving and poor performance. "The poor health of the majority of universities was exposed by the report prepared by the Governor Secretariat that needs attention of all stakeholders," said Professor Dr Muhammad Naeem, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP.

He said 20 out of 34 universities were likely to face budget deficits at the close of the current financial year while 27 universities allocate more than 50 pc of their budgets to establishment expenditures, needing realignment of priorities on war footing basis. "The opening of new universities in far flung areas for political purposes has negatively impacted research studies besides MS/MPhil and PhD programs. No student was enrolled in MS/M.Phil programs at University of Shangla, University of Agriculture Swat, Fata University and Buner University while significant decrease was witnessed in students' enrollment in undergraduate programs at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University with 4643 students in 2021-22, 4473 in 2022-23 and 4347 in 2023-24 while in University of Peshawar, only 8161, 7011 and 7675 students were registered during the said years respectively."

Dr Naeem said it was heartening that no student has been enrolled in PhD programs at University of Shangla, University of Agriculture Swat, Fata University, University of Buner, Women Universities Swabi and Mardan, University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat, University of Agriculture DI Khan and University of Chitral during the last three years. "Closure of financially unstable universities was no solution to problems rather the government needs to divert financial resources to strengthen it," he said.

The main duties of universities are to conduct research. However, the poor allocation was hampering research works at most new universities," he said, adding in fiscal year 2023-24, the total expenditure of all 34 universities reached to Rs 41 billion against which only Rs 1 billion earmarked for research initiatives that was like salt in a flour." Dr Naeem regretted that universities was spending about Rs3.2 billion per year by hiring visiting faculty, compensating thesis supervisors, engaging contingent staff and addressing miscellaneous contingencies, saying this huge amount could be diverted to research work after hiring services of existing staff, better human resource management and financial discipline in public universities.

He said assets of several universities were under performing such as Islamia College Peshawar's 224 shops in Khyber bazaar, market in Charsadda, 4000 kanals each land in Charsadda and Swabi, University of Peshawar's 3.5kilometer Baragali, PUTA Hall and resolution of assets issues of Gomal University DI Khan, Agriculture University Peshawar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Hazara University Manshera and Bannu University besides improving governance and flaws in appointment of vice chancellors.

Continuation of tax-free status of Malakand demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman of Swat National Council and prominent businessman Haji Shehzad Gujjar demanded from the government and related institutions to maintain tax-free zone status of Malakand division in order to remedy the deprivations of the people, on Friday.

The prominent businessman added that an amnesty scheme should be introduced for vehicles. So that the people of Malakand Division affected by terrorism can pay it easily. In a statement, he said that due to terrorism Malakand and especially Swat district had been greatly affected and people are very weak economically so it is the need of the hour if tax is intended to be imposed on these non-custom paid vehicles.

If so, it is necessary to bring such a scheme that these payments are made at a reasonable price can be done because these vehicles have been used by these people for two decades and now the market rate has really reduced.

KP pledge for minority education takes center stage

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a landmark gathering held at the Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), stakeholders including representatives from the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR), Sub-Committee for Minority Rights NCHR, Blue Veins, and the Civil Society Organization (CSO) support group, converged to deliberate upon the critical issue of the 2% admission minority quota compliance in higher education. The meeting aimed to outline the challenges and pave the way forward towards its effective implementation.

In addition to the discussed points and quotes, the deliberations touched upon some critical facets of the higher education system in KP. The stakeholders highlighted that this quota system, beyond just numbers, represents the commitment to a diverse, inclusive, and integrated society.

Zahir Shah, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Higher Education, underlined the Government's dedication to the cause, stating, "The KP Government is committed to showing 100 percent compliance towards the implementation of the



allocated quota for minorities. This commitment will be strictly monitored through the online Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS)."

To put things into perspective, as per the provided data, there are currently 320 colleges in KP offering Bachelor of Science (BS) and Associate Degree Program (ADP) courses. Out of these, 64 seats are specifically reserved for minority students on an annual basis. Additionally, at the intermediate level, there's a reservation of 40 seats to further the cause of minority students.

The Coordinator NCHR, reflecting upon the significance of the reservation system, commented, "It is crucial that we ensure a stringent observation of the quota for minorities. This not only ensures representation but significantly contributes to their overall improvement.

The National Commission for Human Rights stands committed to ensuring compliance at all levels."

Qamar Naseem, Program Manager Blue Veins, emphasized the importance of bridging the educational gap. He stated, "Equal education opportunities for minorities are not just about fairness. Education imparts knowledge and cultivates critical thinking, ingenuity, and empathy. It is an essential cornerstone for a more inclusive and brighter future for everyone."

Sahib Singh, a renowned minority rights activist, also shared his thoughts, expressing, "The essence of a diverse society lies in the equal opportunities it provides to all its constituents. Upholding the minority education quota is not just about adhering to a rule but nurturing the foundation of our unity in diversity."

Power to remain shutdown

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Friday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar University Grid Station on 7th October from 8:00 a.m.to 2:00p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV University Campus, Canal Town, Malakandher, Engineering, Regi, Taj

Abad, Taj Abad 2, Agriculture, Mera Achini, HMC, Ring Road, Danish Abad, Ghrib Abad, Rahat-abad 1, CMB and Abdara feeders will face inconvenience.

It said that power supply will also remain suspended from Peshawar Fort Grid Station on 8th October from 8 a.m.to 11 a.m., resultantly consumers of PMC, Basheir Abad, Karim Pura, Dabgari, Qisa Khwani, Kohati Gate,

New Allied LRH, Radio Pak, Govt House and People Mandi feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar Fort Grid Station on 8th October from 12a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of Fort Jail, Chowk yadgar, Kakshal, LRH, Secretariat, Shoba Bazar, Judicial Complex, Deans and MES feeders will face inconvenience.

Embracing self-care through breast self-examination

Dr. Shazia Asim

BREAST cancer is a significant health concern worldwide, and early detection is crucial for effective treatment and improved outcomes. Behind the statistics and risk factors lie countless personal stories of courage and resilience. By understanding the impact of this disease on both individuals and society, we can and should make continued efforts towards improved outcome of this disease by prevention and early detection.

Firstly, it is essential to acknowledge the glaring statistics surrounding breast cancer. According to global estimates, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, accounting for approximately one in four cancer diagnoses. In 2020, an estimated 684,996 women across the world died from breast cancer, out of which 56,366 were in Pakistan. These numbers are overwhelming and they emphasize the need for vigilance and awareness. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends who have been touched by this disease.

Disease like breast cancer brings a

sense of uncertainty and fear for those affected. The journey of diagnosis and treatment can be physically and emotionally challenging. The toll it takes on patients and their families cannot be taken lightly. It takes a lot of strength and resilience of individuals facing breast cancer, as they endure surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and a myriad of side effects with unwavering determination. In the fight against breast cancer, one of the most powerful weapons we have is knowledge and early detection. Breast self-examination (BSE) is a simple yet crucial practice that empowers individuals to take control of their own health and can help identify potential breast cancer symptoms at an early stage. According to several studies conducted in different cities of Pakistan only 24% of female had heard of breast self-examination. This article is an effort to emphasize the importance of BSE and provide basic information about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

Understanding Breast Cancer: Breast cancer is a malignant growth that occurs in the breast tissue, primarily in the ducts or lobules. It can affect both women and less frequently, men. While various risk factors (being

female, old age, dense breast tissue, genetic predisposition, etc.) contribute to the development of breast cancer, early detection remains one of the most effective ways to combat this disease.

The Role of Breast Self-Examination (BSE): BSE is a proactive, hands-on approach for individuals to monitor their breast health. It involves regularly checking one's breasts for any changes or abnormalities. The goal of doing a breast self-exam is recognizing what's normal for you. Knowing how your breasts typically look and feel can help you notice a change (if one were to occur). Here's why BSE is crucial:

Early Detection Saves Lives: Breast cancer, when detected at an early stage, is often more treatable, with a higher chance of complete recovery. Empowerment and Awareness: BSE empowers individuals by allowing them to actively participate in their own health. It fosters awareness of one's body and helps identify potential issues promptly. Cost-Effective: BSE doesn't require any special equipment or medical visits, making it a cost-effective method of monitoring breast health.

Performing Breast- Self Examination: Here are the steps to perform a basic BSE: Choose a regular

time: Pick a specific time each month to perform BSE, ideally a few days after your menstrual cycle ends if you menstruate.

In front of a mirror: Stand in front of a mirror with your hands on your hips. Look for any changes in breast size, shape, or contour. Check for any skin changes, such as dimpling or redness. Examine the nipples for any discharge or inversion.

Lying down: Lie down with a pillow under your right shoulder. Use your left hand to examine your right breast. Use the pads of your fingers (not tips), moving in small circles, to feel for any lumps or irregularities. Cover the entire breast, including the underarm area. Repeat the process for your left breast using your right hand.

Upward motion: Sit or stand up. Repeat the examination for both breasts using an upward motion. Pay attention to any changes or abnormalities.

Signs and Symptoms of Breast Cancer: It's important to be aware of the common signs and symptoms of breast cancer, as early detection relies on recognizing these changes: Lump or thickening: The most common symptom is a lump or thickening in the breast or underarm area. Changes

in breast Shape or Size: Any unexplained changes in breast shape or size should be examined.

Skin changes: Look for redness, dimpling, or puckering of the breast skin, which may resemble an orange peel.

Nipple abnormalities: This includes nipple discharge (other than breast milk), inversion, or a change in nipple appearance.

Breast pain: While not always a sign of breast cancer, unexplained breast pain or discomfort should be discussed with a healthcare professional.

Swelling: Swelling or inflammation in the breast, especially if it's only on one side, should be evaluated.

Rash or itchiness: Persistent rash or itchiness around the nipple or breast area requires attention.

Nipple retraction: If your nipple becomes inverted or changes position, it should be examined.

Enlarged lymph nodes: Swollen lymph nodes under the arm or around the collarbone could indicate breast cancer.

Consult a Professional: If you notice any changes, lumps, or persistent symptoms during BSE, consult a healthcare professional for further

evaluation.

Breast self-examination is a vital tool for early detection of breast cancer. By performing regular BSE and being aware of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, individuals can take control of their health and increase the likelihood of detecting breast cancer at an early, treatable stage. Remember, if you notice any changes or abnormalities during BSE, don't hesitate to seek professional medical advice promptly. Early detection can save lives and improve the chances of successful treatment.

Breast self-examination isn't just a routine task; it's an act of self-care. It's about acknowledging the incredible value of your own life and well-being. By regularly examining your breasts, you are not just checking for lumps or changes - you are affirming your right to a healthy future. In closing, I urge you to make breast self-examination a part of your regular routine. Encourage your friends, family members, and colleagues to do the same. Let's foster a culture of self-care and awareness, not just during Breast Cancer Awareness Month but throughout the entire year. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we love and in our own lives as well.



In brief

Two killed in the name of honour Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: As many as two killed persons were killed in the name of honor while alleged murderer arrested along with weapon used in the offense in the premises Shah Dehari police station, on Friday. Police has registered.

First Information Report in this regard while Station House Officer (SHO) Fazal Rahim Shah Dehari said that Syed Bacha shot dead his sister-in-law Iqbal Begum, and Akbar Khan in his house in the hilly area of Mia Bailla at tehsil Kabal, Swat. After the incident, Shah Dheri police acted and arrested the accused Syed Bacha. In the police report the suspect had told the police that his sister-in-law had illicit relations with Akbar Khan because of whom he shot them both. According to the report, the victim's husband has been living in Saudi Arabia for two years. The police registered a case and arrested the accused while further investigation is going on. According to a non-governmental organization "The Awakening", 233 people were killed in the name of 'honour' in Swat in the last seven years. According to the report, 224 women and 18 men are among the dead. According to The Awakening, since 2012, they have been working on cases of domestic disputes, honor killings, sexual violence and suicides in Swat. The Awakening collects data on these incidents from its members, police, newspapers, journalists and lawyers.

Teacher's Day observed F.P. Report

BUNER: The district education department in connection the International Teacher's Day organized a function here at the Government Sentinel Model High School while Pak Army colonel Mohammad Adnan was chief guest. Assistant District Education Officer ADEO Umar Farooq the school principal Abdur Rashed the stage secretary Wali Zada with staff members and large number of students participated. On the occasion the students decorated teachers with flowers to express love and respect. The students presented Hamd O Naat Sharief and delivered speeches in respect of teachers and best appreciated their due role in education and character building. The colonel the principal the stage secretary also delivered speeches and best presented the key role of teachers and urged upon students for due respect and love like their parents so as to grow responsible citizens. The chief guest colonel Mohammad Adnan in his concluding speech said that Almighty Allah was given the best status of Muallim (teacher) to holly prophet Muhammad PBUH.

Kunda culture to be eliminated F.P. Report

MARDAN: Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai on Friday said that the elimination of electricity theft and Kunda culture would be ensured and no obstruction would be tolerated in that regard. Mardan and Swabi have shown better performance in the campaign against power theft which is encouraging. Commissioner said this in a high-level meeting at his office to review the campaign against power theft. Additional Commissioner Naeem Akhtar, DC Mardan Captain Retired Abdul Rahman, DC Swabi Gohar Khan, DPO Mardan Najibur Rehman, SP Swabi, SE Pesco Muhammad Zubair, Chief Engineer Akhtar Hameed, Mardan Chamber of Commerce President Zahir Shah Gadun Chambe President and other concerned officials attended.

IGP opens Command & control center in Mardan

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan on Friday inaugurated Modern Command and Control Center in Police Station Saddar along with other projects including the computerized resource management system and the Ababeel Force comprised of 50-motorcycle riders for urban policing in city areas.

The Ababeel Force would deliver its duties in various busiest bazaars of the city to keep check on occurrence of crimes and other illegal activities. Talking to journalists after inauguration of the said security related schemes, the IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan claimed that the modern command and control system was consisted of 200 cameras, adding that those cameras had been fixed and installed on 34 busiest squares in different bazaars so that to monitor and carry out supervision of the entire Mardan city.

IGP was of the view that the use of modern technology would not only help in identification of accused as well as it would also reduce crimes to a great extent. "The 'command and control center' is the own project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, he claimed, adding that this project has also been launched in D I Khan, Haripur, Kohat and Nowshera districts," he maintained. Besides, he said that uniform and other goods of police force had been digitalized in the resource management system.

ABM equips Microbiology lab with modern kits at AWKUM: Association of Biorisk Management (ABM) & Health Security Partners have installed equipment and kits at Graduate Research Lab of Department of Microbiology. The relevant officials of Abdul Wali



Khan University Mardan on Friday said that ABM had conducted 5 days training along with two days refresher courses on biosafety for faculty, staff and students.

They said that the activity was followed by purchase and installation of high tech scientific equipments, biometrics devices, CCTV, solar system and several kits. Prof. Dr Zahoor Ul Haq- the vice chancellor of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan- was chief guest of the fifth-day event who inaugurated the lab.

Dr. Hazir Rahman, Chairman, Department of Microbiology briefed about the ongoing academic and research activities. Dr. Hazir indebted the efforts of ABM Team, Dr. Asgher Ali (Executive Director), Dr. Muhammad Tayab (Program Manager), Dr. Zakir Hussain (Program Coordinator) and Dr. Arshad Jafar (Program Coordinator). He especially acknowledged Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Arshad Jafar for remarkable support and guidance with outmost professionalism. He expressed his gratitude to Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zahoor ul Haq for the motivation and support.

Dr. Muhammad Tayab briefed about ABM activities in the field of biosafety and biosecurity. He extended ABM commitment towards AWKUM scientific community for joint research venture in health security, zoonosis and infectious diseases. Prof. Dr. Zahoor ul Haq, appreciated the joint venture of ABM and Microbiology department. He shared with students about the recent

performance of AWKUM in global ranking, new developmental initiatives and launching of new students support services. He was committed on spending more on the establishment of Institute of Allied Health Sciences. Lastly, he extended his support to bring such collaboration to help in strengthening of research infrastructure and ultimately capacity building of AWKUM.

Woman purchase case drop scene: The case of the woman Fazilat Bibi belonging to Rustam, there was a drop scene of selling the affected woman Fazilat Bibi. When the police cordon is tight. The parents of the second husband took the woman to the police station.

According to the details, the resident of Rustam village Bazar, a woman named Fazilat Bibi, whose other name is Kainat. The video went viral on social media few days ago. In the video, Fazilat Bibi had said that I am already married to a person named Parvez and I have two children. Now the said persons want to forcefully marry me by selling me to another person for 40 lakh rupees. In this regard, FIR was formally registered in Dargai Malakand police station by a person named Mohib Ullah.

The victim woman was present in a house in Swat Matta area, while according to SHO Dargai Muhammad Shams Khan, Fazilat Bibi is currently in police custody. FIR is also being registered, the investigation is going on regarding the sale of the victim, Fazilat Bibi, whose other name is Kainat.

Jewelry association asked to take advantage of FBR's extension date

F.P. Report

NOWSHERA: The Jewelry Association Nowshera district has been asked by the authorities to take advantage of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s extension date of income tax returns and submit it by October 31, 2023 as no further extension would be granted.

In this connection, an important meeting between Assistant Commissioner Income Tax Nowshera, Tufail Jaber and Jeweler Association was held at Nowshera district. The Income Tax authorities appraised the office bearers of the association about

significance of filing of income tax returns and its utility in the country's development process.

He asked the office bearers of the association to take full advantage of the extended date and file their income tax returns upto October 31, 2023. Tufail Jaber said holding of the meeting with jewelers was a part of the awareness campaign launched in Nowshera on the directives of Zaffar Iqbal Khan Chief Commissioner Regional Tax Office Peshawar, Shaheed Mehboob Commissioner IR Mardan Zone Mardan and Muhammad Alam Additional Commissioner

IR Mardan Zone Mardan to sensitize people especially well-off families about significance of filing of income tax returns.

He said the filers of income tax returns would get enormous financial benefits in taxes while purchasing properties, vehicles and others business. "Taxes are considered to be very crucial for the economy of any country to finance its social projects besides minimum dependency on foreign loans," he said. Assuring full cooperation with FBR, the association reiterated to file income tax returns in large number by the said date.

Agri's dept deployed teams for smog control F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Agriculture Department has constituted special teams to overcome spread of smog and campaign for creating awareness among framers to contain burn of residuary of crops has been launched in the district. This was stated by the Deputy Director Agriculture Hafizabad Muhammad Yousaf while talking to journalists.

Deputy Director said that government has imposed ban to burn remaining of paddy and other crops to avoid spread of smog and no one would allow to violate directions of the government. He said that on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warraich, special teams to agriculture department were monitoring all areas of Tehsil Hafizabad and Tehsil Pindi Bhattian particularly along both sides of Motorways and these teams were also persuading the farmers to refrain from burning residuary of crops.

He said that board of revenue and agriculture departments were supervising burn of remaining of crops through satellite and smoke of paddy and other crops was creating smog and environment pollution which was hazardous for human life as well as damaged organic matter of land. He warned the farmers to refrain burn of remaining of crops otherwise strict action would be taken against them including registration of cases.

Teachers Day observed: Teachers Day observed in the district Hafizabad. In this connection, Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Sohail Azhar Khan visited government double section girl high school Hafizabad, government boys higher secondary school Hafizabad, government special education school Hafizabad and presented banquets to teachers for according rich tribute and he lauded key role of teachers in national progress and prosperity of the country.

On this occasion, CEO Education said that object to mark Slam Teacher Day is acknowledge educational, literary and character building services of the teachers because all development in the world was result of hard working of teachers. He said that due to abilities and experience of teachers, our educated youth serving in diverse filed of life across the world. Meanwhile, a student with disability of government special education school Hafizabad Numan Bashir grabbed first position in annual matric examination.

QWP demands relief for public in electricity bills



F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Friday demanded the government to conduct an audit of the agreements reached with the independent power producers as he believed the deals were mainly investor-friendly. He maintained that the government should address the issue of the line losses to give relief to the bill-paying consumers instead of burdening them.

Advising the people, particularly the youth to think about the country's future before casting their votes, he said the ones, who had raised hollow slogans and made empty pledges, left the country in dire financial straits due to their incompetence and lack of vision. QWP chairman further said that the Pakhtun leadership should be taken into confidence before making any policy about Afghanistan as it affected the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Addressing a gathering at Tangi tehsil in Charsadda district, he said that the government should seek input from the Pakhtun leadership as coming up with a policy lacking their suggestions later on created problems.

Commenting on the fresh increase in the power tariff, Aftab Sherpao demanded the government to conduct an audit of the agreements

reached with the independent power producers as he believed the deals were mainly investor-friendly. He maintained that the government should address the issue of the line losses to give relief to the bill-paying consumers instead of burdening them. Advising the people, particularly the youth to think about the country's future before casting their votes, he said the ones, who had raised hollow slogans and made empty pledges, left the country in dire financial straits due to their incompetence and lack of vision.

About the freshly conducted delimitation, the QWP leader said that ideally this exercise should be conducted a year before the holding of the general election so that the candidates had enough time to reach out to the electorate. He remarked that at present the political parties had little time left for canvassing. He maintained that some political parties had reservations

about the fresh delimitation due to the fact that candidates would have less time to run their election campaigns.

Though the Election Commission of Pakistan has announced the holding of the election in January next year, the caretaker government was yet to create an environment conducive to the conduct of the polls. He said that the law and order was also deteriorating hampering the efforts by the candidates to run their election campaign.

The QWP leader said though the country's economy was stabilised to some extent, it was still facing tough economic challenges and it would take considerable time and effort to turn around the economy. He said the gulf between the cash-strapped KP province and the centre was widening as it was not getting its due share in resources, underscoring the need for collective wisdom to address the challenges.

JI leader to deliver lecture on women's issues

F. P. Report

LOWER DIR: Hundreds of the Jamaat-i-Islami male and female workers and local residents attended the 5th day of a 'Fahm ul Quran' class held at the Timergara rest house ground here on Thursday. Prominent religious scholar, Maulana Muhammad Ismail, who is also the JI nominated candidate for NA 6 Lower Dir, delivered lectures on various topics of the Holy Quran.

The JI district chief Izazul Mulk said the class would continue for a week while a collective prayer would be offered at the end. He said that Maulana Ismail would deliver a lecture on women's issues and its solution according to the Quranic teachings on Saturday (today). He said that separate seating arrangements for female participants had been

made. The JI local leadership has asked local families to attend the class along with women. The class would last till Sunday.

Meanwhile the Timergara assistant commissioner Dr Nida Iqbal attended a workshop on communication skills for better performance at a private educational institution here on Friday. The Lower Dir youth affairs' department arranged the event which was also addressed by the school principal Kamran Khan. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Nida Iqbal said that good communication and presentation skills were essential to let others know bitterly and understand the information more accurately.

She said that poor presentation always led to frequent misunderstandings and frustration. She appreciated the efforts of the youth affairs' department and said the

administration would continue to support the engagement of youth in productive activities. The district youth officer Malik Shahzad tariq distributed shields and certificates among the guests and some of the participants.

Teachers' demand: The Insaaf Teachers' Association (ITA) district president Tahir Altaf Sarhadi on Friday demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and the ministry of finance to accept genuine demands of the schools' teachers.

Talking to local journalists at Talash, he said that teachers of various cadres were observing class boycotts on each Thursday once in a week that badly affected students' studies. He said the previous PTI government had approved teachers' upgradation but the caretaker government was unnecessarily delaying the matter.

JF-17 Thunder - The road to self reliance

Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan, HI(M), SBT (Retd)

THE design and development of a fighter aircraft is a cutting-edge niche capability exclusive to a few nations. The philosophy behind the JF-17 project was to develop a lightweight, single-engine, multi-role combat aircraft that could replace PAF's ageing fighter fleet while fulfilling the dynamic requirements of an evolving battlespace and also propel the nation on the road to self-reliance and thereby, hedge against geo-political tectonics.

The JF-17 project is a cross-industry collaboration in design, development and production spanning over three decades. China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) are the primary drivers behind the co-development and co-production of the aircraft. Pakistan Air Force exercised the most intimate interface across the project by extending its expertise, test pilots and engineers; securing the unique position of being one of the few air forces of the world involved in co-designing, co-developing and co-producing a fighter aircraft of the highest international standards.

The continuous evolution of the project has seen the fielding of three variants which speaks of the immense potential of the aircraft. The JF-17 Block 1 was the first version followed by, Block 2 with air-to-air refuelling capability, enhanced weapons and avionics. Decades of experience in maintaining and operating

Western aircraft immensely contributed to iteratively refining the design of JF-17 aircraft; ultimately leading to its latest version.

The JF-17 block 3, also hailed as a Gen 4+ platform, is the most advanced version with additional hardpoints, more sophisticated weapons and integrated modular avionics including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, an Internal EW suite, Helmet mounted display (HMD) and excellent Man-Machine-Interface (MMI) with the WMMC (Weapon Mission Management Computer) forming the heart of the processing architecture. The AESA radar has the advantage of higher resolution, longer range, faster scanning, lower probability of detection and greater jamming resistance while the integrated EW suite allows effective mission execution in a highly contested environment. Options for mating with legacy western avionics and sub-systems are also retained.

The JF-17 can perform various roles in different scenarios. In Counter Air Operations, the aircraft can engage adversary aircraft using its BVRAAM for long-range interceptions and advanced Imaging Infrared missiles in dogfight mode. The aircraft possesses excellent SEAD/DEAD capability and can also employ satellite, inertial, optical and laser-guided bombs for day/night precision engagement in surface attack roles. The JF-17 can engage enemy ships and naval vessels using its long-range dedicated anti-ship missiles with sea-skimming capability.

The JF-17 can also conduct



aerial reconnaissance missions using its onboard sensors and equipment, such as the KLJ-7A AESA fire-control radar, the KG-600 electronic warfare suite, and the ASELPOD advanced targeting pod. The data collated from its sensors can be shared and transmitted to other platforms and ground stations using an indigenous high-fidelity data link system for enhanced situational awareness and net-centricity.

The aircraft is robust and resilient, with high structural strength translating into advanced aerodynamic performance. The wing leading-edge extension (LEX) and leading-edge flaps (LEF) considerably enhance lift and manoeuvrability at high angles of attack. Quadraplex digital fly-by-wire (FBW) system provides computerized flight controls and reduces the pilot's workload. The FBW system also allows the JF-17 to perform high-g

manoeuvres and maintain stability at low speeds and high altitudes. The aircraft's versatility is a testimony to its adaptability, allowing Russian or Chinese origin engines, thereby providing additional flexibility and catering for a wider range of operational requirements.

The JF-17 has transformed into the backbone of the PAF's ready and arrayed fleet with over 140 aircraft in service. The successful execution of PAF's 'QPQ+' response against India on 27 February 2019, in the post-Pulwama skirmish, has earned JF-17 accolades for a proven battle-tested machine.

JF-17 aircraft truly stands out as a maintainable and reliable solution within its budgetary constraints. In a landscape where cost-effectiveness is paramount, the JF-17 shines, offering remarkable value for its capabilities. JF-17 aircraft is 'custom built' by PAF (a reputed Air Force of the world) to afford

operational choices in the contemporary Air Environment, which is becoming complex and challenging by the day. Due to these outstanding capabilities combined as an affordable and cost-effective package, vis-à-vis its peer competitors, the weapon system is being actively pursued by other nations. It was exported to Nigeria in 2021 and is successfully operated by the Nigerian Air Force.

The reliability and spare supportability of the weapon system are augmented through indigenization, joint partnerships and redundant supply lines. The aircraft enjoys an excellent safety record comparable to any other fourth-generation fighter aircraft and mirrors the high training and professional standards of the PAF. The JF-17 is also constantly being upgraded and improved to enhance its safety features by incorporating modern proactive maintenance practices. The weapon system is equipped with a maintenance-friendly design, coupled with the ability to proactively troubleshoot errors through Integrated Survivable Radio (ISR), which enhances operational efficiency and minimizes downtime.

PAF always strives to employ the most advanced techniques for grooming its human resources. It trains to outwit, outfight and outshoot the enemy. PAF also conducts joint exercises with other armed forces as well as friendly countries and regularly participates in national and international forums and competitions to showcase its capabilities and achievements. This culture of excellence and inno-

vation, which encourages its personnel to constantly improve their skills and knowledge is continuously honed through institutions and centres of research and development specialising in various aspects of air power.

Consequently, the aircraft has performed in the air shows at Zhuhai, Dubai, Farnborough, Paris, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the Turkish Centennial Celebrations. The aircraft has also participated in the Shaheen exercises between Pakistan and China, Anatolian Eagle Turkey, Spears of Victory lines. The aircraft enjoys an excellent safety record comparable to any other fourth-generation fighter aircraft and mirrors the high training and professional standards of the PAF.

The JF-17 project is the quintessential icon of an undertaking that shapes aspirations and has become part of an identity-forming exercise in national endeavour and perseverance. The unconditional success of the JF-17 program follows not only through its operational dividends on the road to self-reliance but also as a symbol of immense pride for the entire nation. The program has established Pakistan as an important player in the aerospace industry and shall prove to be the kernel for further progress in the field.

Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan, HI(M), SBT (Retd) is the President of Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad & is also serving as Advisor on Aviation to the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has served as Chief Project Director (CPD) JF-17 and Chairman Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra. He can be approached at cass.thinkers@casstt.com



US-China tech war RISC-V chip tech emerges as new battleground

BEIJING (Reuters): In a new front in the US-China tech war, President Joe Biden's administration is facing pressure from some lawmakers to restrict American companies from working on a freely available chip technology widely used in China — a move that could upend how the global technology industry collaborates across borders. At issue is RISC-V, pronounced "risk five," an open-source technology that competes with costly proprietary technology from British semiconductor and software design company Arm Holdings. RISC-V can be used as a key ingredient for anything from a smartphone chip to advanced processors for artificial intelligence.

Some lawmakers - including two Republican House of Representatives committee chairmen, Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democratic Senator Mark Warner — are urging Biden's administration to take action regarding RISC-V, citing national security grounds. The lawmakers expressed concerns that Beijing is exploiting a culture of open collaboration among American companies to advance its own semiconductor industry, which could erode the current US lead in the chip field and help China modernize its military. Their comments represent the first major effort to put constraints on work by US companies on RISC-V.

Representative Mike Gallagher, chairman of the House Select Committee on China, said in a statement to Reuters that the Commerce Department needs to "require any American person or company to receive an export license prior to engaging with PRC (People's Republic of China) entities on RISC-V technology." Such calls to regulate RISC-V are the latest in the US-China battle over chip technology that escalated last year with sweeping export restrictions that the Biden administration has told China it will update this month.

"The CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is abusing RISC-V to get around US dominance of the intellectual property needed to design chips. US persons should not be supporting a PRC tech transfer strategy that serves to degrade US export control laws," Representative Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement to Reuters. McCaul said he

wants action from the Bureau of Industry and Security, the part of the Commerce Department that oversees export-control regulations, and would pursue legislation if that does not materialise.

The bureau "is constantly reviewing the technology landscape and threat environment, and continually assessing how best to apply our export control policies to protect national security and safeguard core technologies," a Commerce Department spokesperson said in a statement. "Communist China is developing open-source chip architecture to dodge our sanctions and grow its chip industry," Rubio said in a statement to Reuters. "If we don't broaden our export controls to include this threat, China will one day surpass us as the global leader in chip design."

"I fear that our export-control laws are not equipped to deal with the challenge of open-source software - whether in advanced semiconductor designs like RISC-V or in the area of AI - and a dramatic paradigm shift is needed," Warner said in a statement to Reuters. RISC-V is overseen by a Swiss-based nonprofit foundation that coordinates efforts among for-profit companies to develop the technology.

The RISC-V technology came from labs at the University of California, Berkeley, and later benefited from funding by the Pentagon's Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Its creators have compared it to Ethernet, USB and even the internet, which are freely available and draw on contributions from around the world to make innovation faster and cheaper. Executives from China's Huawei Technologies have embraced RISC-V as a pillar of that nation's progress in developing its own chips. But the United States and its allies also have jumped on the technology, with chip giant Qualcomm working with a group of European automotive firms on RISC-V chips and Alphabet's Google, saying it will make Android, the world's most popular mobile operating system, work on RISC-V chips. Qualcomm declined to comment. Its executives said in August they believe RISC-V will speed up chip innovation and transform the tech industry. Google did not respond to a request for comment.

India scientists working on early warning system

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Scientists and government authorities were working on an early warning system for glacial floods at a Himalayan lake in north-east India when it broke its banks this week with deadly consequences. Mountainous Sikkim state plunged into chaos as floods spurred by heavy rain and an avalanche killed at least 40 people. It was one of the worst disasters in the region in 50 years, and dozens remained missing. The first part of the system, a camera to monitor Lhonak Lake's level and weather instruments, was installed last month, officials involved in the project told Reuters.

If fully operational, the warning system could have given people more time to evacuate, scientists said. Details of the Lhonak Lake warning system have not previously been reported. "It's quite absurd, really," said geoscientist Simon Allen of the University of Zurich who is involved with the project. "The fact it happened just two weeks after our team was there was completely bad luck".

He said they planned to add a tripwire sensor that would trigger if the lake was about to burst. That would typically be connected to an alert system that would warn residents to immediately evacuate to higher ground. "The Indian government was not prepared to do that this year, so it was being done as a two-step process," he said.

The monitoring devices were supposed to send data to authorities, but the camera lost power for an unknown reason in late September, according to a source at the Swiss embassy, which supported the project. As climate change warms high mountain regions, many communities are facing dangerous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Lakes holding water from melted glaciers can overflow and burst, sending torrents rushing down mountain valleys.

More than 200 such lakes now pose a very high hazard to Himalayan communities in India, Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bhutan, according to 2022 research. In recent years, glacial flood early warning sys-

tems have been deployed in China, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bhutan. The early warning systems at Lhonak Lake, and another at nearby Shako Cho in Sikkim, were to be among the first in India for glacial lake outburst floods, sources told Reuters.

Scientists have for years said the two lakes are at risk of outburst floods, but the design process and search for funding caused time to pass without progress. India plans to install early warning systems at several other glacial lakes, said Kamal Kishore, a senior official at India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

He did not answer further questions on the Lhonak project. However, Farooq Azam, a glaciologist at the Indian Institute of Technology Indore, noted that even if the system had been in place, the potential benefits were not always clearcut. "Such kind of events are so fast that even if we have some kind of early warning system we may only gain some minutes, maybe an hour," he said.

Ethnic Armenians who fled or home, decry Azerbaijan

N A G O R N O - KARABAKH (Agencies): Yerevan, Armenia — Alisa Ghazaryan was full of excitement and nerves as she started her first year at university in Stepanakert, having moved from her village home in Nagorno-Karabakh. But just as term began, Azerbaijani forces began shelling the city, which Baku knows as Khankendi. As they carried out what they cast as an "anti-terrorist operation", the 18-year-old took shelter in the university's basement.

"I was born there, I grew up there," she said of her home. "When I was there, I felt completely free." Until recently, Nagorno-Karabakh, a long-troubled mountainous enclave, was home to about 120,000 ethnic Armenians who dominated the region. Since Baku's lightning offensive, more

than 100,000, including Alisa, have fled to Armenia. Despite assurances by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to protect their civil rights, many say they feared persecution after years of mutual distrust and open hatred between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Several displaced people Al Jazeera spoke to in Armenia said they were expecting a massacre. According to ethnic Armenian officials, at least 200 people were killed in Baku's assault, including 10 civilians, and more than 400 were wounded. Baku played down the claims of civilian casualties but acknowledged "collateral damage" was possible.

Azerbaijan, which announced that 192 of its soldiers were killed in the operation, said its blitz was aimed at disarming ethnic Armenian separatists in the

region, parts of which now resemble a ghost town. The assault came after a 10-month blockade, effectively imposed by Azerbaijan after it closed the Lachin corridor to Armenia, preventing the flow of food, fuel and medicine. Baku had accused Armenia of funneling weapons to separatists through the winding, mountain road, a claim denied by both parties.

The local unrecognised government surrendered after 24 hours of fighting. Aliyev said his "iron fist" restored Azerbaijan's sovereignty. Late last month, Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenian officials said the region will cease to exist as a self-styled breakaway republic on January 1 next year. Alisa and her family fled through the Lachin corridor, which has since been reopened.

European Union leaders meet in Granada

BRUSSELS (Reuters): European Union leaders are in the southern Spanish city of Granada for an informal summit focused on the 27-member bloc's enlargement, disagreements over migration and economic competitiveness. Friday's summit comes a day after leaders of the European Political Community, a forum of more than 40 countries across the continent, met in the city and pledged their continued support for Ukraine in the presence of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The pledge was made as fears grow in Ukraine that political turmoil in the United States could delay or prevent further aid to the country in its fight against Russia's invasion.

A rift between Ukraine and Poland over Ukrainian grain exports has also raised questions over whether the EU's support to Kyiv is waning. But EU leaders reassured Zelenskyy that the bloc's long-term support will continue. In an invitation letter sent to the EU's 27 leaders before Friday's summit, EU Council President Charles Michel said the meeting would be "a time to look back and critically assess progress in strengthening our European sovereignty, identifying our achievements as well as areas that still require our political action".

He added that "it is also the time to look forward, identifying the future challenges". An issue that has been a challenge for the bloc to agree on has been enlargement. Eight countries have official EU candidate status: Turkey, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Georgia and Kosovo are potential candidate countries.

"Enlargement means that the candidate countries have reforms to implement. They know what they need to do. And on the EU side, we need to get prepared. This is the first time in many years that you have a high-level debate on such a fundamental topic and such fundamental decisions," Michel told reporters in Granada on arriving at the summit.

Michel said new member countries should be welcomed in by 2030. Last month, the presidents of Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania also said that enlargement should happen "not later than 2030". But EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has insisted that "accession is merit-based". She says the progress these countries make in aligning their laws with EU rules and standards should dictate the pace of membership rather than some arbitrary deadline. The bureaucratic pace of aligning with thousands of EU rules can sometimes take well over a half-dozen years.

Nigeria's leader faces new challenge

ABUJA (AP): Nigeria's main opposition said it will present new evidence to support its court challenge seeking to overturn this year's presidential election, saying it can show the declared winner provided faked academic credentials to authorities.

President Bola Tinubu forged a diploma from an American university that he presented to Nigeria's election commission before the February vote and should be removed from office, first runner-up Atiku Abubakar and his lawyer alleged in a briefing with reporters. They cited records obtained from the university in a U.S. court hearing and shared with The Associated Press.

Abubakar previously has argued Tinubu should not be president because the election commission did not follow due process in announcing the winner and Tinubu was not qualified to run, citing allegations of dual citizenship and of a criminal indictment in the United States. Tinubu has denied those claims. He did not comment on the new allegation, but his spokesman denied it. "A man cannot forge the academic records he possesses," Temitope Ajayi, Tinubu's media aide, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Trump told Australian businessman US N-sub secrets

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Former US president Donald Trump shared classified information about US nuclear submarines with an Australian businessman shortly after he left office, in a meeting at his Florida private members club Mar-a-Lago, US media said. The New York Times, citing unnamed sources, identified the businessman as billionaire Anthony Pratt, who heads one of the world's largest packaging companies.

ABC News, which first revealed the story, said Pratt later shared sensitive details about the US submarines with "scores of others, including more than a dozen foreign officials, several of his own employees, and a handful of journalists". Sources told the Times that Trump's disclosures "potentially endangered the US nuclear fleet".

Federal prosecutors already investigating Trump for holding classified material at Mar-a-Lago after he left office, interviewed Pratt twice about the incident, the reports said. Pratt may now be called by prosecutors to testify against Trump in his classified documents trial, which is due to start next May in Florida. Pratt met Trump at his Palm Beach club in April 2021, and told the ex-president he thought



Australia should start buying its submarines from the US, ABC reported.

In response, Trump allegedly told the businessman the exact number of nuclear warheads US submarines routinely carry, and precisely how close they can get to Russian submarines without being detected, the news outlet said. Aside from the classified documents case, Trump faces three other indictments: one

federal and one in Georgia over his efforts to overturn his election loss and stay in power, and one in New York stemming from election-eve hush money payments in 2016 to a porn star.

Trump is currently on trial in New York on charges of wildly and fraudulently inflating the value of his assets so as to get better terms from banks and insurance companies.

US offers no new cash to climate fund

PARIS (Agencies): The United States offered no additional funds to the world's largest climate fund overshadowing fresh support for nations most vulnerable to global warming and infuriating campaigners. The Green Climate Fund (GCF), seen as a key element of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, funnels grants and loans for adaptation and mitigation projects, mostly in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America and the Caribbean.

It plays a part in the promise by rich countries to supply \$100 billion of climate financing to poorer nations every year, which has already missed an initial 2020 deadline. Financing is one of the most contentious topics in international climate diplomacy as the world scrambles to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

Developing countries least responsible for climate change are seeking support from richer polluting nations to adapt to the increasingly ferocious and expensive consequences of extreme weather, and for their transitions to cleaner energy sources. The issue will play a major role in crunch UN talks, known as COP28, beginning in Dubai on November 30.

More than \$9.3 billion for 2024-2027 was pledged by 25 countries donor conference in the German city of Bonn. The total is set to rise as five participants prepare to make announcements soon, the German government said. But the number currently falls short of the \$10 billion countries pledged in the GCF's last replenishment cycle for 2020-2023.

Billions of dollars came from pledges already announced by Britain, France and Germany. The United States did not announce a new contribution, citing "uncertainty in our budget processes". The US House of Representatives is in limbo after far-right Republicans helped to oust its speaker Kevin McCarthy weeks ahead of a new funding deadline that could shut down the federal government. Washington emphasised its "strong and steadfast confidence" in the GCF, according to a statement read out on behalf of Alexia Latortue, Assistant Secretary for International Trade and Development.

The United States pledged around \$3 billion for the fund's first resource mobilisation in 2014 under former president Barack Obama, but his successor Donald Trump gave nothing five years later. Australia, one of the

world's biggest polluters, announced it was rejoining the fund after withdrawing under former conservative leader Scott Morrison, while Israel said it would make its first contribution.

But campaigners denounced what they saw as a lack of action by countries that reiterated pre-existing pledges or made no new efforts. "The silence of the United States, even as it participates on the GCF board and shapes policies without meeting its financial obligations, is glaring and inexcusable," said Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International. The total "is nowhere near commensurate with the urgency this crisis and climate justice demands", said Erika Lennon of the Center for International Environmental Law.

"The United States has failed in its responsibility to provide the finance needed to address the crisis it's largely caused," Stephen Cornelius, deputy global lead for climate and energy at WWF International, warned that "governments are not backing their words with actions" ahead of COP28. The GCF has laid out a "50by30" vision to manage \$50 billion by 2030 -- almost triple its current capital of \$17 billion -- and invest more through a

decade it sees as critical for climate action.

Rolling out solar panels in Pakistan and making Philippine agriculture more resilient in the face of unpredictable weather are among projects that have been approved. The GCF currently has more than 100 implementing partners and various financial instruments to drive public and private investment in developing countries. Often burdened by debt and high interest rate costs, poorer nations face daunting financial obstacles to their environmental and development goals.

Calls have grown for debt relief and reform of the global financial landscape, long shaped by institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"Money is not everything but does go a long way" to addressing climate impacts, said Prime Minister Mark Brown of the Cook Islands, a Pacific island nation acutely exposed to rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

The UN's Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance estimated last year that developing nations would need more than \$2 trillion a year by 2030 to fund climate resilience and development priorities.

Families slam 'racist' Danish law to clear immigrant 'ghettos'

LONDON (Agencies): Outraged residents say they will resist a "racist" Danish law which allows large numbers of people to be evicted from social housing in areas where the authorities say there are too many immigrants. "It's straight-up racism," said Jawad, a doctor from Mjølnerparken in central Copenhagen, which is surrounded by rapidly gentrifying areas.

"Even though I was born and raised in Denmark, in the statistics I'm a non-Western immigrant," the 29-year-old, whose parents were born in Pakistan, told AFP. Denmark passed a controversial law in 2018 to redevelop poor urban "ghettos" with high concentrations of immigrant populations by 2030. It involves rebuilding and renovating rundown estates and changing the social mix by renting at least 60 per cent of the homes at market rates.

For decades, Denmark has had one of Europe's most restrictive immigration policies, with populist right-wing parties often stoking a n t i - i m m i g r a n t rhetoric. "Our apartments are not for sale!" said bann

ners strung across Mjølnerparken, with locals saying that using their ethnicity to decide where they can live is discriminatory and illegal. Eight out of 10 people in Mjølnerparken are deemed "non-Western", with people from non-EU countries in the Balkans and Eastern Europe also falling into that category.

The Mjølnerparken residents are suing Denmark, with the European Court of Justice due to rule in the coming months. Thomas Monberg, spokesman on housing issues for the ruling left-wing Social Democrats, insisted that the aim of the law — which will compel 11,000 people to move — is good. "We don't want to force people out," he said. "We want to give them a better life so they can have the same opportunities as any other Dane," he told AFP.

But for Jawad, the so-called "ghetto law" is emblematic of Denmark's relationship with immigrants. Instead of improving integration, it has left many feeling hopeless. "A lot of people here have just given up hope of the government

actually being on their side," he said. The law aims to eradicate "parallel societies" in poor neighbourhoods that often struggle with crime.

This means that 295 of Mjølnerparken's 560 homes will have to be replaced by market-rate rentals — which are out of reach for most locals. Experts say some 11,000 people across Denmark will have to leave their apartments and find new housing elsewhere in the next seven years. Majken Felle, the head of Mjølnerparken's renters' association, said that before the law was passed residents had agreed to be temporarily relocated to allow the renovation of their apartments.

Even if they could afford to return after the work, they've been strongly encouraged not to, she said. To avoid being moved around several times, many agreed to leave the neighbourhood, which is surrounded by some of Copenhagen's most desirable areas. "Even if they want to stay, some families said to themselves, 'There's too much uncertainty, I can't live like this for years,

Maybe it would be better to move and get on with my life,'" Felle added.

"Residents are living in a construction site even though they're paying rent, it's scandalous," said Hassan, a 25-year-old raised in Mjølnerparken, who left because of the renovation work but wants to move back once it is done.

The "ghetto" law is in stark contrast with Denmark's image as an "egalitarian, democratic society with strong social and economic systems", said Susheela Math, a lawyer from the Open Society Justice Initiative which is helping residents bring their case. Yet in this wealthy Scandinavian nation, their fight has gone largely ignored.

"Eighty per cent of the Danish population doesn't have any personal contact with ethnic minorities," said sociologist Aydin Soei, an expert on disadvantaged areas, "and an even smaller number of Danes have set foot in one of these areas". Rather than helping integration, he argued, the law had left many feeling like "second-class citizens".

21 dead after Italian mishap

ROME (Reuters): At least 21 people died and 18 were injured after a bus carrying tourists to a campground crashed off an overpass near Venice in northern Italy and caught fire, city officials said. The bus veered off the road and fell close to railway lines in the district of Mestre, which is connected to Venice by a bridge.

The cause of the accident was unclear. Venice city councillor Renato Boraso said one line of enquiry was that the driver, a 40-year-old Italian

who was among those killed, had been taken ill before the crash. "It's an appalling tragedy, the city is in mourning," Boraso told Sky Italia television.

He said the coach had been carrying 40 passengers, of whom 21 had died and 18 were injured. The death toll could rise because several of those hurt were in a critical condition, he added. Venice's city hall said the injured people had been taken to nearby hospitals, with four in a serious

condition. Officials said the vehicle fell around 15 metres (50 feet) onto electricity lines and caught fire at around 7:45 p.m. local time (1745 GMT). "It's an apocalyptic scene. I am speechless," Venice's Mayor Luigi Brugnaro posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Five of the victims were Ukrainians and one was German, said Venice's prefect Michele Di Bari, the local representative of the interior ministry.

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Policy shift, disaster creation to disaster prevention

CARETAKER Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday inaugurated the newly established state-of-the-art National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) to help in coordinated efforts to manage natural disasters in the future. Established at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters, the Center would also help in disaster risk reduction and mitigation of damages. The prime minister lauded the establishment of NEOC and emphasized the importance of disaster-resilient infrastructure and policy framework.

Pakistan is prone to various natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides and cyclones, while pandemics and infectious diseases are an all-time high risk in the modern world. These events can have significant impacts on the country's infrastructure, economy, and population. Pakistan is located in a seismically active region due to the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates and various major fault lines run through across Pakistan from the Makhran coast to the northern parts of the country. On the other hand, the country is highly vulnerable to the disastrous effects of global warming and ever-worsening climate change because of the increased temperature, deforestation, water scarcity, soil erosion and droughts. Currently, global warming has caused serious survival risks for the South Asian nation, as last year's superfloods caused nearly \$30 billion in economic losses and monsoon floods have become a recurrent phenomenon on an annual basis.

Historically, disaster management and damage control is a global issue and a majority of countries face this problem because the volume of calamities often to be gigantic while timely mobilization of resources and effective mitigation often becomes a grave challenge for nations around the globe. Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the sole national body responsible for disaster management and damage control in the country. The NDMA works to mitigate the impact of various natural and man-made disasters through a coordinated approach with crucial assistance from Pakistan's armed forces, civil organizations and NGOs. However, all those endeavours mostly aim at post-disaster mitigation measures and the country has always felt a need for a preventive strategy that not only warns the state about an impending disaster but timely mobilizes the relevant institutions to lower the cost of the natural calamity for the nation.

The government has recently constituted a National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) that would serve as a hub of all technological inputs related to climate change, disaster management and predictive modelling for national emergencies. The NEOC is the first of its kind in Pakistan and the region, that is an indigenously conceptualized capability, which will evolve the capacity to predict future disasters with credence and accuracy together with the location, time of impact and damage intensity. It would generate a coordinated response, guiding lower tiers of provincial and district-level disaster management authorities. As said the platform will assess the needs of the vulnerable areas and determine the gap to be pre-coordinated support from global partners through an all-time ready holistic national outlook in the form of a real-time National Common Operating Picture.

In fact, NEOC is a magnificent addition to the already in place disaster management measures, however, the disaster management and mitigation efforts must be back with disaster prevention measures including plantation of nationwide forests, soil treatment, construction of water reservoirs, flood canals, and removal of encroachment alongside rivers bed, swearing Nullahs and waterways. It is high time that our nation must actively works on climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to address these challenges. So, the nation does not face recurrent losses at periodic intervals in the future.

Biden's u-turn on border wall

THE Biden administration has recently announced that 26 federal laws were waived to allow border wall construction in Texas, marking the administration's first use of an executive power often used by former President Trump to fund projects along the southern border. As said, the waived laws will help expedite the construction of barriers and roads in Starr County, Texas, which is experiencing high illegal entry into the United States, while the number exceeded to several hundred thousands per annum in the recent years.

The US-Mexico border wall has been a contentious issue in American politics. It was a key campaign promise by former Republican President Donald Trump, who sought to enhance border security in an attempt to curb illegal immigration and improve national security. On the other hand, American Democrats had always opposed the construction of a 560 kilometers long fence alongside US-Mexico in Texas while terming it a waste of money, environmentally harmful, and ineffective. Shortly after landing into the White House in early 2021, Biden canceled the state of emergency declared by former President Trump on the southern border with Mexico and later slashed projects to build the wall. Interestingly, the debate over border security and immigration policy continued to be a significant political and social issue in the United States in the past two years until President Biden took U-turn by overriding more than two dozen federal legislations to pave the way for the construction of the so-called ineffective and deadly border wall.

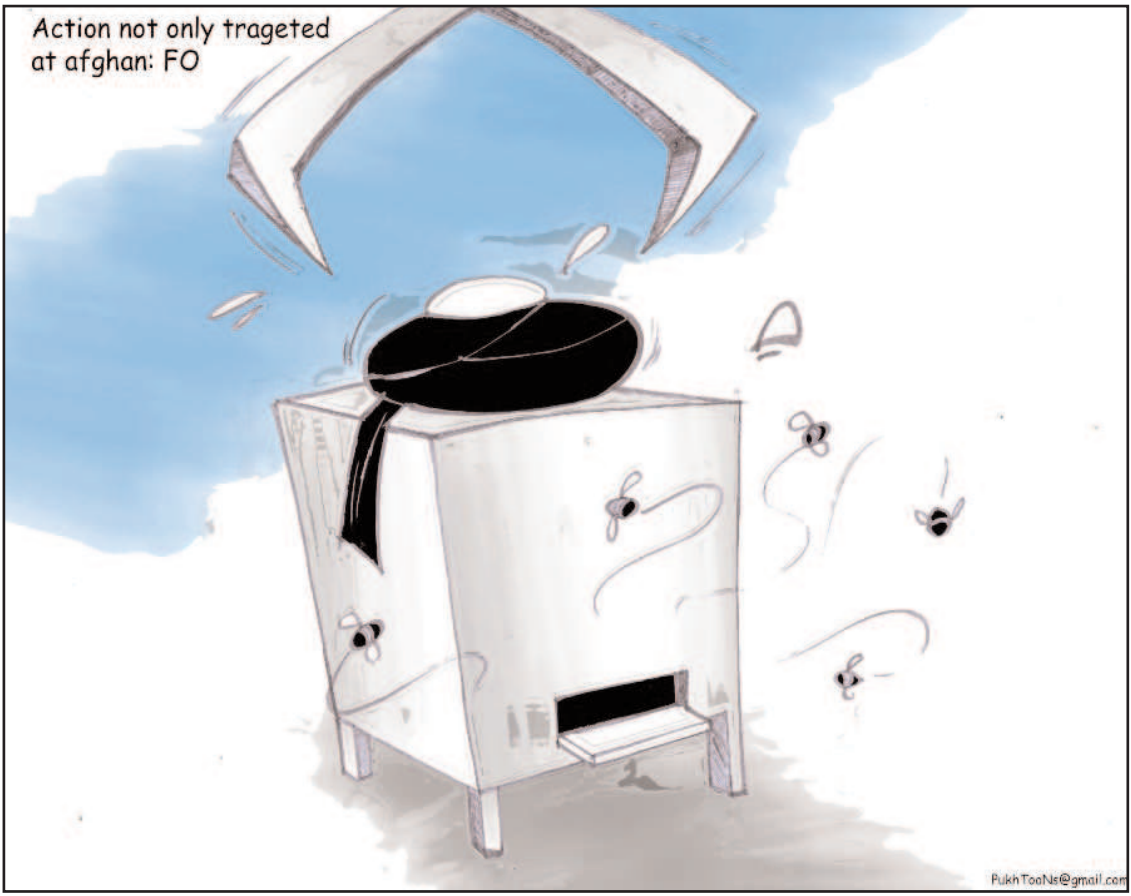
Previously, Trump diverted billions in defense and military construction funds toward building a wall, a central focus of his 2016 campaign as the Congress refused to fully fund the project because democrats resolutely opposed that initiative. Due to which President Trump used its executive authority for diverting funds from DoD and other expenses that is interestingly repeated by his successor and determined adversary President Biden.

In fact, unreal sloganeering and preaching daydreams is a hobby of politicians that is crucial for boosting politics and improving ratings among the public. Both American leaders have played with sensitive foreign policy, trade and security matters of their country, made false claims and wrong decisions to grab support of the masses. Historically, Trump upheld his promises with the public and paid heavy political price for his fake nationalism, while President Biden betrayed his voters through compromise over his electoral manifesto including support for human rights, democracy, immigration together with Palestine issue and border wall. Interestingly, Biden's recent U-turn over the Border wall has actually sabotaged his politics while reducing the scope for his reelection next year. Although, leaders have no scarcity of logic and philosophies yet the style of governance exposes their true nature to the public.

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A new financial crisis is upon us - and our political class can no longer lie

Allister Heath

GOOD riddance, HS2, you shall not be missed. The cancellation of that monstrous project's Northern leg marks the final end of an era of immoral profligacy by a political class that had come to treat taxpayers with contempt. It was never worth spending what might eventually have ended up being £180?billion on one train line to London, taking decades to complete, in an ultimately doomed attempt by politicians with an inferiority complex to show the French that we too can produce a train à grande vitesse.

The opportunity cost was obscene: we haven't built any nuclear power stations, or water reservoirs, or fixed our leaky pipes, or properly developed our creaking power grid, or constructed new motorways to relieve our hopelessly congested roads, in the name of hurling all available resources at what must be the most mismanaged grand project in British history. How can anybody responsible for this money pit sleep soundly at night?

Yet there is another reason why Rishi Sunak is to be commended for taking on the self-righteous vested interests committed to defending the indefensible, and for calling David Cameron, George Osborne, Theresa May and Andy Street's bluff. The Prime Minister has grasped, sooner than other world leaders, that governments are about to face a terrible fiscal reckoning. It is becoming much more expensive for states to borrow, threatening to trigger another financial crisis, and in time to force many countries to slash their spending.

The bond market vigilantes that used to keep chancellors on the straight and narrow in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s are back with a vengeance, thanks to Covid and lockdowns; the mad money printing of the past few years; the persistence of much higher inflation and Joe Biden's absurdly expensive green new deal. Yields on 30-year UK gilts have just hit a 20-year high of 5.1 per cent. In America, 10-year bond yields are at 16-year highs, and 30-year mortgage rates

have topped 7.5 per cent for the first time since 2000. German government bond yields are at a 12-year high. In all these countries, a greater share of public spending will need to be allocated to paying debt interest, leaving a lot less money for other things.

The problem is that many world leaders are still behaving irresponsibly: the US budget deficit is increasing to 5.7 per cent of GDP, Emmanuel Macron has announced yet more borrowing, and Germany's shrinking economy is put-

vince the Office for Budget Responsibility that he can meet his fiscal rules ahead of the Autumn Statement, despite his devastating increases to corporation and income tax. He will also need to find billions of pounds within these rules to finance whatever pre-election tax cuts the Prime Minister decides to offer up in the Spring of 2024. This is why all of Sunak's most recent announcements have two things in common: they are popular with the Tory base, and they will either save the taxpayer a fortune

or take the ending of the war on cars: Sunak will save millions by not having to subsidise inane, underused "active travel" schemes. As to the reforms to net zero, delaying the ban on petrol cars and gas boilers will marginally help the Exchequer, as well as being welcomed by millions of hard-pressed families.

Pushing ahead with additional North Sea oil will be good for tax receipts. Cracking down on the benefits culture will save a fortune, as will the excellent Civil Service hiring freeze. The attack on woke policies won't cost anything, and neither will moves to shake up growth-inhibiting regulators like the FCA or to ditch anti-housing nutrient neutrality rules. Even the only recent Tory announcement I cannot support - banning those born after 2009 from ever buying cigarettes, even when they turn 18, a nanny-ing, authoritarian move that will encourage many to turn to criminal gangs or other illegal drugs - won't cost a penny in the short term, though a substantial amount in lost tax over time.

The only reform that will actually cost hard cash is the introduction of the Advanced British Standard, replacing A-levels and T-levels and requiring additional teaching time to ensure the curriculum is broadened (with "minor" subjects) without standards being lowered in specialist subjects (or "majors"). But this revolution will take years to complete. This has been a good week for Sunak and the Tory party, contrary to the Left's hysterical bleatings. The end of the era of free and cheap money will act as a great cleanser for our politics. It will flush out cakeist politicians who deny trade-offs, force the Tories to root out waste and bolster the public sector's abysmal productivity, and make life more difficult for a Labour Party deeply uncomfortable with austerity politics. Sunak must hold his nerve: the more savings he can find in our scandalously bloated government, the greater the tax cuts he will be able to offer up next year.

The Telegraph

The eventual price would probably have been much steeper than even the gloomiest of contemporary forecasts, and it will be possible to pick and choose the timing of the alternative, smaller-scale projects to manage annual cash flows. Sunak believes he will save billions more by stripping the shockingly incompetent HS2 state-owned company of all responsibility for the last few miles of the project to Euston, handing the work to a new, hopefully more efficient development corporation.

ting extreme pressure on its public finances. Too many politicians are lying to their electorates. Unlike during the banking crisis or Covid, central banks can no longer print money to finance spending: countries are going to have to start living within their means, earning their keep by producing more, and raising what they spend in tax, rather than piling on unaffordable debt.

Daft projects such as HS2 will cost even more once the extra interest costs are factored in, and thus make even less sense.

Sunak is ahead of the curve: he realises he must urgently cut back on unproductive expenditure, especially given the costs of supporting Ukraine and dealing with the small boats crisis. With rocketing borrowing costs, Jeremy Hunt will find it difficult to con-

or cost very little. Welcome to Austerity Mark II, Manchester school variant.

Ending HS2 in Birmingham will officially free up £36 billion for far more cost-effective rail and road projects all over the North and Midlands, but the true savings will be much greater. The eventual price would probably have been much steeper than even the gloomiest of contemporary forecasts, and it will be possible to pick and choose the timing of the alternative, smaller-scale projects to manage annual cash flows. Sunak believes he will save billions more by stripping the shockingly incompetent HS2 state-owned company of all responsibility for the last few miles of the project to Euston, handing the work to a new, hopefully more efficient development cor-

COP28 can infuse optimism into world's climate change battle

Maria Maalouf

THE 2023 UN Climate Change Conference, known as COP28, will be held between Nov. 30 and Dec. 12 at Expo City, Dubai. The conference has been assembled every year since the first UN climate agreement in 1992. It is the diplomatic meeting of governments with the aim of reaching understandings and making agreements regarding policies that aim to limit the global rise in temperature and apply measures to protect the environment from the negative consequences of human-induced climate change.

Setting the tone for COP28 is a recently released report by the UN called the "Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake." It is a 47-page document that is intended to outline the agenda for the UN conference in Dubai. It employed very strong language. It stated: "Achieving net-zero carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions requires systems transformations across all sectors and contexts, including scaling up renewable energy while phasing out all unabated fossil fuels, ending deforestation, reducing non-carbon dioxide emissions and implementing both supply- and demand-side measures." There was also pessimistic language in the preparatory report regarding the narrowing window humankind has left to save planet Earth. These are not just remarks but the principles of how the whole globe can fight climate change. They are expressed through the concept and paradigm of "stocktake." It is a very sophisticated idea.

The global stocktake is a process for nations and non-governmental stakeholders to evaluate how much progress they are making toward meeting the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change - and the reasons if they are falling short. COP28 will adhere to the stocktake logic and will supply all the information required to determine who is responsible for the success or failure in cutting emissions of poisonous gases into the atmosphere. The conference in Dubai also has substantial political identity to combat climate change in addition to the periodic review. In particular, it will make a general assessment of the third and final phase of the global stocktake. This stage is crucial because it will look into how politics in many countries is either boosting or hampering efforts to overcome the negative implications of climate change. In other words, COP28 will identify the deficiencies and the opportunities as the world seeks to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

COP28 is not just a meeting to discuss the environment as a technical issue. It will attempt to harmonize politics with science for the nations of the world. This is not an easy task and the effort will extend beyond the timescale of the meeting in Dubai. Nevertheless, it will be a demonstration of the sincere efforts and of the honesty of the UAE as it attempts to positively influence how nations can overcome the harmful effects of climate change. In this regard, COP28 reflects the closeness of the position of the Biden administration with that of the UAE as they seek to secure the success of the conference. The US government wholeheartedly endorsed the Emirati leader-

ship appointed to preside over the conference. Presidential climate envoy John Kerry said: "I think that Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber is a terrific choice because he is the head of the company (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company). That company knows it needs to transition. He knows - and the leadership of the UAE is committed to transitioning. He made it absolutely clear we're not moving fast enough. We have to reduce emissions. We have to begin to accelerate this transition significantly. So I have great confidence that the right issues are going to be on the table, that they're going to respond to them and lead countries to recognize their responsibility."

COP28 will shift the global stocktake from being just a report to a list of priorities. It will utilize the economic tool of cost-benefit analysis and will not end up being just another summary that regrets the failure to save the global environment. It will try to convince everyone present to be an earnest believer in protecting the environment. It will strive to strike an international climate diplomacy consensus. It will affirm the authority of the UN in protecting the climate. It will regulate the energy transition process. For example, there are countries that are very honest in pledging that their economies will make a sizeable shift to renewable energy sources. Saudi Arabia is seeking to be a leader in low-carbon hydrogen. This entails the production of derivatives like ammonia, methanol and sustainable aviation fuel. In addition, the Kingdom will enhance the domestic market for low-carbon industrial materials, especially more sustainable steel. Overall, Saudi Arabia's economic plans call for net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2060. The Saudi experience will likely be carefully studied at COP28. On the other hand, nations such as Iran, Iraq and Libya have not yet declared any long-term decarbonization plans for their economies. COP28 can give these countries guidance on how to develop their renewable energy production.

The stakes are high. A genuinely global mobilization effort could be the outcome of COP28. One problem with previous UN conferences on the environment was the fact that the discourse was the same. The same traditional message to protect the environment was repeated, with little action. COP28 will emphasize the trend toward interdependence in global environmental policies. This means that there must be unity and a logical connection between all the phases of the global environmental programs and schemes. This necessitates working to create a balance between global ambitions and national obligations. It will not be a response to environmental crises but a forum to submit initiatives to protect the environment. It will formulate roadmaps for many individuals and organizations that are eager to safeguard the public and private environments. It will facilitate the correlation of finance and funding with local technology and the activism of nongovernmental groups to coordinate their sincere environmental campaigns. Ultimately, COP28 can infuse optimism and ensure that no one who cares about the environment will be excluded. It will make the environment better for the entire world.

Science hasn't gone 'woke' - the only people meddling with it are Tories

Philip Ball

THE science secretary, Michelle Donelan, told the Conservative party conference this week that the Tories are "depoliticising science". Or as a Conservative party announcement later put it, in case you didn't get the culture-war reference, they are "kicking woke ideology out of science", thereby "safeguarding scientific research from the denial of biology and the steady creep of political correctness".

Scientists do not seem too delighted to be defended in this manner. "As a scientist, I really don't know what this means," tweeted Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, professor of psychology and cognitive neuroscience at the University of Cambridge. "This is totally shocking and is something I never thought I would see in the UK," said Buzz Baum, a molecular cell biologist for the Medical Research Council.

What exactly does

Donelan think science needs protecting from? What is this woke threat? At the conference, she expanded on that. "Scientists are told by university bureaucrats that they cannot ask legitimate research questions about biological sex," she claimed, adding that Keir Starmer thinks the "legitimate concerns of the scientific community" on these issues of sex and gender "don't matter". She said she will launch a review of the use of gender and sex questions in scientific research, apparently to be led by Alice Sullivan, a professor of sociology at University College London, which will be used to formulate guidance. You would need to have been hiding under a rock not to appreciate that questions of sex and gender have become controversial, bordering on incendiary, in some areas of academia. As a recent exchange by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins and professor of humanities Jacqueline Rose in the New

Statesman revealed, academics are often talking at cross-purposes: Dawkins defended the binary nature of human sexes from an evolutionary angle, Rose the socially constructed aspects of gender identity. On top of that, there are the complications of developmental and cognitive biology, which, among other things, can produce intersex individuals and conditions where, say, people with a Y chromosome can be anatomically female.

But one doesn't need to take a strong stand about rights or wrongs in these debates to recognise that they are difficult and subtle - and to acknowledge it is proper that they be rigorously discussed. Arguably, this is an area where science can't supply definitive answers to all the germane societal questions. This is not a case of academic research being trammelled by an imposed ideology, but rather, of a range of differing views

among academics themselves. Besides, rather than await clarification, Donelan has evidently formed her opinion already: she called guidance that data on sex should only be collected in exceptional circumstances "utter nonsense" and a "denial of biology". What is the point of a review if you have decided already what it must say?

More to the point, why is the government getting involved in the first place? What chills Baum is the idea of "politicians telling scientists about the nature of biology". Some scientists can't help thinking of previous instances where governments imposed their views on the subject: the spurious "race science" of the Nazis and the anti-Darwinian denialism of Stalin's regime. While that might sound a slightly hyperbolic response to a transparently desperate ploy to stoke culture-wars division, the principle is the

same: a government deciding an approved position on science and demanding that academics toe the line. Much as Donelan tries to position herself as a champion of the objectivity and freedom of science, this intervention supplies more evidence of the government's distrust of academics in general and scientists in particular - it's of a piece with Rishi Sunak's assertion that scientists were given too much power during the pandemic. Witness the disturbing way this policy direction is framed. However contested and emotive this particular issue, it is hardly relevant to the large-scale practice of science - yet Donelan is seeking to leverage it to imply that all of science somehow stands at risk from "woke ideology", as if the integrity of truth itself were at stake.

That is perhaps the most ominous aspect of this announcement. The creation of a fictitious, ubiquitous enemy to scare the population is indeed straight out of

the fascist playbook. It was thoughtful of the Conservatives to drive this point home with the spectacle of party member Andrew Boff, chair of the London Assembly, being escorted from the conference hall by police on Tuesday when he voiced protest at Suella Braverman's criticism of the term "gender ideology". The notion that science can be "depoliticised" at all, let alone by an agenda-driven political party, is understood to be nonsensical by those who study the interactions of science and society. Of course political agendas should never dictate research results.

But the questions asked, priorities decided and societal implications of advances made absolutely make science inextricably tangled with the political landscape - not least in a controversial area like sex and gender. That entanglement can get messy, but no true democracy tries to control the narrative.

Hong Kong authorities move swiftly to snuff out peaceful protests

William Yang

IN a push to prevent public demonstrations in Hong Kong, police and university authorities have stopped students from staging a vigil to commemorate the Umbrella Movement and even arrested a man for holding white flowers in public over the past week. Analysts say the pre-emptive and swift actions by authorities show just how worried they are about the resurgence of any resistance in the city.

"Even though political expressions [in Hong Kong now] are all non-violent and avoid directly shaming the authorities, the Hong Kong government is still very anxious about letting dissenting voices be heard in public or reported by the media," said Eric Lai, a visiting researcher at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College in London, in a phone interview. On China's October 1 National Day, a 39-year-old man, known to many in Hong Kong as "Captain America," was arrested by three police officers for holding white flowers in Hong Kong's busy Causeway Bay shopping district.

In a video circulating on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, the man was seen wearing a black T-shirt with the text "Hong Kong Add Oil!" - a phrase of encouragement - and holding white flowers, which symbolize death in Chinese culture. He was standing in front of a department store. Three plainclothed police surrounded him and asked him to present his identity card. The man failed to comply and began to swear at the officers, who tackled him to the ground and forced his hands behind his back.

A small group of bystanders could be heard in the background, urging the officers not to hurt the man while emphasizing that offering flowers is not a crime. According to local media reports, police later arrested him for public disorder and obstructing police in the execution of their duties. Hong Kong police did not respond to VOA's request for comment.

In the past, Hong Kongers have marked China's National Day by holding public demonstrations and

mass marches against the Chinese Communist Party. Protests against the party's leadership and China's human rights abuses were common. But since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and the national security law (NSL) - which was imposed on the city by China's National People's Congress - have prevented Hong Kong residents from engaging in public protests. Some observers say this week's incidents show that Hong Kong police are adopting methods of

than 250 people under the NSL, the preemptive measures they have adopted show they don't respect citizens' basic rights and freedom protected by the Basic Law, which is the city's mini-constitution," he said. Instead, the Hong Kong government puts "the national security law above basic human rights," Lai says, adding that such practice is contrary to universal human rights standards embedded in the Basic Law.

During the reception marking

"Apart from the arrests and prosecutions of more than 250 people under the NSL, the preemptive measures they have adopted show they don't respect citizens' basic rights and freedom protected by the Basic Law, which is the city's mini-constitution," he said. Instead, the Hong Kong government puts "the national security law above basic human rights," Lai says, adding that such practice is contrary to universal human rights standards embedded in the Basic Law. During the reception marking the 26th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China on July 1, Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said the city must stay vigilant against "soft resistance" and be proactive in safeguarding national security.

repression used by their counterparts in China.

"People will need to have police approval to demonstrate, [and in some cases,] the police will take organizers away and interrogate them," says Maya Wang, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW). She said authorities are essentially preventing people from organizing protests, and there are more examples of individuals being punished for voicing dissent. And while Hong Kong authorities claim they continue to uphold citizens' basic rights and freedoms, Lai from King's College says he thinks their actions contradict those claims. "Apart from the arrests and prosecutions of more

the 26th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China on July 1, Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said the city must stay vigilant against "soft resistance" and be proactive in safeguarding national security. Last Thursday, just days ahead of National Day, three students at Hong Kong Baptist University organized a vigil on campus to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Umbrella Movement, a 79-day civil disobedience campaign in 2014. According to local media reports, the students wore black t-shirts and stuck slogans such as "Freedom is not free" and yellow ribbons on their shirts. After they had stood silently for 10 minutes,

staff from the university took the students away for staging an "unauthorized event."

In an e-mailed statement to VOA, university officials said they respect and uphold freedom of speech and are committed to creating an environment conducive to teaching, learning and research. "If students or student organizations need to organize activities on campus, they have to apply to the University prior to the events and provide accurate information about the events," the University wrote. Any violation of the regulations may result in a request to terminate the events or be disciplined by university management. While guidelines about organizing events on university campuses have existed for a long time, Lai from King's College said university management has been very hostile toward student activists since the NSL came into force in July 2020.

"Before 2020, university management would exercise a high degree of tolerance and respect for student activities on campuses, [hoping] to create a liberal environment," he told VOA. "But over the past two to three years, university management has less tolerance for students' campus lives. Some student unions have been forced to disband." With no clear boundaries on the exercise of basic rights and freedom under the NSL, some analysts say many people in Hong Kong are forced to copy strategies used by mainland Chinese activists to express their opinions. "Nobody knows where the red line is, so it's difficult for people to know to what extent they can still express their wills," Patrick Poon, a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo, told VOA.

To strike a balance between exercising freedom of expression and ensuring their personal safety, Poon says Hong Kongers are becoming as creative as activists in mainland China. "The only possible way for Hong Kong people to share their views is to share them online," he said. "But they can't use their real names and they need to use very obscure wording to express their views."

VOA

Message for Elon: We must keep supporting Ukraine

Andreas Kluth

SURELY we have bigger things to worry about than "a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing." That quote comes from Neville Chamberlain, prime minister of the U.K. at the time. He said it in 1938, when Adolf Hitler was about to seize the Sudetenland, part of what was Czechoslovakia. And you know what came next.

Now compare that sentiment with some of the notions bandied about today regarding the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. People "have bigger problems than Ukraine," says Robert Fico, a pro-Russian former prime minister of Slovakia, who just won another election. In the US, Elon Musk, serial entrepreneur and aspiring populist firebrand, is more specific: "Why," he wonders on his own social media platform, "do so many American politicians from both parties care 100 times more about the Ukraine border than the USA border?" Go ahead and insert your own priority, whatever that may be. Maybe, like Musk, you want the US to focus less on helping Ukraine and more on controlling migration. Or you want dollars slated for Kyiv to go to child and health care instead. Alternatively, you may want to hoard that money to repay the national debt and shrink government spending. Even if you care about foreign policy, you may prefer the US to aim all of its financial ammo at China. No matter where on the spectrum you happen to be, you're wondering: Why care about that particular quarrel in a faraway country?

The longer the war drags on, the harder to maintain the resolve to help Ukraine. And the biggest question mark hangs over the US as leader of the West. If Washington goes wobbly, so will Europe and the world. One concern is next year's election, which may return Donald Trump to the White House. His instincts would be to sell out the Ukrainians for a "deal" with Putin. Another cause for worry is the Republican Party generally, which is split. And behind that tension is a growing rift in the American public.

The divisions within the GOP explain why, over the weekend, Congress had to drop \$6 billion in additional

aid to Ukraine in order to pass a stopgap measure to avoid a government shutdown. One faction of Republican extremists had in effect held Congress and the White House hostage. They're still there, planning their next round of mischief. The American public overall feels by a narrow 55%-45% margin that Congress shouldn't give more money to Kyiv, according to polling in July. Those tallies concealed a big partisan divergence. Whereas 62% of Democrats favored continued support for Ukraine, 71% of Republicans opposed it, including 76% of the party's conservatives. They should ponder this timeline of American public opinion between September of 1939 - a year after Chamberlain's infamous remark - and December of 1941, when the US entered World War II. Until mid-1940, pluralities or majorities of Americans wanted the US to stay out of the war in Europe, even after Hitler invaded Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. Only from that point on did they realize that the conflict in Europe, like that in Asia, was not one they could stay out of and was instead one they had to help their allies win.

One problem then as now is a failure of imagination, which overlooks potential connections across time between disparate events, especially in "faraway" places. A Serbian theohad pops off a Habsburg archduke during a trip to the Balkans in 1914: Why should I care in Iowa? And yet, somehow, I end up fighting in Europe to "make the world safe for democracy." Another trap is false dichotomies. Nobody should pretend there's a trade-off between restoring order at the US-Mexican border and resisting Putin's genocide in Ukraine, just as nobody would dream of either fighting cancer or developing COVID-19 vaccines - or, at a personal level, either putting on seat belts or quitting smoking.

Those Ukraine skeptics who are now posing as oh-so-precise bean-counters about the costs of US support should instead heed the lessons from those polls during World War II. When you veto an aid package to Kyiv now, you're not actually freeing up funds for

something else you hold dear. You're adding to your own liabilities tomorrow in money and possibly blood. Stopping Hitler in 1938 would have been incalculably cheaper in both currencies than it turned out to be. What's happening in the US, the West and the world is a battle of narratives not unlike that of the late 1930s. And in this duel of interpretations, the populists are the pied pipers. Here, then, is why all Americans should keep supporting Ukraine.

First, not all foreign conflicts strike at the heart of international law, as encapsulated in the Charter of the United Nations, but Putin's war of aggression does. He's a tyrant who attacked an independent and democratic nation in order to absorb it into a revived Russian empire. If he succeeds, he won't stop in Ukraine. If you doubt that, ask the Moldovans, Estonians, Georgians or others in his neighborhood. Sending money, ammo and weapons to Ukraine, therefore, is actually the cheapest way to tie down Putin and dissuade him from going further. In terms of net benefits, America and Europe owe the Ukrainians, not the other way around.

Second, Putin isn't the only one the US, by supporting Ukraine, is deterring. His buddies in Beijing, Pyongyang and elsewhere are observing how the Ukrainian conflict pans out. A refusal by Kyiv and the West to give in will make China think twice about attacking Taiwan or the Philippines. Third, Americans must remember that the US, by virtue of its long-dominant position, plays a special role in international affairs. If the world's hegemon abdicates or rejects that part, as it did between the World Wars, today's system of states is likely to descend into chaos and efforts to maintain a modicum of order, and to solve common problems such as climate change, will fail.

This is as true today as it was in 1943, when Chamberlain's successor as British prime minister, Winston Churchill, spoke at Harvard University about the US role in the world. "The price of greatness is responsibility," he said. These days, responsibility starts with helping Ukraine to defend itself.

The Japan Times

Ukraine is winning. Now let's finish the job

Ben Wallace

WHISPER it if you need. Dare to think it. But champion it you must. Ukraine's counteroffensive is succeeding. Slowly but surely, the Ukrainian armed forces are breaking through the Russian lines. Sometimes yard by yard, sometimes village by village, Ukraine has the momentum and is pressing forward.

The men and women of the Ukrainian army are, once again, proving to us in Nato how much we have underestimated them. First, the Establishment doubted their ability to defend their nation from the initial Russian invasion. Too many states waited to see which way the wind would blow. The groupthinkers, with their computers and "Russia experience", calculated that they could only hold on for a few weeks.

Having been proved wrong, they switched their pessimism to the counteroffensive. But they failed to grasp the importance of the human factor. They failed to spot in the Ukrainians the same spirit we possessed in 1939. They failed to recall Alan Turing's quote that "Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine." They failed to understand that, in war, the most precious commodity of all is hope. Since the summer, Ukraine has again been learning on the job. Its forces are adapting tactics, absorbing lessons, and making the best of the equipment we have all gifted them.

They take UK equipment and achieve success rates far beyond expectations. I remember visiting a secret location abroad, but outside Ukraine, as we prepared Ukrainian sol-

diers on how to use StarStreak air-defence missiles. They had a week to train on a system we take months to master. A British sergeant pointed to a young Ukrainian, barely out of his teens. "He won't let go of the simulator, and he won't stop training until he never misses," he said. That young man went on to down two Russian attack helicopters. When hope is combined with the right equipment, there is no stopping Ukraine. It is our duty to keep that hope going and to back it up with funding and equipment until the job is done. That was why the British NLAW anti-tank missiles were so important. They showed that Russian armour could be stopped. And stop them they did, in the hundreds on the road to Kyiv.

We have a chance to help finish this. The Russian army is cracking. Ukraine has learnt new tactics to overcome horrendous minefields, and the Storm Shadow strikes are devastating Russian HQs. We are witnessing the beginnings of the battle for Crimea. We need to give Ukraine the support it requires to see this war to the end. As defence secretary, I was so often confronted with reasons not to - mainly by people who wouldn't know the difference between one end of a rifle and the other. Time was wasted having to overcome institutional inertia. We should be proud of our Chief of the Defence Staff and military leaders who demonstrated not just leadership within Whitehall, but internationally.

Before I left office, I asked the PM to match or increase the £2.3 billion pledged to Ukraine this year, to add to the £4.6 bil-

lion we have spent already. The UK is no longer the biggest European donor - Germany is. This war can be won. Vladimir Putin is failing. Just as the human emotion drives Ukraine to success, it is also the inescapable flaw in Putin and his criminal regime. Romance, ego and revenge drove Putin to cross into Ukraine and it will be his undoing. His army has lost more than 2,500 tanks, 6,500 armoured vehicles and nearly 300,000 dead or injured. Not a single commander who led the major Russian units into Ukraine is still in place.

Putin is desperately grasping at the final two things that can save him - time and the splitting of the international community. Britain can do something about both. We must help Ukraine maintain its momentum - and that will require more munitions, ATACMSs and Storm Shadows. And the best way to keep the international community together is the demonstration of success. Ukraine can also play its part. The average age of the soldiers at the front is over 40. I understand President Zelensky's desire to preserve the young for the future, but the fact is that Russia is mobilising the whole country by stealth. Putin knows a pause will hand him time to build a new army. So just as Britain did in 1939 and 1941, perhaps it is time to reassess the scale of Ukraine's mobilisation. Let us not pause for one day. Let us see this through. The world is watching to see if the West has the resolve to stand up for our values and the rules-based system. What we do now for Ukraine will set the direction for all of our security for years to come.

In England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, history truly shapes people's lives

INTerviewees in history documentaries tend to be historians and curators; people with specialist knowledge, capable of explaining the facts in a detached manner. But what of people who are not experts, but for whom this history - that of how the nations of the United Kingdom formed the current union - is living and central to their sense of identity?

For them, history is not remote or distant, but alive and present in their lives and in the national debate. It is also contested. So, as part of a new series I have produced for the BBC, Union With David Olusoga, we set about speaking to people from all parts of the country: from former industrial heartlands such as Glasgow, Belfast and the Welsh valleys to villages and market towns in Wiltshire, Perthshire and Coleraine. They were students, shopkeepers, artists, soldiers, teachers, doctors, drivers and factory workers. We found that people were very keen to talk about the history and their relationship with it.

In Northern Ireland, I interviewed people from Catholic and Protestant communities, including those for whom the Troubles are a powerful memory, as well as those born after the Good Friday agreement - young people navigating a country still recovering from

events they have no first-hand experience of. History collided with the present in a particularly stark way in Belfast. By complete coincidence, on the day we were setting up our cameras news broke that the census had revealed that for the first time Northern Ireland - a state created deliberately to be majority Protestant - was majority Catholic.

On that day many talked about the continuing impact of the plantation of Ulster. Launched in 1610 and sanctioned by King James it enabled English and Scottish Protestant settlers to confiscate land and property from the indigenous Irish Catholics. Aaron, whose home town was established by one of these English "planters", described how today "many of these communities are still intact". Andrew, a university student, shared that he was descended from planters but he viewed this without hesitation as "a system of colonisation". While Lauren, a young Protestant, believed the history of the plantation meant that some people still didn't think "people like me belong here". In Scotland, the subject of the battle of Culloden in 1746, when British troops fought Jacobite rebels, still raises powerful emotions among many, such as Rebecca who described it as "a massacre of

Francis Welch

Scots". Yet, other Scottish people identified the economic benefits of the 1707 Act of Union, pointing out that Glasgow (where we were filming) was a city that became wealthy and influential through the lucrative tobacco trade.

In Wales, the tradition - established in the 14th century - of bestowing the title Prince of Wales on the heir to the British throne raises powerful condemnation from some. Mel told me, "The Prince of Wales was imposed on us", while Luke wanted this tradition to end: "I don't think there's a need for it. I don't think there's a want for it." These are not extreme views. After the death of the Queen, #NotMyPrince trended on social media and one poll found more than 30% of people in Wales wanted the title abolished. And it wasn't just nationalist sentiment that was driven by historical events. We interviewed people across the UK who rejected nationalism and pointed to the continuing impact of one of the great forces in British history - social class. For them, the history of the working-class experience crossed national borders. In Scotland - a nation where in the early 19th century only 0.2% of the population were allowed to vote - Brian argued that he saw "no difference between being a worker in Bolton or a

worker in Glasgow", and that the fight for representation was "a working-class fight rather than a Scotland v England fight". Some people talked about historical moments such as the Peterloo massacre in 1819 or the Newport rising of Chartists in 1839. In Northern Ireland, Tommy from Belfast, reflecting on the Protestant and Catholic communities in his home city, told me: "We have more in common as working-class people."

The historical experience of Black Britons was also important in shaping identity. Shaniqua describes herself as "Black British Caribbean" and is one of a number of young people who talked about the Windrush generation. Many from northern England focused on more recent, postwar history: for them the decline of previously thriving industrial heartlands in the second half of the 20th century was evidence of a huge political and economic imbalance between London and the rest of England. This, argued Eddy from Tyneside, gave rise to "stronger regional identities ... which is not good for anyone". What we learned is that across the UK there are not only multiple ideas of national identity, but there are many different moments in the history of the country that shape the way people think about themselves and where they live, moments that continue to define their lives.



Weekly inflation goes slightly up by 0.11 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 5, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 282.00 points as compared to 281.70 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.07 percent.

The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.49 percent and went up to 286.29 points from last week's 284.89 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 and Rs 29,518-44,175 increased by 0.38 percent, 0.27 percent and 0.17 percent respectively whereas it declined by 0.03 percent for income group above Rs 44,175.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.26%) items increased, 16 (31.37%) items decreased and 16 (31.37%) items remained

stable

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included diesel (3.33%), chicken (2.78%), petrol (2.40%), pulse masoor (1.80%), pulse gram (1.73%), gur (1.14%), pulse moong (0.58%), pulse mash (0.33%), wheat flour (0.32%) and vegetable ghee (0.20%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (wow) basis, included tomatoes (12.45%), onions (11.96%), garlic (2.59%), potatoes (1.81%), cooked daal (1.27%), eggs (0.84%), beef (0.53%), bread (0.52%), LPG (3.11%), firewood (0.76%) and long cloth (0.51%). The commodities that witnessed a decrease in price

on a year-on-year (yoy) basis included tomatoes (54.05%), onions (18.21%), pulse gram (2.67%) and mustard oil (0.16%).

On a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices included electricity charges for q1 (118.16%), gas charges for q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (94.69%), rice basmati broken (87.60%), chilies powder (84.84%), sugar (79.55%), rice irri-6/9 (78.69%), wheat flour (77.91%), gur (67.68%), tea packet (60.72%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), salt powdered (56.48%), garlic (54.78%), gents sandal (53.37%), petrol (43.70%) and potatoes (42.99%).

Asian markets buck US losses, post gains

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian markets posted gains in early trade Friday, shrugging off Wall Street losses ahead of key US jobs data.

Analysts say signs of a robust American economy, such as strong labour market data this week, are bad news for equities as it gives the Federal Reserve more reason to keep monetary policy tight through to the end of the year and beyond.

US Treasury yields hit their highest levels since 2007 this week as investors fear that high borrowing costs for businesses and consumers will eventually drag on the economy.

All eyes are on Friday's monthly US employment data, which will give investors a good idea of whether recent signs of a softening in the labour market will continue.

"Stock investors are not playing" with the drop in 10-year US yields, and "worries about a hot Non-

Farm Payroll are upping the uncertainty index", Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said.

On Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average finished flat, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq index ticked lower.

But Hong Kong started Friday on the front foot, with early gains of just over 1.5 percent, while Tokyo crept higher.

Singapore, Seoul and Mumbai were also up, while mainland Chinese markets were closed for a week-long holiday.

"If there's any signs of the labour market cracking then that would obviously be positive and maybe could send stocks a little bit higher," Peter Cardillo from Spartan Capital told AFP. "The markets sell-off which saw government bond prices fall and yields rise has taken centre stage this week, and investors continue to watch the 10-year Treasury yield like a

hawk," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

Tokyo markets open lower: Tokyo stocks opened lower on Friday, following slight losses on Wall Street as investors braced for key US jobs data. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.11 percent, or 35.01 points, at 31,040.35 in early trade, while the broader Topix index lost 0.07 percent, or 1.62 points, to 2,262.14. The dollar stood at 148.52 yen, against 148.50 yen seen in New York on Thursday.

The Tokyo market started the trading day slightly lower, taking its cue from a lacklustre finish on Wall Street ahead of an all-important US payrolls report.

"Stock investors are not playing" with the drop in 10-year US yields, and "worries about a hot Non-Farm Payroll are upping the uncertainty index", Stephen Innes of SPI Asset

Management said.

In Japan, the market "was seen starting moving within a narrow range, after small falls on Wall Street", senior strategist Toshiyuki Kanayama of Monex said.

"As a wait-and-see mood tends to take hold of traders ahead of the US jobs data, the key point today will be whether the (Nikkei index) can maintain the 31,000 level that it had recovered to yesterday," he added.

Shortly before the opening bell, an internal affairs ministry survey showed Japan's household spending in August dropped a real 2.5 percent year-on-year -- its sixth consecutive fall.

Among major shares in Tokyo, SoftBank Group trimmed 0.39 percent to 6,058 yen, Toyota gave up 1.44 percent to 2,552.5 yen, and Uniqlo operator Fast Retailing shed 0.85 percent to 31,480 yen. Sony Group, meanwhile, added 0.08 percent to 12,330 yen.

Azaan Sami Khan releases #AZAANTheAlbum trailer, set to launch on October 30

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Azaan Sami Khan has released the official trailer for his upcoming album titled AZAAN. The 47-second trailer offers a glimpse into what fans can expect from the album as a whole, mainly a grand visual treat of what this self-titled sophomore attempt is all about.

Following the release of the album cover and tracklist on October 1, the trailer showcases the singer in various avatars and provides a quick montage of what the album has to offer. Brief glimpses of actresses Sanam Saeed, Syra Yousuf, and Aena Khan are also featured in the trailer, keeping up the tradition of Khan's previous celebrity collaborations.

The trailer unfolds with Khan gazing into multiple mirrors, each transition revealing a striking transformation. Among the notable avatars, Khan



adopts a gangster-inspired persona, accentuated by a dramatic car explosion as a backdrop, as well as a several other vastly different looks that hint at a bad-boy avatar, an old-school romantic hero, a backpacker on a journey, to name a few.

The notable cameos in the trailer show Aena presenting a girl-next-door appearance, Sanam exuding a rather regal elegance reminiscent of the vintage

times, and Syra capturing a timeless moment aboard a carriage and longingly looking back, all leaving the viewers with a taste of wanting more.

The trailer ends with a shot of the mirror shattering, followed by the vocals of one of Khan's upcoming tracks, Man Marzi, concluding with a cinematic feel to match distinguished film trailers.

All in all, the brief fast-

paced clip encapsulates a cinematic world of Khan's new album with distinct eras to depict a whole journey.

The clip fulfils its part in hinting at the diversity of the album's visual content and an immersive musical experience for the audience with the eight new tracks revealed in the tracklist, namely, Maa, Nadaan Dil, Beby, Aap Hi Rehte Hain Dil Main, Husn-e-Jaan, Ham Dam, Man Marzi, and Rang De.

The direction and production of the album's trailer are carried out by Nabeel Qureshi and Fizza Ali Meerza of FilmWala Pictures, known for their expertise in visual storytelling in films like Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad, Load Wedding, Actor in Law, etc.

The album is all set to release under the banner of Azel Records on October 30, 2023 and will be available on all streaming platforms.



LARKANA: An elderly vendor preparing traditional sweet item at Waleed Mohallah.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 5.16% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 5.16 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$350.297 million during July-August (2023-24) against exports of US \$333.077 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 5.16 per cent,

SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 25.09 per cent from \$159.021 million in August 2022, against the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 31.42 per cent during August 2023 as compared to the exports of \$151.365 million in July 2023, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries

witnessed a decrease of 8.26 per cent in the first two months, from US \$ 4.951 billion to US \$ 4.541 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 1861.702 million against US \$2377.070 million last year, showing a decline of 21.68 per cent in July-August (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China also witnessed a decrease of 28.17 per cent

from US \$1251.219 million in August 2022, against the imports of US \$898.722 million in August 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country dipped by 6.67 per cent during August 2023, as compared to the imports of US \$962.980 million during July 2023, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 26.01 per cent, from \$11.474 billion to US \$ 8.489 billion, according to the data.

Carbon Markets on the Rise

Ali Ashar Jaffri



In the loving memory of my late father Justice (R) Syed Ali Aslam Jaffri, whose teaching and guidance made me who I am today. Even though he may no longer be among us, his prayers and best wishes will continue to shine upon me.

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, aggressive emission reductions and removals of CO2 from the atmosphere are necessary. Our collective inaction has underscored the urgency of this task. As the need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) has grown more urgent over the last quarter century, key stakeholders across the globe are trying to carve out a path towards sustainable social and economic development. The focus on carbon credits as a means of combating climate change is relatively new.

The concept of an international carbon market was first established by the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Carbon markets are one of the tools to tackle the climate change problem. Government and various other organizations are striving to create avenues for countries to participate in carbon reduction efforts using carbon credits and carbon offsets through carbon markets. In 2021, the voluntary carbon market grew at a record pace, reaching US\$ 2 billion, four times its value in 2020 and the pace of purchases is still accelerating in 2022. The market is expected to reach between US\$10 billion and US\$ 40 billion by

2030, and US\$ 250 billion by 2050.

Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon markets can be either voluntary or regulatory (compliance). Government regulates compliance markets. Voluntary carbon markets are comprised of individuals, companies, and government committed to minimizing their carbon footprint.

Accordingly, organizations reduce their GHG emissions and purchase carbon credits in carbon markets to compensate for any remaining GHG emissions. Carbon credits are an emission unit issued by a carbon crediting program, representing an emission reduction or removal of greenhouse gases. Carbon offsets can be created by either avoidance or reduction projects such as renewable energy, methane capture, or other such facilities.

To address the increasing concerns around the issue of climate change, the major economies in both

developed and developing countries have started to create and engage in carbon markets. The growth of carbon markets has been very impressive in the last few years. More specifically, the number of carbon markets has doubled since 2012 and the general interest in carbon trading is also on an upswing. In the global market, China is the largest seller of Certified Emission Reduction capturing almost 60% followed by India having an 11.3% share and Brazil having a 6.5% share in the global market.

It can be seen that both India and China are among the top polluters of the world due to their high growth yet both economies have entered the world of Carbon Trading and are among the highest sellers of carbon credits in the current marketplace. Forest-rich countries such as Costa Rica are strategically entering the carbon markets. In Southeast Asia, Cambodia has extensive experience with the voluntary carbon market in the forest sector. Meanwhile, countries such as Ghana are already pioneering the implementation of carbon market instruments.

Although much later than the rest of the world, Pakistan has also finally entered the Carbon market and trading landscape. The country's current ranking on Environment Performance Index (EPI) is 124th among 149 countries. The economic cost of growing environmental degradation, resource depletion and climate change are continuously on the rise. Carbon Markets can play an important role in revitalizing the country's

economy.

Currently, Pakistan has 14 approved Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects with the status of the host country while 60 projects are in the pipeline. The main objective of these projects is to bring a positive impact on the socioeconomic status of the country along with its contribution towards environmental sustainability. According to CDM cell, these projects are expected to bring US\$ 345 million in foreign investment along with a 3.35 million tons GHG reduction per year as well as a positive impact on agriculture productivity, employment opportunity and technology transfer.

However, it must be understood that setting a price for carbon emissions is a valuable beginning, but not the end, of climate policy. Much more needs to be done to complement the carbon trading system and carbon markets, to ensure an effective policy response to the threat of climate change. It is also necessary for government to take appropriate action to support innovation and low-carbon technologies and industries.

The writer is Group Head (Administration, IT, Engineering Projects & BCP) and look after Green Banking as well at Bank AL Habib Limited, Pakistan. He has more than 23 years of managerial experience in a number of reputed national and international organizations and can be reached at Email: ali.ashar@bankalhabib.com, LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ali-ashar-jaffri-al790a1a



FAISALABAD: Vendors arranging and displaying bananas to attract customers at his road side setup.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Vancouver, Sea-span Ganges, Amali, Sky Blue, Hyde Park and Kana scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement, Palm oil, Chemicals and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Shardana and Kai Xuan-9 carrying Rapeseed and General Cargo also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on same day. Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Vancouver, Sea-span Ganges, EM Astoria and Al Soor-II left the port on today morning, while three more ships, Hyde Park, Sky Blue and Mirela are expected to sail on today afternoon.

EFU General wins the prestigious 'Brands Icon of Pakistan 2022'

F.P. Report

KARACHI: It is with great pride to announce that EFU General has been awarded the 'Brands Icon of

Pakistan', the most esteemed and highest recognition from the Brands Foundation.

This award is a testament to our dedication,

hard work, and exceptional services. It signifies our commitment to excellence in the Insurance Industry and our relentless pursuit of client satisfaction.





In brief

Galey extends best wishes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of France in Pakistan Nicolas Galey has extended best wishes to the Pakistan team as they compete in the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup which kicked off in India on Thursday. Galey wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Pakistan would kick off its 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup campaign against the today with its match against the Netherlands. The next few weeks would be quite exciting, and I wish Pakistan and the other teams like as they compete in this major international sports event. Yeh jashan hai cricket ka," he said.

Pakistan defeats Bangladesh

KARACHI (APP): Defending champion Pakistan won over Bangladesh by 140 runs in the Wheelchair T20 Cricket Asia Cup in Khatmandu, Nepal. The bowlers of green shirts bowled out Bangladesh for 44 runs in 14 overs, according to a communicate here on Friday. Sajid Ali Abbasi was declared the best player of the match for scoring 59 runs. Captain Muhammad Zeeshan scored 55 runs. In the second match, India defeated Nepal by 53 runs. Pakistan won the toss and batted first and set a target of 183 runs in 16 overs for 8 wickets. Sajid Ali Abbasi scored 59 runs. The captain remained not out after scoring 55 runs. Ahmed Yar 26, Khalid Shah 13, Muhammad Faiz 8, Umar Gul and Misal Khan scored 5 runs each. Muhammad Shahid could not score any runs while Muhammad Rajan Hussain sent back three players to the pavilion. Ozil Birgi, Ripanuddin, Spawn Dewan and Robin Ginn took one wicket each. Chasing the target, the Bangladeshi team collapsed for 44 runs in 14 overs. Ahmad Yar took three wickets and Muhammad Faiz took two wickets, while Misal Khan and Khalid Shah took one wicket each. It should be noted that the defending champion Pakistan was defeated by Sri Lanka by 9 wickets in the first match.

Ronnie suffers shock loss to Zhang

LONDON (Agencies): World number one Ronnie O'Sullivan is out of the English Open after a shock last-16 loss to China's Zhang Anda. Sullivan led 1-0 and 2-1, but world number 57 Zhang hit back with breaks of 97, 50 and 116 to seal a 4-2 victory. Zhang will play compatriot Zhou Yuelong in the quarter-finals after the latter beat England's Ali Carter 4-1. O'Sullivan's defeat meant Luca Brecel could have topped the world rankings with a run to the semi-finals, but he lost 4-3 to Ding Junhui. A topsy-turvy match saw world champion Brecel go 2-0 up before China's Ding won three frames in a row to nudge in front. Belgium's Brecel hit back to make it 3-3, but Ding took the decider with a break of 58 to set up a quarter-final against either Liu Hongyu or Mark Williams. Matthew Selt beat fellow Englishman Ricky Walden 4-3 to set up a last-eight match against Judd Trump, who came from 2-1 down to beat Yuan Sijun 4-2. John Higgins is also through to the quarter-finals after an impressive 4-1 victory over Oliver Lines that included an opening break of 145. The Scot will play England's Martin O'Donnell after he beat China's He Guoqiang 4-2.

Pakistan beat spirited Netherlands in World Cup

HYDERABAD (Agencies): Pakistan overcame a spirited Netherlands to claim an 81-run win in their World Cup opener at Hyderabad. Pakistan were bowled out for 286 off 49 overs, with both Saud Shakeel and Muhammad Rizwan scoring 68. The Netherlands reached 120-2 as they started well in their chase, but stalled after losing four wickets for 38 runs in the middle overs.

All-rounder Bas de Leede took 4-62 and hit 67, but his fine efforts were in vain as his side finished 205 all out. Pakistan had slipped to 38-3 early on, with captain Babar Azam falling for just five, before Shakeel and Rizwan put on a vital stand of 120.

De Leede struck twice in the 32nd over to drag his side back into contention, before claiming two wickets in two balls in the 44th over to break a partnership of 64 between Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz.

Netherlands opener Vikram Singh made a gutsy half-century in reply, but De Leede struggled for support from the middle and lower order as Pakistan's experienced bowling attack withstood the pressure, led by seamer Haris Rauf's 3-43, with the Dutch dismissed off

41 overs. The Netherlands play New Zealand in their next fixture on Monday, while Pakistan face Sri Lanka the following day.

Inconsistent Pakistan get the job done

The eventual margin of victory will give Pakistan confidence, particularly considering they were nowhere near their best. With a reputation for unpredictability, in many ways it was a characteristic performance from Babar's side.

They fluctuated between the brilliant and bizarre with the bat: Shakeel and Rizwan's class juxtaposed with Nawaz's comical run out as he reacted too slowly to Shaheen Afridi attempting a single after a deflection and was dismissed by Colin Ackermann's direct hit.

Their score of 286, having been bowled out with one over wasted, may not have been enough against a better quality opposition, but with ball in hand, they are always dangerous. Shaheen's ferocious death bowling countered his inconsistency with the new ball, Rauf's raw pace unsettled an inexperienced Dutch middle order and spinners Shadab and Nawaz took a wicket each.

Hassan Ali also marked

his return to the side with an impressive 2-33. The Netherlands can take encouragement from the fact there was not an enormous gulf in skill on display, with Pakistan's greater experience ultimately telling. While they avoided a shock here, Pakistan are likely to provide more surprises and thrills in the group stage - they reached the final of last year's T20 World Cup despite losing their first two games.

De Leede impresses in defeat

It was going to take something extremely special to pull off the highest successful chase against Pakistan in 50-over World Cups. Yet for a long time De Leede looked like he was capable of leading his side there. The 23-year-old timed the ball beautifully with sumptuous drives through the covers and bravely took on the short balls of Shaheen and Rauf.

He was calm and composed in a stand of 70 with Singh, before adding more of a flourish when joined by the middle and lower order. He looked crestfallen when Nawaz ripped one through his defences after a 68-ball stay, but the Durham player has now showcased his talents on the biggest stage.

Shehroze Kashif summits Cho Oyu peak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Shehroze Kashif accomplished a tremendous achievement on Friday by successfully summiting 8,188 metres Cho Oyu peak, the world's sixth highest mountain, located in China.

According to Karrar Haidri, secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP), Shehroze Kashif currently holds the record for being the youngest mountaineer in the world, having scaled 13 of the 14 summits that are higher than 8,000 metres, thanks to this accomplishment.

His next plan was to climb Shishapangma, which is 8,027 metres high. "Our sincere congratulations to Shehroze on this amazing adventure," Karrar Haidri, he said.

Last month he summited Nepal's 8,163 metres Mount Manaslu. Born on March 11, 2002, Shehroze made history by becoming the youngest climber in the world to summit K2 on July 27, 2021.



He also became the youngest Pakistani to summit Mount Everest on May 11, 2021. After the successful summit of Mount Everest, Sports Board Punjab made him the youth ambassador of Punjab. He summited Broad Peak at the age of 17, after which he was called 'The Broad Boy'.

He started climbing mountains at the age of 11 with Makra Peak being the first one, followed by Musa ka Musalla and Chembra Peak at 12, Mingli Sar in Shimshal at 13, Khurdopin Pass at 15, and Khosar Gang in alpine style at 18 years of

age. Shehroze currently holds two Guinness World Records for being the youngest to climb K2 and the youngest to climb Broad Peak.

On May 5, 2022, he became the youngest in the world and the first Pakistani to reach the summit of Kangchenjunga - the third-highest peak in the world. On May 16, 2022, he summited the world's fourth-highest peak, Mount Lhotse (8,516m), in Nepal.

On November 1, 2022, Shehroze was recognized by Guinness World Records for the year 2023 for summiting Mount Everest and K2.

On May, 2023 he summited Nepal's Mount Dhaulagiri (8,167m), the seventh highest peak of the world. In July 2022, Shehroze and Fazal Ali went missing between Camp 4 and Camp 3, after successfully summiting Nanga Parbat. However, the duo was discovered shortly after. Shehroze intends to summit all above 8,000m peaks before the year end.

Arham, Fatima win Table Tennis title

KARACHI (APP): Arham bin Farukh won the boys singles title of the first Commissioner Karachi Cup table tennis tournament held under the auspices of the Divisional Sports Committee, beating Ahsan Raza 3-1, while Fatima Danish defeated Bushra Anwar 3-1 for the girls' title.

The final score was 11-08, 15-17, 11-03 and 11-09 in boys and 11-07, 12-14, 11-05 and 11-05 in girls.

The Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput said that sports and athletes will continue to be strongly encouraged by the Commissioner's Office. He said, "I wish that Karachi's

Sario, ADC Muhammad Hussain and Commissioner Karachi Sports Coordinator Ghulam Muhammad Khan were present.

Muhammad Usman Khan of BVS School was declared the best player of the tournament, while media coordinator Ejaz Qureshi was given a special award, and Sohail Tanveer and Haq Nawaz were given special cash prizes.

The Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput said that sports and athletes will continue to be strongly encouraged by the Commissioner's Office. He said, "I wish that Karachi's

athletes play a leading role in the country in the field of education and sports."

The Commissioner Karachi announced that after the Asian Games and World Cricket Cup, the Commissioner Karachi Sports Festival will be organized in Karachi.

He further said, "I have given orders to my sports department to continue sports activities in Karachi regularly." On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner South Altaf Hussain presented the Quaid-e-Azam commemorative shield to the Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput.

Juventus midfielder's B sample confirms positive drugs test

ROME (Agencies): Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba's failed drugs test has been confirmed after his B sample tested positive.

Pogba, 30, was provisionally suspended last month after his initial sample found elevated levels of testosterone in his system.

The France international was selected for random testing after Juve's 3-0 win at Udinese on 20 August, when he had been an unused substitute. If found guilty of doping, he could be banned for between two and four years.

After Pogba's initial suspension in September, Nado Italia said he had violated anti-doping rules when it found the prohibited substance "non-endogenous testosterone metabolites" and the results were



"consistent with the exogenous origin of the target compounds".

Testosterone is a hormone that increases the endurance of athletes. Speaking at the time of the initial suspension, Pogba's agent, Rafaela Pimenta, said: "What is certain is that Paul Pogba never wanted to break a rule." Juventus resigned Pogba on a four-year deal in July 2022 after the player ran down his con-

tract at Manchester United and left as a free agent.

However, Pogba's return to Turin has been beset by persistent injury problems which also saw him miss last year's World Cup in Qatar. Pogba has played a total of 51 minutes as a substitute this season in games with Bologna and Empoli. Last season he managed 108 minutes over six Serie A games, three brief appearances and one assist in the Europa League, and 11 minutes in the Coppa Italia - a total of 162 minutes and no goals.

Pogba's injury problems resurfaced recently, with Juventus boss Massimo Allegri saying the player picked up a minor back problem following his appearance against Empoli.



HYDERABAD: Colin Ackermann misses with his sweep, and is bowled by Iftikhar Ahmed.

Standing out in the crowd — a Pakistan fan at India's World Cup

HYDERABAD (Agencies): He has survived a heart attack, suffers from diabetes and has just traveled more than 8,200 miles (13,300km) to watch a cricket match.

Meet Chacha Mohammad Basheer, likely the only native Pakistan supporter inside the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium where his beloved team began their World Cup campaign on Friday.

"I am the only Pakistani here but my voice and enthusiasm are equal to 100-150 people in the stadium," Basheer told AFP ahead of the match with the Netherlands.

The 67-year-old Chicago-based Basheer was dressed in a Pakistan flag shirt and even carried a national flag in his hand.

Basheer has already been caught up in the decades-long political tension between Pakistan and India which means this World Cup marks the first time in seven years that a Pakistan team has played in the country.

He claims he was close to being detained last week at Hyderabad airport when he chanted "Pakistan Zindabad" ("Long live Pakistan") slogans and waved a Pakistan flag to greet Babar Azam's team.

"The police took my flag as it was not allowed so I gave it to them," said Basheer. "But the team's welcome was fantastic."

Delays in processing visas has thwarted plans for droves of Pakistan fans to cross the border and support their team. As a US passport holder, Basheer was able to sidestep that chaos.

"I'm sad that no Pakistani fans have been allowed here, but I'm sure that once the tournament progresses they will come in large numbers as they are waiting for visas," said Basheer, whose Indian wife is from Hyderabad.

"Pakistan is my country of birth," added Karachi-born Basheer. "I am lucky that my wife is from India so I have affection for both countries."

The strained relations between India and Pakistan have stalled bilateral cricket ties between the two countries since 2012 but they meet only in multi-national events like the World Cup, World T20 and Asia Cup.

The arch-rivals will clash in a high-octane World Cup game in Ahmedabad on October 14 where Basheer will meet his Indian super fan counterpart, Sudhir Kumar.

"I have a special bond with Sudhir," said Basheer. "At times I book his flight to places where there are matches and we stay together. This is love and affection. I hate war and animosity."

Basheer has become a familiar face on the international cricket circuit. During the 2011 World Cup in India, home captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni even gave him a match ticket for the semifinal in Mohali.

"I have a special bond with 'Mahi' (Dhoni's nickname)," said Basheer.

Basheer also attended the 2015 World Cup in Australia and in the United Kingdom four years later.

However, he suffered a heart attack in Manchester. Now he travels with medication for diabetes and to treat his blood pressure.

"My medical condition is stable now, I have a bag full of medicines," said Basheer.

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets, will meet India for Asian Games cricket gold

HANGZHOU (Agencies): India crushed Bangladesh by nine wickets on Friday to set up a gold medal match against Afghanistan as they bid to become Asian Games champions on their first attempt.

India's young — but still formidable — side made light work of a rattled Bangladesh in the Hangzhou semifinals but could face stiffer resistance in Saturday's title-decider. Afghanistan boast a handful of quality players, who came good when it mattered to beat Pakistan by four wickets in the other last-four encounter.

Twenty20 cricket has been played at the Asian Games twice before, at Guangzhou 2010 and Incheon 2014, with Bangladesh and then Sri Lanka crowned champions.

Afghanistan were runners-up both times, but India did not take part. "This gives us a lot of confidence because we came together and played as a team," said India bowling hero Sai Kishore, who snared 3-12. "If we play to our best potential I think we have a good chance to win the final."

On an overcast day at the Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng

Cricket Field, India won the toss and chose to field on a pitch that has been susceptible to spin. It proved so again, with Bangladesh stumbling to just 96-9.

While Bangladesh struggled, India made it look easy, steaming to their target in 9.2 overs for the loss of one wicket. Tilak Varma was 55 not out and skipper Rituraj Gaikwad unbeaten on 40. Their chase got off to a horror start with quarter-final century-maker Yashasvi Jaiswal out for a duck in the first over, caught at fine leg.

But fellow opener Gaikwad seized control, plundering 20 from the third over including two consecutive sixes off pacerman Ripon Mondol.

Varma got in on the act in the next over, also crashing straight sixes, this time off Mritunjay Chowdhury, as they raced to 50-1. "They batted really well and we could have bowled better. We just didn't get enough runs on the board," said Bangladesh captain Saif Hassan, whose side faces Pakistan for the consolation of bronze. Bangladesh found runs hard to come by, with India getting the breakthrough in the fifth over when Mahmudul Hasan Joy

holed out to mid-on off Kishore for five. Most of India's big names are at home for the one-day World Cup, but they do have spinner Washington Sundar, who has played all three formats for his country. His tricky offbreaks then accounted for skipper Hassan and Zakir Hasan in the space of three balls.

Opener Parvez Hossain Emon made 23 but he too succumbed to spin, this time to Varma, as Bangladesh crawled to 36-4. Kishore returned to bag Afif Hossain and Shahadat Hossain. In the other match, Afghanistan skittled Pakistan for 115 after sending them in, with Fareed Ahmad snapping up three wickets and spinners Qais Ahmad and Zahir Khan two apiece. Afghanistan smacked two boundaries in the first over of the chase, but lost focus and slumped to 35-3.

Noor Ali Zadran kept his cool to steady the ship with 39 but when he and Afsar Zazai fell within three balls, it was game on at 71-5 in the 13th over. But they battled to within 23 runs with 18 balls left, and got them all in one wayward over from Aamer Jamal, with skipper Gulbadin Naib doing the damage with a heroic 26.



HANGZHOU: Fareed Ahmad, second right, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Rohail Nazir during the 2022 Asian Games men's second semi-final.

Sabalenka out of China Open, Swiatek to meet Gauff in semis

Beijing (AFP): World number one Aryna Sabalenka slumped out of the China Open in the women's quarter-finals with a 7-5, 6-2 defeat to Elena Rybakina on Friday in Beijing.

Most of the opening games went with serve until Rybakina broke the Belarusian late on and forced her into a wild forehand to take the set. Sabalenka gave up another two service games in set two -- the latter when she double-faulted twice from deuce -- to put Rybakina into a commanding lead.

And the six-foot Kazakh made no mistake, seeing out an ace-laden performance with a 40-0 game topped off with a crushing cross-court forehand winner. Rybakina will play Russia's Liudmila Samsonova in the final four after the world number 22 beat Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia 6-3, 6-2.

Swiatek to play Gauff Iga Swiatek will play US Open champion Coco Gauff in the other semi-final after the world's sec-

ond and third-ranked players both won earlier Friday.

World number two Swiatek came from a set behind to defeat Caroline Garcia 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in a match that hinged on two nail-biting tie-breaks.

Swiatek endured a tense opening set that the Frenchwoman -- ranked 10th -- eventually stole with a vicious passing shot at the end of a marathon tie-break.

The Pole was 4-1 up in set two but threatened a match-ending collapse against a stubborn Garcia, finally edging it when she netted a limp backhand.

From there, Swiatek took control, notching a double break in the deciding set and finally taking match point at the fifth time of asking. "For sure, it was really intense. We played really fast," the four-time Grand Slam winner told a post-match news conference.

"There was no time sometimes to think or analyse. I'm happy I used my intuition a lot," she said. "I just knew that she was risking, so... her mistakes could come."

'Comfortable' as it looked'

Gauff hailed a "comfortable" victory after she disposed of world number six Maria Sakkari 6-2, 6-4.

The 19-year-old sailed through a rapid first set and made short work of her opponent in a dominant second, breaking serve in the fifth game. She took the match by thundering down a meaty serve that Sakkari could only return wide.

"It was definitely as comfortable as... it looked, honestly," Gauff said after the match. "Some days you just feel like no matter what's going to happen, you're going to win," she said. "When I woke up today, I just felt good. It's a rare feeling as an athlete."

The China Open is taking place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing ended strict zero-Covid travel curbs. The men's competition concluded on Wednesday, when Italy's Jannik Sinner beat world number three Daniil Medvedev in the final.



In brief

Police carry out search operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police here on Friday carried out a search operation in 'Chowk Pindori', and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Kalar Syedan Police Station. According to a police spokesman, the search operation was conducted to maintain law and order and to flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed senior police officers and police personnel including women police to take part in the search operation. Police checked as many as 32 houses and 51 individuals during the search operation. Superintendent of Police, Saddar, Muhammad Nabeel said that police are fully prepared to shield the lives and property of the public and a combing and search operation was done to flush out the suspects and hardcore criminals. He said that police are more vigilant to keep an eye on suspects and to maintain law and order in Rawalpindi.

Gas theft attempt foiled in Bama town

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has successfully foiled a gas theft attempt in Bama Town by dismantling an illegal pipeline. According to a spokesperson of SNGPL, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force in Islamabad had conducted a successful raid in Bama Town, preventing the unlawful network from being established. The underground illegal pipeline, stretching over 300 meters, was discovered and removed before it could connect to the distribution network, saving the department from irreparable damage. The action had been initiated on the gas theft in the area of federal and its adjoining areas on the directives of the General Manager of SNGPL Azhar Rashid Sheikh. During the operation, Task Force personnel disconnected illegal gas meters and initiated legal proceedings against residential consumers engaged in commercial usage of gas connections. The operations were carried out in various localities, including Tarlai, Dhok Paracha, Tarnol, and New Town Attock.

'Model graveyard'

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta has said that Rakh Dhamial cemetery would be made model graveyard. He informed that the administration had taken important decisions regarding the Rakh Dhamial graveyard. The long-standing problems of the residents of the city regarding the graveyard had been properly addressed by the district administration, he said and informed that the issue was resolved due to joint efforts made by the administration and the Rawalpindi Chamber. Of the 1,000 kanals of the land allocated for the Rakh Dhamial cemetery, 450 kanals would be for Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantts while 450 kanals would be for the Municipal Corporation, he said adding, 100 kanals land would be for the minorities. Solid steps were being taken to make Rakh Dhamial cemetery a model graveyard and construction work on the walls of the graveyard had been completed, he informed. The funeral prayer area was also ready and the administration had arranged a special bus and ambulance service to facilitate the residents, Liaquat Ali Chhatta said. The graveyard fee amounting to Rs 5000 was fixed while the fee would not be taken from the person who could not afford it, the Commissioner said.



ISLAMABAD: Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Ashrafi urges Afghan interim govt to address legitimate concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Friday urged the Afghan interim government to prioritize addressing legitimate concerns raised by Pakistan instead of engaging in a blame game.

In a conversation with Arab and national media representatives, he underscored the importance of maintaining stability and peace in the region.

Ashrafi stated that Pakistan's intentions were clear: it had no desire for instability or lawlessness in Afghanistan, and it expected the same commitment from its Afghan counterparts. He emphasized the historic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan, rooted in social, cultural, and religious bonds, making their peace and prosperity interdependent.

Regarding the repatriation of illegal Afghan immigrants from Pakistan, Ashrafi encouraged the Afghan government to engage in open dialogue with Pakistan rather than resorting to hostile rhetoric. He acknowledged

Pakistan's four-decade history of hosting Afghan refugees and reassured that this support would continue. However, he stressed that respecting the laws of both countries was crucial for harmonious coexistence. Ashrafi also highlighted the issue of Afghan extremists potentially finding accomplices in recent blasts in Pakistan.

He urged both nations to resolve this matter amicably and collaboratively to ensure regional security and stability.

He further said there was no acceptance of recognizing Israel as Kashmir and Palestine were declared common issues for the Muslim Ummah, with a special focus on the ongoing oppression faced by the people of Kashmir.

He also highlighted the need for international awareness of the plight of Kashmiris, emphasizing that Kashmir remained incarcerated. He urged the international community to take note of these concerns.

Furthermore, Ashrafi who is also the President of the International Interfaith Council, reaffirmed the rights of minorities in

Pakistan, emphasizing that their protection was the responsibility of the state.

Strongly denouncing the recent terrorist incidents that occurred on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, he labeled them as acts of barbarism that were in direct opposition to Islam and humanity.

He noted a recent surge in such attacks over the past two months emphasizing that those who perpetrated such violence had no affiliation with true Islam and were clearly acting against its teachings.

He mentioned that Muslim World League Secretary-General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa had also condemned these incidents of death and destruction in the strongest terms.

Ashrafi, expressing solidarity against terrorism and extremism, emphasized that terrorism was a cancer that must be eradicated.

He pointed out that India's involvement in terrorism, both in Canada and globally, should be recognized by the international community. He urged the global fraternity to take notice of this concerning development.

Police arrest 27 for possessing illegal weapons, liquor, drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted 27 accused for possessing weapons, liquor, drugs and other items.

According to a police spokesman, Race Course, Rattaamral, Wah Cantt, Bani, Dhamial, Rawat, Kalar Syedan, Saddar Wah, and Taxila police rounded up Manzala bin Manzoor, Umar, Adeel Khan, Naveed, Bilal, Haseeb, Sharjeel, Sajid, Arshad, Nishad and others and recovered over 10 kg charas and 150 grams heroin.

He further informed that in other operations, Bani, Westridge, Civil Lines, Sadiqabad and Pirwadhai police managed to net seven accused namely Arslan, Shahid, Haider Ali, Qasim, Tamoor, Javed and Umair and recovered 13 litres of liquor, five pistols 30 bores, and ammunition. He said Race Course police in their operation against proclaimed offenders managed to arrest Muhammad Shehzad, an accused wanted in a murder case registered in 2014.

Italian Envoy calls on Sadiq Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday. The focus of the meeting encompassed mutual interests, notably the prevailing regional dynamics and energy matters. Chairman Senate emphasized the amicable relations between the two nations and called for further cementing bilateral ties.

He advocated for diversifying energy sources beyond conventional means, accentuating the untapped potential in solar and wind energy within Pakistan.

Sadiq Sanjrani also highlighted the expertise of energy professionals in Italy, offering collaboration to explore alternative electricity generation in Pakistan.

In light of the escalating impacts of cli-

mate change, the Chairman stressed the global imperative to shift towards clean energy generation. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to bolster trade and economic ties between Italy and Pakistan. Furthermore, Sanjrani extended an invitation to Italian enterprises to capitalize on the investment prospects available in Pakistan. He specifically pointed out opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in Balochistan, which could prove favourable for Italian investors.

Pakistan accords paramount importance to its relationship with Italy and aspires to enhance cooperation across various domains, particularly economic collaboration, he stated.

The meeting culminated with a mutual agreement to fortify parliamentary relations, aimed at fostering a deeper and more robust bilateral engagement.

ANF seizes 212 kg drugs in nine operations; arrests nine accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country recovered 212 kg of drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He said that 76.8 kg hashish and 40.7 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle near M-1, Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. During the operation, two accused residents of Islamabad were arrested.

In another operation in Bahria Town Phase-1, ANF recovered 100 grams of cocaine from a resident

going in a vehicle.

On the plantation of the accused, two more facilitators were also arrested.

In the third operation, 2.3 kg of hashish concealed in a car on GT Road Gujarat was recovered. During the operation, two accused residents of Nowshera and Swat were arrested. The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, 200 grams of Ice drug was recovered from a resident near Sialkot University.

An accused, resident of South Waziristan who was going to Sharjah by flight number PA-812 was arrest-

ed at Multan Airport. 115 grams of hashish concealed in the shoes and walnut shells was recovered.

240 Ecstasy tablets were recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Hayatabad. The recovered tablets were being smuggled to Multan by hiding them in a juicer blender. 5 kg hashish, 6 kg Ice and 80 kg crystals were recovered from a vehicle and a house in the Pasi area in Balochistan. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.

Efforts underway for registration of household workers and tenants

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad police have launched the "Knock the Door" campaign to facilitate the registration of domestic employees and bolster law and order in the federal capital. During the ongoing campaign, dedicated teams from the Islamabad Capital Police are taking to the streets and visiting residences to ensure the registration of

both tenants and domestic workers.

Additionally, they are addressing any concerns and issues raised by the citizens. Within the framework of this operation, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has already compiled data on 201 domestic employees working in 492 houses within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police

Station during the last 24 hours. The primary objective of this campaign is to bolster law and order in the federal capital, thereby minimizing the risk of any untoward incidents.

Registering tenants and domestic workers not only enables authorities to closely monitor any suspicious activities but also serves as a deterrent against potential wrongdoers.

Speakers stress Pakistan to adopt regional approach, actively participate in multilateral forums

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speakers at the two-day ISSI Conference stressed the need for Pakistan to adopt a regional approach and actively participate in regional multilateral forums and institutions to enhance its influence amidst the changing global order. The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), hosted a two-day International Conference on "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan's Role."

The first working session, titled, Building Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan was moderated by Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers included Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan, Nargis Nehan, Former Afghan Minister for Mines, Ambassador Omar Samad, Non-Resident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council, Washington DC, Graeme Smith, Senior Consultant for Crisis Group's Asia Program, International Crisis Group and Asfandiyar Mir, Senior Expert South Asia Programs,

USIP. The speakers were of the view that economic isolation, sanctions, the Taliban's ideological rigidity, large-scale migration, and proliferation of terrorist groups are major challenges in post-US/NATO Afghanistan. The great power competition, internal power struggles, regional fault lines, and ethnic clashes, further aggravate these challenges.

It was also said that peace is not only the absence of war, but also the presence of development, prosperity and an open society, which are all absent in Afghanistan today. She also said that Afghanistan's conflict has domestic, regional and international dimensions and for sustainable peace, there needs to be consensus for a political pathway.

It was agreed that Pakistan and Afghanistan could do more on the new and old issues by negotiations, bilateral talks and cooperation. It was further said that both states have issues that bind them together more than ever and on the economic side, connectivity, transit and other topics have broader scope.

It was also emphasized that human life in Afghanistan has a greater value

than politics. A really fragile equilibrium has emerged as the Afghan economy stopped shrinking. Humanitarian organizations are disappointed due to the Taliban's refusal to compromise their heterodox vision of cultural and religious purity, especially on gender issues.

Speakers also highlighted that the issue of terrorism lies at the intersection of both internal and external challenges to peace in Afghanistan. There are concerns and anxiety in Washington and Islamabad regarding the Taliban's growing alignment with terrorist groups, especially Al-Qaida and TTP. The second working session titled, "Building Regional Peace: Pakistan, The Middle East and Beyond" was moderated by Hamayoun Khan, Program Advisor, Fredrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Pakistan. Speakers of the session included Dr Sayed Kazem Sajjad Pour, Distinguished Fellow, The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran, Dr Muhammet Kocak, Professor, Social Sciences the University of Ankara Institute for Area Studies, Turkiye, Dr. Ali Bakir, Professor, Ibn Khaldon Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences.

Railways putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation work of tracks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on railway tracks, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time.

The infrastructures, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I) and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) are also being revamped, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometres and the department has planned to improve the speed up to 160 kilometres per hour in the project of upgradation of ML-I under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To improve the speed of the trains and ensure fixed timings, he said the procurement of 230 passenger coaches and 820 Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) project was also under process.

The official said that around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger

coaches had been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160 kilometres per hour.

He said that the rolling stock being procured under this project would be capable of running at a speed of 160 km/h whereas the department has a dedicated fleet of 55 diesel-electric locomotives of 4000-4500 HP for freight operation to cater maximum haulage at higher speed.

"The installation of Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) system on 48 stations on ML-I to improve the signalling and interlocking for higher speed and safety of train operation," the official added. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways was a big organization comprising around 63000 employees and its network was spread throughout the country. The official said the employees were well cared for owing to having several welfare activities, including healthcare facilities through an intensive network of hospitals, dispensaries and child healthcare units.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Cuba called on Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan in his office.

Containers stopped

KABUL (TOLOnews): The China-based association of importers and goods carriers of Afghans said that over one thousand containers of transit goods of Afghan traders have been stopped in Karachi port in Pakistan. The head of the association said Pakistan – not considering the international laws – has incurred millions of dollars of loss on Afghan traders. “Most of the imported goods have been prevented through Pakistan’s transit routes, they are clothes, fabrics, tires, and constructional materials,” said Khan Agha.

The Frontier Post

RABI-UL-AWWAL 20, 1445 — Saturday, October 07, 2023

Three kidnappers detained

WARDAK (Agencies): The security personnel of Behsud District, Maidan Wardak Province, have arrested the three kidnappers who wanted to abduct achild, according to a press release issued by the police chief’s press office. Statement stated that 3 culprots accused of kidnapping arrested along with two pistols by the security forces of Behsuto district confessing to their crime. After preliminary investigations, they have been handed over to the relevant department for further proceedings.

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

Pakistan’s move to expel Afghan refugees sparks reactions



KABUL (TOLOnews): Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, spokesperson of Pakistan’s foreign ministry, in an interview with Pakistani media said the caretaker government’s decision to expel refugees is not limited to Afghan nationals and all undocumented refugees in Pakistan will be subject to the policy.

Baloch added that the United Nations and the international community have the responsibility to provide better conditions

of living in Afghanistan so that Afghan refugees can return home in a dignified manner. She reiterated Pakistan’s position over Afghan soil being used by terrorist groups to operate in Pakistan while adding that they have shared their concern with the Islamic Emirate and asked them to act against the groups.

The Afghan refugees in Pakistan meanwhile complained of facing severe challenges. “There are

some Afghans who are unable (to leave) and the working environment is not paved for them and they don’t have the money to return and are facing various problems,” said Malik Khan, an Afghan refugee.

“The conditions for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan are not facilitated at all due to security, economic and lack of jobs ahead of this long winter,” said Baqir Ahmadi, an Afghan refugee.

Pakistan’s decision to deport over 1.73 million Afghan nationals, who lack legal documents, faced strong reactions at the national and international level.

Former President Hamid Karzai in a statement called the treatment of Afghan refugees by the Pakistani government “inappropriate and against good neighborly behavior.”

Karzai said that the current problems of Pakistan are not linked to Afghan refugees and that they have provided many economic and social benefits to Pakistan. The former president hoped the Pakistani government would reconsider its decision. Refugees rights activists said that the Islamic Emirate should engage in direct negotiations with Islamabad to address the challenges of the Afghan refugees.

On Thursday, the acting Minister of Defense, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, speaking at the 14th graduation ceremony of the police academy in Kabul, condemned the latest decision of Pakistan to expel Afghan refugees by October 31, calling it an “unjust” decision.

Iranian cyclist reaches Nangarhar with peace message

KABUL (Ariana News): An Iranian cyclist, Rahmatullah Azad, who has come to Nangarhar province by bicycle says the purpose of his trip is to convey peace message among nations.

He said that the people of Afghanistan are very hospitable, expressing his satisfaction with the behavior of Afghans.

This Iranian cyclist has called on the international community to help the people of Afghanistan and not leave the country alone in this difficult situation.

Azad, who has visited different provinces of Afghanistan in the past, has now reached Nangarhar province. “Afghanistan has seen forty years of war and problems, and now the international community must help it. I have come to bring the voice of oppression of the Afghan people to the ears of the world,” he Azad. He stated that he is happy that peace has come to Afghanistan after 20 years. “I saw kind, good and faithful people



who have gone through forty years of war and are still living with hope, and now I am at eastern Afghanistan and I hope that the world will hear my voice,” he added. “I have not come for a country or a government, I have come for the whole world to say that these people have suffered for forty years and it

is enough for them.” Meanwhile, Information and Culture Department of Nangarhar say that until now about 70 foreign tourists have traveled to this province and visited various historical and recreational areas.

“Until now, nearly 70 foreign tourists have traveled to Nangarhar

province and visited the historical and recreational places of this province,” said Qureshi Badlon, Director of Information and Culture Department of Nangarhar province. Since IEA’s takeover, the number of foreign visitors to Afghanistan have increased.

Iran’s Interior Minster Takes stand against undocumented Afghan migrants

KABUL (Agencies): The Minister of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has underscored the undeniable importance of organizing Afghan immigrants within the country.

Ahmad Vahidi, the Minister of Interior of Iran, stated, “Those who are unauthorized should not be in the country, and those who are legally present should operate within the defined framework.”

According to the IRNA news agency, he told reporters on Thursday that organizing refugees means that the presence of these individuals must be regulated within a specified framework and order.

Meanwhile, The Pakistani government has given all “illegal” immigrants living there until November 1, 2023, to leave Pakistan. Sarfaraz Bugti, Pakistan’s Interior Minister, said on Tuesday during a press conference in Islamabad that the assets of illegal immigrants in this country would be confiscated after the specified dead-

line for departure.

According to official statistics released by the Pakistani government, there are currently 4.4 million Afghan residents in Pakistan. This significant Afghan population has been a part of Pakistan’s demographic landscape for several decades, with many Afghan refugees seeking shelter and opportunities in Pakistan due to ongoing

conflicts and instability in their homeland.

In a related context, the Interior Minister of the Islamic Republic has recently disclosed that Iran is home to approximately 5 million Afghan immigrants.

Like its Pakistani counterpart, the Iranian government provides essential services and support to this sizable Afghan population, ensuring their well-

being while addressing various socio-economic challenges associated with their presence. After the Taliban takeover, many people have migrated to various countries, including Iran and Pakistan. Both countries have expelled and repatriated thousands of individuals to Afghanistan in recent months, and this process has recently intensified.



Renovation of 4 historical sites kicks off in Kandahar

KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of Information and Culture says the reconstruction work of four historical monuments worth 24 million AFN has started in Kandahar province.

The ministry said that the historical sites include the tomb of Mirwais Khan, the house and tomb of Ahmad Shah Baba and

the Ahmad Shahi reservoir in Spin Boldak.

Acting Minister of Information and Culture Khairullah Khairkhan said that the restoration work of several other historical sites is currently underway in different provinces of the country worth 260 million AFN.

Meanwhile, businessmen and local authorities of Kandahar province welcome this development decision of IEA and have promised all kinds of cooperation.

“We are very grateful to the Islamic Emirate for giving a positive answer to our request, and sufficient funds have been taken into consideration for the reconstruction of

these sites,” said Inamullah Samangani, Kandahar’s information and culture head.

This comes amid most of the country’s historic buildings and monuments are in danger of collapsing and if the government does not pay serious attention to them, they will be destroyed in the not-so-distant future.



Durrani urges Kabul to surrender TTP or eliminate the threat

KABUL (Agencies): Pakistan’s special representative on Afghanistan claimed that the Taliban have brought peace and security to Afghanistan, but Pakistan feels like it has not benefited from this peace.

He asked the Taliban to hand over the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) to Islamabad or eliminate the threat posed by this group.

Asif Durrani spoke about Afghanistan during Thursday’s Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad session. In his speech, he acknowledged that Pakistan’s relationship with Afghanistan has always been challenging. However, he spoke in a complimentary tone, stating that Afghan governments did not conspire with India, Pakistan’s enemy. He referred to the two wars between India and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 when Afghanistan declared neutrality despite political and border disputes with Pakistan and friendly relations with India.



He said that negotiations are underway in Afghanistan to end the TTP attacks, but he cannot disclose any information about these negotiations to the public. Asif Durrani said, “For now, they do not blame the Afghan government for the TTP attacks, but at the same time, Pakistan expects the Taliban to play a role in bringing peace to our border regions.” He added, “Members of

the Pakistani Taliban who have sought refuge in Afghanistan should be repatriated to Pakistan or neutralized.” The Pakistani representative highlighted that the militants obtained modern weapons from the abandoned U.S. stockpiles in Afghanistan. While supporting the idea of initiating dialogue and reconciliation in Afghanistan, he opposed using the Doha agreement as

the basis for political talks. Pakistani officials have recently initiated a crackdown on Afghan refugees and have requested over a million to leave Pakistan by the end of this month. Furthermore, various organizations, including Pakistani human rights groups, have urged Pakistani officials to reevaluate their policies concerning Afghan refugees and to uphold their fundamental human rights.

Education ministry striving to provide religious, modern Education



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Acting Minister of Education, Habibullah Agha, said at the ceremony celebrating International Teacher’s Day that the ministry is working to improve educational opportunities for students in the country.

Speaking at the ceremony, which was held at Amani High School in Kabul, the Acting Minister of Education called education a necessity for the progress and self-sufficiency of the country.

“The Ministry of Education is dedicated to providing its educational services in the areas of religious and modern education in all parts of Afghanistan in a balanced manner,” Habibullah Agha said.

Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Islamic Emirate’s second deputy prime minister, said during the event that strengthening education is one of the Islamic Emirate’s top priority. “Some parts of Afghanistan were deprived

of education over the years or had neither schools nor madrasas. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is trying to build schools and madrasas in all parts of Afghanistan,” Hanafi said.

The Administrative Office of the Islamic Emirate said education was an issue in talks.

“There were talks with the world regarding the relations. The negative answer of the Americans, and non-recognition, was conditional on that the education curriculum should be

according to their wishes. The government did not accept,” said Noorulhaq Anwar, the head of the Administrative Office of the Islamic Emirate.

According to Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Islamic Emirate’s second deputy prime minister, during the two years of the Islamic Emirate’s rule, the Ministry of Education organized and regulated 10 million students in 18,498 schools and madrasas with more than 200 thousand teachers.

Graduation ceremony at military academy Syria buries dead after drone attack kills dozens

DAMASCUS (AFP): Syria began burying its dead on Friday after a drone attack on a military academy graduation ceremony in Homs killed dozens, while Damascus pummelled opposition-held areas in response to the assault by "terrorist organisations".

In one of the bloodiest single attacks on the army since the start of Syria's war in 2011, assault came just after the ceremony attended by officers and their families, killing and wounding both military personnel and civilians. State media said on Friday that 89 had died, including 31 women and five children, with 277 other people wounded. Dozens of distraught victims' relatives gathered outside the Homs military hospital since the early morning, an AFP correspondent said.

A woman in a black dress adorned with white flowers was overwhelmed with grief at the loss of her son. "Do not go, my beloved," she cried. "This sleep does not befit you." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, reported a heavier toll of 123 dead, including 54 civilians, 39 of them women and children. It said at least 150 people were wounded. In a rare move since the war broke out, the government has declared three days of mourning starting Friday, with flags flying at half-mast.

Defence Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas attended the first funerals for around 30 people, including both military and civilians. Military personnel saluted as rows of caskets draped in Syrian flags were carried one by one and placed into ambulances for transportation for burial. Videos cir-

culating on social media have showed panic and chaos during the attack, with people falling to the ground and others pleading for help.

"Martyrdom, dignity and national pride come at a great cost," Abbas told victims' families, according to a statement broadcast on state television. The blood of those who died "is dear, but the nation is dearer", he added. Abbas had been present at the graduation ceremony but left just minutes before the attack, eyewitnesses and the Observatory said. At the military hospital, Khawlah, 33, was searching among the coffins for her brother.

"Amjad did not die, I died," she told AFP, grief-stricken. No group has claimed responsibility for the assault, but the Syrian army has accused "armed terrorist organisations" of the attack with "explosive-laden drones", vowing to "respond with full force". The Syrian army began a bombing campaign on opposition-held areas in the country's northwest in apparent retaliation.

The Observatory said Friday that 15 civilians had been killed, adding that Russian warplanes carried out at least five strikes in the Idlib area. Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the academy attack and expressed his condolences to his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad, the Kremlin said Friday.

"We intend to keep up our close cooperation with our Syrian partners to fight all forms... of terrorism," Putin said, quoted in a Kremlin statement. Homs province was a key opposition stronghold in the early days of Syria's conflict. The government regained

control over the province in 2018.

Swathes of Idlib province and areas bordering the provinces of Aleppo, Hama and Latakia are controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, led by Al-Qaeda's former Syria branch. HTS and the Islamic State militant group have used drones to attack government-held areas and Syrian and Russian military targets, including in recent months, according to the Observatory. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres was "deeply concerned" over the drone attack and "reports of retaliatory shelling", his spokesman said.

The attack came as Turkey struck at least 21 sites including civilian infrastructure and in north-east Syria, according to security forces in the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration that controls the area. The forces reported 11 dead, including six of its members and five civilians. AFP correspondents and the Observatory said the bombing in the northeast subsided overnight.

Turkey's defence ministry said that Ankara's forces had carried out air strikes in northern Syria, destroying 30 targets, including "shelters, depots and storage sites". Pentagon spokesman Pat Ryder meanwhile said US F-16 warplanes over Syria had shot down a Turkish drone, deeming it "a potential threat" after it approached "less than a half kilometre from US forces" near Hasakeh. The conflict in Syria has killed more than half a million people since it began in 2011, spiralling into a devastating war involving foreign armies and militias.

Medical report of Nawaz submitted to LHC

LAHORE (INP): A fresh medical report of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supremo, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday. The former premier, who had left for London in 2019 on medical grounds, was scheduled to return to Pakistan on October 21.

The LHC had allowed Nawaz Sharif to travel abroad initially for a period of four weeks, extendable on the basis of medical reports. As per report, the ex-premier had "some residual anginal symptoms" which would require "frequent follow-up investigations" in London and Pakistan. The report was signed by Professor Carlo Di Mario, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals, part of Guy's and St Thomas' National Health Service Foundation Trust.

The cardiologist noted that they first tried medical treatment, strengthening his antianginal therapy. "When Nawaz's symptoms worsened, another angioplasty was conducted in November 2022 which targeted an occluded left circumflexed artery," the doctor said in report.

It added that the elder Sharif still has some residual anginal symptoms and suggested continuous monitoring. The former premier is embattled in various cases, including the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) Avenfield, Al-Azizia and Hill Metal and the Flagship references, had left for London in Dec 2019 on medical grounds after the Lahore High Court had granted him permission to travel abroad for four weeks. As per sources, the former premier will return to Pakistan on October 21 via a connecting flight. Elder Sharif will land at Abu Dhabi International Airport from London on October 21 and on the same day, he will leave for Lahore.

Kabul must stop TTP attacks: Durrani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been carrying out terrorist attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan and stated Kabul interim government must stop this process.

Asif Durrani said that "the peace [the Taliban] brought to Afg must also be brought to our borderlands." He says TTP fighters in Afg, who he noted are using US weapons, should be "returned to Pakistan or neutralized."

He also strongly denied the Afghan accusation of interference in Pakistan. Addressing a function in Islamabad, Asif Ali Durrani said that the Soviet Union was not invited to Afghanistan by Pakistan, nor was the Afghan refugees invited by Pakistan itself. Asif Ali Durrani said that peace, stability, development, and prosperity in Afghanistan have to be decided by the Afghans themselves. "Pakistan or the outside world cannot provide a lasting peace and security solution in Afghanistan," he said.

Death toll in India glacial lake flood hits 40

NEW DELHI (AFP): At least 40 people have died in flash floods inundating India's northeast, officials said on Friday, as army teams plotted helicopter rescues for more of the thousands stranded in the deluge. Violent torrents stuck the remote state of Sikkim on Wednesday after the sudden bursting of a high-altitude glacial lake in neighbouring Nepal.

Climate scientists warn that similar disasters will become an increasing danger across the Himalayas as global temperatures rise and ice melts. Downstream search-and-rescue teams recovered more bodies overnight as the waters cut a swathe through the countryside towards the Bay of Bengal. "Nineteen bodies have been recovered" in Sikkim state, V.B. Pathak, its top civil servant, told AFP. Shama Parveen, a district magistrate in neighbouring West Bengal, said that an additional 21 bodies had been recovered in her state over the past three days.



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain, Saqib Rauf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Governor House.

Jailed Iranian activist wins Nobel Peace Prize

TEHRAN (Agencies): Narges Mohammadi, the most prominent jailed Iranian women's rights advocate, has won the 2023 Nobel peace prize for fighting the oppression of women in the country. "The Norwegian Nobel committee has decided to award the 2023 Nobel peace prize to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all," the committee said in its citation.

Mohammadi is one of Iran's leading human rights activists, who has campaigned for women's rights and the abolition of the death penalty and an improvement of prison conditions inside Iran. The award will be viewed as a tribute to the Woman, Life, Freedom movement in Iran that rocked the clerical establishment last year, but has been suppressed with many activists either killed or in jail.

The protests were sparked by the death in police custody of the young Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini after she had been arrested for not wearing the hijab in line with state rules. The conflict over the wearing of the hijab continues. Mohammadi is serving multiple sentences in Tehran's Evin prison amounting to about 12 years, imprisonment, according to the rights organisation Front Line Defenders, the latest of the many periods she has been detained. Charges against her include spreading propaganda against the state.

She is also the deputy head of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, a non-governmental organisation led by Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel peace prize laureate. In recent years, Mohammadi has not been able to live with her family, who were forced to leave Iran. The chair of the

Norwegian Nobel peace prize committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen, speaks during the announcement of the prize at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo.

The chair of the Norwegian Nobel peace prize committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen, speaks during the announcement of the prize at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo on Friday. She has been active from within prison warning of nationwide protests by publishing letters about the state of prisons and detention centres and violence against prisoners and detainees.

Mohammadi's brother, Hamidreza, said he was overjoyed after waking up to the news of his sister's Nobel peace prize. He told the Norwegian broadcaster NRK that he hoped the prize would make activists' lives safer in Iran. "We hope it will be safer for those in Iran. The situation there is very dangerous, activists there can lose their lives," he said.

Describing waking up to the news of his sister's award, he said: "The joy is so great. I am so happy on behalf of Narges." In mid-December last year, in a letter to Javed Rahman, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Iran, Mohammadi called "assaults against women during detention and in detention centres" as "part of the repression programme" of the Islamic Republic against women protesters and fighters.

In a message published on the anniversary of Amini's death, she described it as "the day of recording the oppression of the religious authoritarian regime against the women of Iran". Mohammadi is also one of the women calling for the UN to widen the definition of crimes



against humanity to include gender apartheid. For refusing to be silenced behind bars, she has been banned from speaking directly with her husband and children for the past 18 months.

"When your wife and the closest person to you is in prison, every single day you wake up worried that you might hear bad news," her husband, Taghi Rahmani, told CNN in a recent interview in France, where he has lived in exile with their children since shortly after Mohammadi was imprisoned in 2015. After Ebadi, Mohammadi is the second Iranian woman to receive the Nobel peace prize. No Iranian man has received the award. Mohammadi is the 19th woman to win the 122-year-old prize and the first since Maria Ressa of the Philippines won the award in 2021 jointly with Russia's Dmitry Muratov. The Nobel peace prize, worth 11m Swedish crowns (£819,000) will be presented in Oslo on 10 December, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist who founded the awards in his 1895 will.

Ukraine turns the tables on Russia's Black Sea Fleet

KYIV (Agencies): "Russian warship, go f*** yourself" is the phrase dating back to the first days of the Russia-Ukrainian war, that spawned countless memes and bumper stickers. It is what Ukrainian servicemen stationed on the Zmiiny Island, or Snake Island, in the Black Sea replied to the Russian warship's urge to surrender.

But by early 2022, the Russian Black Sea Fleet based in annexed Crimea, seemed to have gained absolute control over Ukraine's territorial waters in the Black Sea and its smaller, shallower sibling, the Sea of Azov. Its larger ships shelled Ukraine's main seaport, Odesa, and other southern cities with missiles and drones, killing civilians and destroying apartment buildings, military installations and port infrastructure.

Smaller Russian navy vessels stopped and officially inspected merchant ships carrying grain and sunflower oil, Ukraine's key exports. Russian navy felt at ease in all of the Black Sea's northern part – but after almost 600 days of war, the tables have turned. "They miscalculated," Lieutenant General Ihor Romanenko, the former deputy chief of Ukraine's general staff of armed forces, told Al Jazeera. "We won't let them rest and won't rest ourselves until we fully de-occupy our lands."

Satellite imagery shows that at least a dozen Russian vessels, including guided missile frigates, landing ships and submarines, have been hastily relocated from their main base in Sevastopol, a subtropical port in annexed Crimea. Most were moved to the Russian port of Novorossiisk more than 300km (186 miles) east of Sevastopol, or on other, smaller bases or bays in eastern Crimea or along Russia's Black Sea coast.

British Defence Minister James Heappey compared the "functional defeat of the Black Sea Fleet" to the liberation of Kharkiv Oblast one year ago. "The fleet has been forced to disperse to ports from which it cannot have an effect on Ukraine," he said on Tuesday. The relocation follows a series of daring Ukrainian attacks with Western-supplied cruise missiles and domestically assembled aerial and naval drones that destroyed flagships, smaller cutters and even a docked submarine. They also annihilated two advanced S-400 air defence systems creating sizeable "holes" in the sky over Crimea.

And, most importantly, they damaged a major shipyard with a dry dock that was essential for repairing decades-old Russian ships. "What was critical for Russia wasn't damage to vessels, it was damage to the shipyard," Kyiv-based analyst Ihor Tyshevich told Al Jazeera. "This is the reason why a large part of the Black Sea fleet vessels were relocated to Novorossiisk."

On September 22, Kyiv barraged and partially destroyed the Fleet's headquarters in a snow-white Stalinist building in Sevastopol. The attacks dramatically reduced Russia's capabilities to land troops near Odesa and back occupying

forces in the southern region of Kherson, analysts have said. "Ukraine's actions have wrestled control of Ukraine's western territorial waters back from Russia and prevented the Black Sea Fleet from threatening Odesa with amphibious assault or providing tactical fires and logistical support to Russian forces in Kherson," retired US Army Major General Gordon Skip Davis Jr told Al Jazeera.

The success seems even more staggering given that Ukraine's minuscule navy lost most of its ships during Crimea's 2014 annexation and consists of two dozen obsolete vessels that can all fit into a tiny bay. The possibility of future sea drone attacks deterred Russian ships that inspected vessels with Ukrainian grain. Russian ships "can defend themselves with a relative effect only if there's a group of vessels", while inspections make logistical sense only if carried out by individual ships, analyst Tyshevich said.

However, these days, Ukrainian and international shipping companies prefer to use smaller vessels that can move along the Black Sea coast towards Romanian ports on the Danube, a gateway to Eastern and Central Europe. But "the Danube ports are not deep, a Panamax ship [with a tonnage of more than 50,000] won't enter them, and the cargo needs to be reloaded either at sea or in other ports," Kyiv-based analyst Aleksey Kushch told Al Jazeera. Therefore, the overall capacity of the Odesa port fell tenfold, and only about 20 vessels carrying about 100,000 tonnes of wheat leave it every month, he said. The irony is that the entire Black Sea fleet could have been Ukrainian if it was not for the pacifism of its early leaders – and Ukraine's dire economic situation in the 1990s. Founded in Sevastopol in 1783, the fleet won naval battles with Ottoman Turkey, fought Nazi Germans and often confronted NATO in the Mediterranean.

Ukraine proclaimed independence on August 24, 1991, and just days later, Moscow appointed Admiral Igor Kasatonov as head of the gargantuan fleet that employed some 100,000 servicemen and 60,000 auxiliary staffers serving 833 warships and hundreds of aircraft. It had bases in what is now Russia, Moldova and Georgia, and Soviet naval outposts in Syria and Libya reported to it.

Kasatonov arrived in Kyiv in early 1992 to meet Ukraine's first post-Soviet President Leonid Kravchuk and pledge allegiance to Kyiv, a witness said. But the meeting did not go well, and he ran out of it "absolutely crazy", photographer Efrem Lukatsky told Al Jazeera. "He began to spill his guts to me, and said that [Kravchuk], as it turns out, didn't need the Fleet," he said.

The decision seemed logical at the time as Ukraine simply could not afford to maintain the fleet, and Kasatonov pledged allegiance to Russia on January 4, 1992. Moscow and Kyiv decided to run the fleet jointly as idle ships rusted away and were often sold for scrap metal.

Xi meeting in November 'a possibility', Biden says

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The White House is working to arrange a face-to-face meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month in San Francisco, US officials say, but they and Biden warn that plans are still uncertain.

The Biden team has been working for months to try to get the two leaders together as a centerpiece event during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to be held in San Francisco from Nov. 11 to 17. But Biden and US officials cautioned that the time and location of a meeting and items for discussion have not been nailed down. The Washington Post reported that plans for the San Francisco summit were "pretty firm." "There is no such meeting set up, but it is a possibility," Biden told reporters after making remarks about the US economy on Friday at the White House.

US officials see a meeting as essential to help cool a relationship that has grown testy in recent years, with tensions rising over Taiwan and a Chinese military buildup in the South China Sea. The Chinese cut off cross-military communications used to de-escalate conflict between the two countries after those ties were cut following an August 2022 visit by former US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan that enraged China.

Relations further downward spiraled early this year when a Chinese balloon — which US officials called a sophisticated surveillance balloon — flew over the United States and was ultimately shot down by a US fighter jet. Biden and Xi last met in 2022 on the sidelines of a G20 summit on Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Biden climate envoy John Kerry have traveled to China this year seeking to thaw relations and ensure continued communication.