#### Imran's indictment deferred

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commision of Pakistan on Thursday again deferred indictment of PTI chairman in contempt of ECP and CEC case until December 6. The PTI chief was not presented to the Election Commission of Pakistan from Adiala Jail due to security concerns. A day earlier, an accountability court had extended bail of PTI Chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi till December 6 in Toshakhana and Al-Qadir Trust cases.

# Frontier Post

4 found beheaded at house F.P. Report

KARACHI: Beheaded bodies of a woman and her three sons were found from a house in Gulistan Johar town of Karachi on Thursday while the police have arrested the slain kids' father. The ages of the dead children were between two to 11 years and they were all sons of the victim woman. In a statement to police, Arshad Ali, the head of the family said that he was not present at the time of the incident.

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**PESHAWAR EDITION** 12 PAGES

PRICE, 30

## PM for utilizing loss & damage fund on merit to cope with climate change issues

of climate change.

He said the utilization of Fund

funding should be additional and tan-

The prime minister, in an interview with CNN on the sidelines of Nations to contribute towards minimizing the would be a welcome step. climate change impacts in the region

countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Therefore, initially it is possible to in the COP 28.

Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on and democracies on the Western side, Thursday stressed the need to immediately operationalize the Loss & and all of us," he added. He said the Damage Fund, ensuring its utiliza- climate change was no more a fashtion on merit to cope with the issues ionable point to discuss as it hit Pakistan very hard last year.

The prime minister pointed out should not be linked with the devel- that Pakistan was not primarily opment funds and loans from multi-lateral financial entities, but the climate disaster in which the country's two provinces Sindh and Balochistan faced historical devastation. "Everyone knows who have been contributing in last one century Framework so it is more of a question of an hon-Convention on Climate Change est conversation rather than passing (UNFCCC) COP28, said that cur- judgment on countries and rently Pakistan's focus was on trans- economies," he remarked. Therefore, formation from the coal-based power he said, the responsibility shown by plants to renewable energy projects the wealthy nations themselves

To a question whether the Fund should be operationalized through a 'This is the area which could United Nation framework, the prime attract interest of countries here in minister said, "If we wait for a UN Caretaker Energy Minister Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) framework it will take years of years. Muhammad Ali will also participate

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Kuwait, and the settled economies operationalize it under the World Bank and other multilateral entities.'

PM to lead Pak delegation in COP-28: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will lead the Pakistani delegation in the high-level segment of the 28th UN Conference of Parties (COP 28) starting here at the Expo City on Friday.

The prime minister will attend the World Climate Action Summit on December 1 and 2, a press release by the Prime Minister Office Press Wing said. Prime Minister Kakar will give a national statement at the World Climate Action Summit on December 2.

Meetings of the prime minister with various world leaders are expected on the sidelines of the conference. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Minister for Climate Change Ahmed Irfan Aslam and

#### Nawaz's statement in Toshakhana case recorded

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Thursday informed the Lahore accountability court that it has recorded PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's statement in the Toshakhana reference.

According to the case filed by NAB, then-prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, in order to extend illegal benefits to former Nawaz and president Asif Zardari, allegedly allowed the retention of vehicles gifted to them by different foreign states and dignitaries by relaxing procedures related to the submission of gifts in the Toshakhana — a government department that stores gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats and officials by heads of other governments, states, and foreign dignitaries.

### No change in PoL prices E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: As the fortnightly review approaches, indications suggest that there will be no significant alterations in the prices of products. diesel and petroleum Notably, kerosene rates are expected to experience a slight

decrease. The government is on the brink of announcing the revised petrol prices for the upcoming week. The new petrol rates in Pakistan will come into effect from December 1, and the announcement is expected to be made before 11:59 pm on Thursday.

## PPP will give a surprise in elections: Bilawal

QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that his party will give a surprise on February 8 general elections, as the incoming Prime Minister as well as Ministers Chief provinces will be Jiyalas of

his party. He announced that the PPP government formed as a result of the success in the upcoming general elections, to solve the problems

faced by the unemployed youth and provide financial support to the working classes will introduce, on the pattern of Benazir try is run by uniting the Income Support Program entire nation," he recalled. (BISP), the Youth Card, Kissan Card and the Mazdoor Card. "Youths should comeforward and bury the politics of division, hate, and revenge in hatred, ego, division and the country as Pakistan revenge after assuming the

public gathering held on the occasion of the party's 56th foundation day in Quetta, the PPP Chairman said that Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto introduced a new style of politics in the country, as he took politics out of the drawing room and brought it to the masses. "Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto also adopted a new style of politics by burying the poltics of hatred, division and

that she used to say that she has to serve her poor people of the country. "Shaheed President Zardari becoming youth will be provided.

Bibi also set an example the head of the state, and showed how the coun- Pakistan became one of the Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari said that President Asif Ali Zardari also created a new history by burying the politics of needs a new way of office of the presidency, approach and politics," he adding that President adding that President Zardari did not take Addressing a mammoth revenge on any of them, his tongues (during imprisonment) or kept him imprisoned for 12 years. shown restraint on his media trial.

Sometimes in Memogate someone would go to court wearing a black coat and someone would appear as the (so-called) representative of the youth, but he (didn't mess with them, instead) united the whole

countries that exported these commodities.

Chairman People's Party said that the solution to all the problems faced by the country is in the ideology of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and manifesto of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, adding that other parties protect the interests of the elite, who attempted to cut out while PPP always takes care of the poor people of the country. He said that imprisoned for 12 years. the PPP government "President Zardari has formed after winning the general elections on February 8 will further increase the BISP, adding: "we will also issue youth cards for the youth.

I am young myself, so I can understand their problems and thinking. 70pc of Pakistan's population consists of youth, no "Khilarri" revenge, and continued to do politics under the slogan "Democracy is our revenge," he said, adding revenge," he said, adding adding revenge, "be said, adding revenge," he said, adding revenge," he said, adding revenge, "be said, adding revenge," he said, adding revenge," he said, adding revenge, "be sai import wheat, rice and necessary facilities for sugar, but within a year of training and employment of

### Imran asks CJP Isa to ensure level-playing field for PTI ahead of February 8 elections

F.P. Report

Khan on Thursday raised several conseeking equal opportunities for his party to lead its political campaign.

ties, to hold political meetings and gatherings without "discrimination".

The deposed prime minister, who cated in successive FIRs with respect to was removed from power via a no-trust ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated Pakistan motion in April last year, stated in the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran letter that the PTI leaders and activists were being targeted through the regiscerns regarding the "discrimination" his tration of multiple and successive crimparty is facing, in a letter to Chief inal cases to keep them behind bars. He Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa termed this a "tactic of abuse and have remained imprisoned for nearly oppression", which he said is being used all over the country. "Those bailed The letter, calls on the top judge to out by the courts in one or more cases direct the federal and provincial gov- are immediately booked in further case against such arrests and registration of ernments as well as the Election that purport to pertain to events several Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to months in the past. Often several FIRs unfavourable observations of a bench allow PTI, like all other political parare registered against persons affiliated of the apex court" disabled the high with the PTI with respect to the same courts from preserving the PTI leaders

different and unrelated events all across the country," the letter read. The former premier, who is incarcer-

ated in Adiala jail in cipher and corruption case, said that several women arrested in the light of the May 9 events six months. The letter drew the CJP's attention towards the PTI's petitions that moved the provincial high courts cases in "undisclosed" FIRs but "the event. The same persons are also impliand activists' right to liberty.



Hajj 2024 applications can be submitted till Dec 12, 2023 in any UBL branch.

Government Hajj Package 2024					
Regular Hajj S	Scheme	Sponsor Hajj Scheme			
South Region North Region (Karachi, Quetta, Sukkur) (other cities)		South Region (Karachi, Quetta, Sukkur)	North Region (other cities)		
Long Hajj Package (38 to 42 days/8 days in Madina)					
PKR 1,065,000	PKR 1,075,000	USD 3,765	USD 3,800		
Short Hajj Package (20 to 25 days/3 to 5 days in Madina)					
PKR 1,140,000	PKR. 1,150,000	USD 4,015	USD 4,050		
Selection will be thro Those who have already 2017 or later are not e	performed Hajj in	Selection will be on first come first served basis.  For foreign remittance payment*: Account Title: Sponsorship Hajj Collection Account-MORA Account IBAN No: PK26UNIL0109000293302713 Swift Code: UNILPKKA741 al amount should be received in remittance account			

Optional Facilities**				
Particulars		Regular Hajj Scheme	Sponsor Hajj Scheme*	
Sacrificial Animal		PKR 60,000	USD 215	
Residence in Mecca (separate room, if	Double Bed	PKR 180,000	USD 635	
available)	Triple Bed	PKR 60,000	USD 215	
Long Package - Discount of 3 to 5 days residence in Madina Maktab category "C" facilities in Mina/Arafat (applicable on Sponsorship only)		(PKR 35,000)	(USD 120)	
		N/A	USD 300	

Particulars	Long	Short
10% of Hajj Airfare (inclusive of Taxes )	25,000	32,500
Insurance charges	5,000	5,000
Service Charges + Hujjaj Mohafiz Fund	9,000	9,000
Zamzam Charges	1,000	1,000
Compulsory Hajj Dues	315,000	315,000
Total in PKR	355,000	362,500
Total in USD	1,250	1,275

\*Additional charges/discounts applicable, payment will be refunded in case of unavailability of the facility Information is provided by Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) and can be changed. Terms & conditions apply





















ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf chairs the Command & Staff Conference held at Naval Headquarters.

118 new cases of dengue reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): As many as 118 new cases were reported on Thursday in the province. According to the latest health department data, a total of 14,171 confirmed cases have been reported in Punjab.

Lahore takes the lead in this count with 6,450 cases followed by Rawalpindi with 2,624, Gujranwala with 1,492, Multan with 1,360 and Faisalabad with 829 cases. The situation continues with Lahore reporting an additional 75 new cases, Rawalpindi with five ,Gujranwala with 13, Multan with six Faisalabad with Sheikhupura with three, Okara with two new cases. Meanwhile, Sialkot, Khanewal and Rahimyar Khan each reported one case of dengue within 24 hours. Currently, patients are undergoing treatment in various hospitals across Punjab, with 48 of them in Lahore district

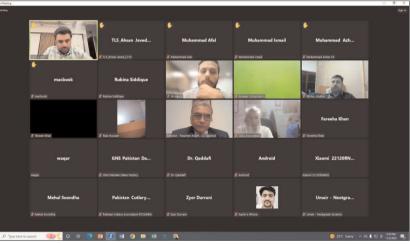
hospitals. Sectary of Health Punjab Ali Jaan Khan issued a plea to citizens, urging them to maintain clean and dry sur-

## Webinar on exploration of trade opportunities between Pakistan and Türkiye

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Directorate General Punjab hosted a webinar centered chambers and exporters.

The keynote speaker for attended by almost ninety to this session was Mr. Nauman one hundred participants. The Aslam, the Consul General speaker highlighted that of Türkiye. He delivered an Agriculture, Textile, food extensive presentation, cov- processing and autos & elecaround the exploration of ering a wide range of aspects tronics are the main sectors trade opportunities between aimed at bolstering trade where there is a potential for Pakistan and Türkiye for relations between the two Pakistan to capture the nations. The session was Turkish market.



## CM, WB regional chief agree to speed up progress of projects

Magbool Bagar and World Bank's South Asia Regional safe management of ani-President Martin mal and solid waste. Raiser in their meeting discussed the \$2.2 billion that UNICEF was support-World Bank portfolio and ing the Sindh government decided to accelerate work through Rolling Workplan on the ongoing projects by for two years 2023-2024 the provincial government with a grant of \$50.573 and the World Bank would million in the sectors of start releasing the funds so Health, that project could be completed in time.

The meeting was held at Benhassine, and others.

Fakhr e Alam and Mangnejo were part of the Kashmore and meeting.

The and Malnutrition" in Sindh is aimed at achieving a goal ductive human capital. of reducing stunting from 30 per cent to 15 per cent

ing World Bank regional this, the CM said that due to chief discussed other fac- the induction of the caretors to reduce stunting. taker government, a large They agreed to adopt a number of officers were revised theory of change transferred which might that includes all the criti- have affected the speed of cal drivers of stunting the projects. from 'nutrition-specific' to include the critical Mangnejo pointed out the environmental factors delay in the release of that drive a large part of funds by the World Bank the biological process which was the main cause

The chief minister said projects. Nutrition. Education, Water

Sanitation, and hygiene. The European Union has the CM House and was recently initiated a project attended by World Bank for "Strengthen Local Civil Country Director Najy Society and Community-Draugelis based Organizations and Operation Manager Gilius their Capacity in Nutrition Sector in Sindh" with a Chief Secretary Dr grant of Euro 6.1 million in six districts - Sukkur, Chairman P&D Shakil Ghotiki, Naushero Feroz.

The CM urged the World World Bank's Bank to support Sindh in "Accelerated Action Plan the reduction of stunting so for Reduction of Stunting that the province may have healthy children and pro-

The World Bank team pointed out that some of their projects have been The CM and the visit- facing slow progress. At

Chairman P&D Shakil

stunting. of the slow progress of the for Palestinian students Caretaker Sindh Chief These include, in particu- project. It was agreed that enrolled in public universiMinister Justice (R) lar, access to safe water the P&D and the World ties in the province. Jutice and sanitation and the Bank team would remove (R) Magbool Bagar said in all snags and speed up the a statement that the amount

> **Šindh CM approves** students by Dec 1. scholarships for palestinian students: Caretaker government had waived Minister Chief Justice (r) Maqbool Baqar charges for Palestinian has approved scholarships students.

progress of the ongoing of scholarship will be transferred to the accounts of

Earlier, the provincial Sindh tuition fees and hostel



#### Schedule of Bank Charges

UBL Schedule of Bank Charges, January to June 2024, has been issued. Please visit www.ubldigital.com or contact your nearest UBL branch.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib for developing effective mechanism to protect children against growing cybercrimes menace

Qureshi has invited all stakeholders Ombudsman Association (AOA). work together for developing effective mechanism to protect children against the growing menace of cyber-crimes and other vulnerabiliies rampant in various societies.

In this regard, he assured the interna-

ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Nations Convention on the Rights of the (Federal Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad Child and the objectives of Asian

He was addressing a seminar on of Pakistan Ombudsman (FPO). "Threats of Cybercrime: Growing Vulnerabilities of Societies" organized here by Wafaqi Mohtasib in colreadiness to share its knowledge, expe- istries and the relevant agencies, spe- child rights.

terms of its commitment to the United online participation by the members Nations Convention on the Rights of the of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), the OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA) and the Forum

Qureshi stated that the Seminar was being held in the backdrop of the Universal Children's Day which was laboration with FIA and COMSAT observed last week and provided an University. Besides, participation by opportunity to renew commitment tional ombuds community of Pakistan's the representatives of Federal min- towards promoting and protecting

### NO 606 R&D WING, PAF **JOB POSITIONS FOR PAF R&D SETUPS**

Ш						
	S No		Job Title	Positions	Relevant Experience / Preferred Skills	
	2	MS (EE)	RF System	05	Candidates having good knowledge of RF & Microwave / digital signal processing along with development experience on NI hardware (VSA,	
	2	BE (EE / Avionics)	Engineer	09	USRP); or Analog Devices SDR boards or RFSoC or Xillinx FPGAs would be given preference.	
	3	MS (CS)		01	Candidates with programming skills in Python, Visual	
t t	4	BS (CS) / BE (Software)	Desktop Application Developer	05	Studio, Eclipse, IntelliJ, MS SQL Server and MySQL for user interface design / database design / socket programming would be given preference.	
,	5	MS (EE)	RF	01	Candidates having good knowledge of RF &	
	6	BE (EE)	Frontend Engineer	01	Microwave Circuits / Devices / RF frontend design / antenna / array design & development, with hands-on experience on RF / Anechoic Chamber measurements would be given preference.	
	7	MS / BE (Elect / Avcs)	Miniature Drone Developer & Integrator	05	Individuals will be involved in designing and developing software modules used for small drone design. Python, C#, ROS, Simulink, Lab View familiarization with controls and feedback systems. Linux-based software solutions with applications in Robotics. Software package development for deployment on SBCs. Flight controller integration with SBCs. Any previous experience in said skills would be preferred.	
	8	MS / BE (Aero/ Mechanical)	Drone Designer	01	Individuals for Design of CAD models against various requirements for miniature drones. They would be involved in detailed design drawings using CAD software and perform optimization analysis of design using latest CFD & Structural analysis tools. Any previous experience in said skills would be preferred.	
3	9	MS / BE (Physics/ Optics)	Optical System Developer	02	Individuals will be involved in designing and developing laser, thermal sensing and optical systems using ray tracing and optical software solutions. The Individuals will perform optical calculations for laser and sensor system selection as per required criteria. Matlab or Python, Ray Tracing (Zemax Optics Studio) and familiarity with mathematical Optimization techniques. Any previous experience in said skills would be preferred.	
e	10	MS / BE (Software / CS)	Software / Computer Vision Developer	06	Individuals will be involved in developing image processing algorithms for developed sensor systems. Interface module for efficient front end and database communication. Utilization of AI / ML routines for detection and tracking of objects. Python, Visual Studio, C#, MS SQL Server and MySQL for user interface design / database design / socket programming. Software package development for deployment on SBCs. Any previous experience in the said skills would be preferred.	
	11	BE (Elect / Avcs)	Embedded Imagery Developer	02	Individuals will be involved in designing and developing image processing software solutions to be used in embedded systems. Acumen for FPGA, ARM based SBCs and micro controllers platforms. Python, C#, ROS, Simulink, Lab View familiarization with controls and feedback systems. Any previous	

**Total** 

Interested personnel may forward their resume to: hrdewrnd@outlook.com along with the position by the last Date (the deadline for receipt of application is 01 week from date of

38

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

for issuance Administration Application for issuance of Letter of Administration , Succession Certificate by Mr Qazi Taskin Ud Din with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms Fehmida Begum citizen number 1430157033646 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Zia Ud Din Qazi (Brother) 3.Qazi Ain Ud Din (Brother) 4.Razia Begum (Sister)5.Qazi Taskin Ud Din (Sister) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

for issuance Administration Succession Certificate by Mr Gul Faroosh Khan with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Zar Noosh Khan citizen number 1510103513751 received. Following are declare as legal heirs.

1.Amtari (Daughter)2 7a

(Daughter)2.Za Faroosh (Son)3.Gu (Son) Faroosh Khan On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BUNER-SFU

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

citizen number 143011892275nas been received. Followinare declared as legal heirs.
1.Shabna Gul (Daughter)
2.Qaisra Bibi (Daughter)
3.Rabi.
Daughter)
4.Sonila (Daughter)
5.Shabnam (Daughter)
6.Rizwa
Ullah Khan (Son)
7.Rehan Ullal
Khan (Son)
8.Jibran Khan (Son

On the above application the objections of public at large are nvited. Any aggrieved person any approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteer (14) days after publication of this

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Gulshan Ali with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Sardar Ali citizen number 1430120588161 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Tahira Naz (Daughter)2.Rabia Sultan (Daughter)3.Razia Sultan (Daughter)4.Naseem Begum (Spouse)5.Ashfaq Ali (Son)6.Farman Ali (Son)

7.Gulshan Ali (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person

invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

with controls and feedback systems. Any previous

experience in the said skills would be preferred.

mina Ham ed with regards to deceased received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

as legal heirs.

1.Amina Hameed

2.Aamra Hameed

3.Attia Hameed

4.Asima Kashif

5.Umair Ahmed

Ahmad (Son)

On the above appobjections of public

On the above application the bipections of public at large are nvited. Any aggrieved person nay approach in person the indersigned for submission of bipection (if any) within fourteen objection (if any) within four (14) days after publication of PID(I) 3324/23

PID(I) 3333/23

#### **Special** children rights stressed

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood said on Thursday every member of society should play an active role in protecting rights of children with special abilities.

He was addressing an event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Al Raazi Hall, organised by the Punjab University Child Welfare Centre, here on Thursday. Principal Child Welfare Centre Dr Ayesha Wajihullah, Director Institute of Special Education Prof Dr. Humera Bano, faculty members and special children along with their parents were present.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PESHAWAR

#### CORRIGENDUM

IN ADVERTISEMENT NO. INF (P) 2801/2023 FOR SELECTION & RATE CONTRACTING OF LEFTOVER MEDICINES/ DRUGS/ MEDICAL DEVICES/ SURGICAL DISPOSABLES/ COTTON RELATED GOODS & NON-DRUG ITEMS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24, OF GOVT. MCC DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA.

Reference to the advertisement No. INF(P): 2801/2023 for selection & rate contracting of leftover medicines/ drugs/ medical devices/ surgical disposables/ cotton related goods & nondrug items for the year 2023-24, of Govt. MCC Directorate General Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the timeline for submission of bids is extended till (15th December 2023) Friday at 11:00 am and shall be opened on the same day i.e. 15th December 2023, at 11:30 am. Moreover, the BSD of leftover items / corrigendum can be downloaded from the official websites of Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and KP-PPRA.

The rest of the terms & conditions of submission shall remain the same as previous advertised / uploaded.

**CHAIRMAN S&RCC / DGHS** 

Directorate General Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Govt. MCC Section FATA Secretariat, Warsak Road, Peshawar INF(P): 2914/2023

### **DIRECTORATE OF PROCUREMENT (NAVY) OPEN TENDER**

DP (NAVY) NEAR SNID CENTER, CDA MARKET, AT NAVAL RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, E -8, ISLAMABAD					
SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY DP (NAVY) FOR PURCHASE OF FOLLOWING ITEMS:					
IT.NO	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME	OPENING DATE & TIME		
2390413/B-2311/ 310088	Installation of 07 x Furuno / Navigational Radars (QTY: 07 Nos)	28-12-2023 10:30 AM	28-12-2023 11:00 AM		
2305031/R-2310/320055	Procurement Of Plate Steel Carbon Mild Black & Plate Steel Carbon (02 X Line Items	26-12-2023 10:30 AM	26-12-2023 11:00 AM		
2305084/R-2311/320095	Procurement Of Plate Steel Carbon	26-12-2023 10:30 AM	26-12-2023 11:00 AM		
2390404/R-2309/340023	Ordinary Porland Cement For CDS (N) Ormara (2500 M/Ton) Sulphate Resistant Cement For CDS (N) Ormara (4000 M/Ton)	20-12-2023 10:30 AM	20-12-2023 11:00 AM		
2390405/R-2309/340024	Sulphate Resistant Cement (SRC) For CDS (N) Karachi (5000 M/Ton)	20-12-2023 10:30 AM	20-12-2023 11:00 AM		
2390406/R-2309/340025	Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) CDS (N) Islamabad (5000 M/Ton)	20-12-2023 10:30 AM	20-12-2023 11:00 AM		
	LED TENDERS ARE INVITED IT.NO 2390413/B-2311/ 310088 2305031/R-2310/320055 2305084/R-2311/320095 2390404/R-2309/340023 2390405/R-2309/340024	IT.NO   DESCRIPTION   Installation of 07 x Furuno / Navigational Radars (QTY: 07 Nos)   Nos)   Procurement Of Plate Steel Carbon Mild Black & Plate Steel Carbon (02 X Line Items   2390401/R-2310/320055   Procurement Of Plate Steel Carbon (02 X Line Items   Ordinary Porland Cement   For CDS (N) Ormara (2500 M/Ton)   Sulphate Resistant Cement   For CDS (N) Ormara (4000 M/Ton)   Sulphate Resistant Cement   SRC) For CDS (N) Karachi (5000 M/Ton)   Ordinary Porland Cement (SRC) For CDS (N) Karachi (5000 M/Ton)   Condinary Porland Cement (SRC) For CDS (N) Condinary Porland Cement (SRC) For CDS (N) Condinary Porland Cement (SRC) For CDS (N) Condinary Porland Cement (CPC)   Condinary Porland	IT.NO   DESCRIPTION   CLOSING DATE & TIME		

Complete details and specifications of the tender can be downloaded from PPRA website

. Only registered supplier on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR are eligible to participate in the Tender and submit quote.



## Info Minister highlights role of journalism

F.P. Report

Relations Minister, Bar- Khan, the former caretaker rister Feroze Jamal Shah chief minister. Kakakhel here Thursday reporting during addressing save expenditures for the a gathering of journalists at Press Club, he said. a Press Club function.

opment Park (IBDP) Ms.

during the caretaker gov- components of a vehicle. ernment, the project gar-PESHAWAR: Caretaker nered special attention from underway

Under the leadership of highlighted pivotal role of Chief Minister Khyber Fund. journalism in mitigating Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) adverse effects of social Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, media emphasizing the the project was swiftly con-importance of ethical cluded, which will help

He affirmed the indis-The successful comple- pensable relationship betw- such as the Kohistan inci- mation and Public Reltion of the Peshawar Press een Department of Inform-Club solarization project ation and Public Relations marked a crucial achieve- of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a crucial antidote to the Arshad Aziz Malik, senior ment for journalists in the and the Press Club, liken- harmful effects of social journalist M Riaz, and province, he said. Initiated ing them to the essential media on societal values.

port Unit of the World Bank

Nabeela Afridi and the here on Thursday. Business Development Chief of Project Planning According to PD IBDP, Park is designed to provide

and Management Company strategize the implementa- can thrive under one roof.

Imtiaz tion and execution plan for

Project Director (PD), omic Corridor (KPEC) and

Inclusive Business Devel- the Implementation Sup-

and Development at Khy- Ms Nabeela Farman, the

ber Pakhtunkhwa Econ- purpose of the meeting was

Ahmed held a progress the IBDP, designed for suc-

review meeting with the cess to be based at the

Project Management Unit Government Advanced

He said that efforts are Press Information and Public the late Muhammad Azam strengthen press clubs and nalists through the Journalists Welfare Endowment

> Expressing concern over ing environment. the negative impact of ing of regulations to curb irresponsible use.

dent, he stressed the need ations Muhammad Imran for responsible journalism Khan, Press Club President

further Kakakhel inspected the embellishments made in the support unemployed jour- facility, underscoring the commitment to providing journalists with a conducive and efficient work-

**Peshawar City** 

He was accompanied by social media, Minister Chief Secretary Khyber Kakakhel urged the tighten- Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Information Syed Abdul Referring to incidents Jabbar Shah, DG Infor-

abled entrepreneurs,

The KP-EZDMC team is

committed to ensure that

sive entrepreneurial ven-



chairing a meeting to review progress on computerization of land records.

#### City Police launches mobile app

PESHAWAR (APP): For prevention of the incidents of mobile phone snatching, purchase and sale of stolen mobile phones the Capital Police Peshawar launched a new mobile app named FMC (Find My Cell Phone) here on Thursday.

In this connection, a special form has also been introduced for the registration of mobile dealers' form after verification of the Presidents of the Mobile Dealers Association and the Station House Officer (SHO) of the concerned police station.

A procedure for the purpose has also been laid down initially in Peshawar, which later will be extended to the whole province.

The mobile app was formally launched by the Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar, (Syed Ashfaq AG) IT, Irfan Khan and SSP Operations, Kashif Aftab Abbasi in a special ceremony held at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Line Peshawar.

The facility will now be available with all police stations of the district and registered mobile phone dealers.

Under the procedure, bio-data including the name of the phone set seller, father's name, mobile number, national identity card number and photo of the seller will be preserved along with EMEI and the case of snatching the data of the stolen mobile phones will automatically transferred to the registered dealers, which will also reached to police authorities, police control and concerned police stations in

#### **Cold weather** predicted

Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Thursday predicted that mainly cold and partly cloudy weather is expected in most

However, it said that isolated rain-wind/thunderstorm (with snowfall over the hills) is likely to occur over Chitral, Lower & Upper Dir, Malakand, Buner, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Torghar, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Bajaur Haripur, and

Khyber districts. Charsadda, ionary measures.

During the last 24 hours, cloudy weather partly occurred over most districts of the province, while cold in hilly areas. However, isolated light rain occurred in Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad and Peshawar districts.

Temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of KP were Peshawar 24/11, Chitral 17/05, Timergara 22/05, Dir 20/04, Mirkhani 17/04, Kalam 14/01, Drosh 16/06, Saidu Sharif 19/04, Pattan 20/10, Malam Jabba 13/03, Takht Bhai 22/08, Kakul 20/08, Balakot 20/07, Parachinar 18/03, Bannu 27/10, Cherat 18/07, DI Khan 28/11.

## RTS orders DG for departmental action

— imposed Rs20 fines on SHO Shalmai

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Right to gram Shahid-ur-Rehman Public Service Commission (RTPSC/RTS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ordered Director General Prosecution Department for departmental actions against District Public Prosecutor (DPP) Battagram Shahid-u-Rehman and imposed Rs20 thousand fine on Station House Officer (SHO) Mir Afzal Khan for concealment of facts, on Thursday.

Chief Commissioner RTS Muhammad Salim Khan along with Muhammad Asim Imam and Zakir Hussain heard three complaints and issued orders to public's servants for redres-

sal of grievance. RTS issued orders to DG officials for appearance on

Lahore and Karachi, the air

recorded as unhealthy and

alarming as the Air Quality

Index (AQI) of the city

reached 296 on Thursday.

Anwar Khan, Director

General Environmental Pr-

otection Agency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said AQI in

Peshawar touched the rec-

ord dangerous level of 290.

He added an AQI above

151 was considered unhea-

lthy, while above 301 was

He said there were many

easons for increasing air

from marble factories and

other industries, brick

kilns, smoke-emitting vehi-

hazardous for breathing.

Air quality jumps

to hazardous level

pollution in Peshawar was roads of Peshawar daily,

pollution, including the engulfed with clouds of release of fumes and smoke smog that worsened the air

actions against DPP Battaand SHO Shalmai Mir Afzal Khan on complaint of Sanobar for concealment of facts in registration of FIR. The commission ann-

oyed role of SHO Mir Afzal Khan for ignoring his DPO orders and imposed Rs20 thousand fine while ordered registration of FIR within three days. RTS also placed liability on DPP Shahid-u-Rehman for suffering of citizen and ordered DG Prosecution for departmental actions.

RTS annoyed absentia of Tehsildar and Patwari on complaint of Hassan Nasir while ordered respondent

400,000 vehicles ran on

adding citizens should take

precautionary measures,

including avoiding outdoor

exercise, keeping windows

closed at homes and offices,

wearing masks outdoors and

using air purifiers in rooms. Meanwhile, different

areas of Lahore received

light rain earlier on

Thursday morning, bring-

ing down the mercury level

further and clearing the

For the past few months,

atmosphere of thick smog.

the Puniah capital had been

smog that worsened the air quality of the city, prompt-

ing widespread health con-

cerns among all age groups

Prosecution for action next hearing before the commission. plainant stated that local Patwari has demanded bribe for provision of Fard (Land record) as well as humiliated his aged father, however, the concerned Patwari provided documents and apologized to

senior citizen. Deputy Commissioner Bajaur has been directed for action under section 145 of Criminal Procedure Code on complaint of disable citizen named Syed Mand against his cousin for grabbing his land by force.

RTS is committed for Assistant Commissioner, delivery of public services in stipulated timeframe to ensure good governance for creating sense of accountability among public's servant.

> **Adulterated** milk discarded

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food

Safety and Halal Food

Authority on Thursday dis-

carded 340 litres of adulter-

ated milk and 200 cartons

having 1300 litres of harm-

ful milk during raids in

Peshawar Charsadda and

The spokesman of KP

Food Authority said that

inspection teams got milk

samples tested from mobile

testing labs at Warsak Road

and University Town here and found adulteration of

water in more than 340

the milk and discarded it on

Food Authority conducted

a raid on a warehouse of a

renowned Milkpack dis-

tributor in Sherpao Bazar in

district Charsadda and

The teams confiscated

Nowshera.

litres of milk.

the spot.

## Session regarding participation of minority women in polls held

omic Zones Development to meticulously assess and an environment where they hub for diverse and inclu-

**KP-EZDMC** reviews progress

on Inclusive Business Park

(APP): (PMU) Khyber Pass Econ- Technical Training Center es, led by females, males (PD), omic Corridor (KPEC) and within the Peshawar transgenders, and especial-

Economic Zone.

comprehensive support to

supporting small business-

At its core, the Inclusive demonstrating

Development potential.

small businesses, fostering the park becomes a thriving

embodies the concept of broader goals of economic

inclusivity, with a focus on growth and community

This flagship project tures, contributing to the



F.P. Report

ction Commissioner Kh- ination Sohail Ahmed De-

minority women as voters Gender PESHAWAR: An aware- al elections, Director Elecness session was held in the tions Asif Ali Yasin, Deputy office of Provincial Ele- Director Media Coordyber Pakhtunkhwa organ- puty Director Monitoring minority community partici- elections. Asif Ali Yasin ass-

and Social and candidates in the gener- Inclusion Arooba Ali and this, several women repre-Aliza Mahfouz of Blue sentatives shared their expe-Vans participated in the rience and offered some sugvoter awareness session.

ized by Blue Vans regard- and Training Muhammad pated in the session. Alize ured cooperation on behalf ing the participation of Imran, Assistant Director Mahfouz of Blue Vans wel- of the Election Commission.

comed the Election Commission team and informed the participants about the objectives of the session. Director Elections Asif Ali Yasin said about election process, importance of vote, candidate eligibility and procedure of submission of documents, constitutional and legal framework and measures to be taken for inclusive and credible elections including minority community and deprived classes. Detailed presentation has been given on the laws and measures for them.

The participants took keen interest in the session and asked many relevant questions which were answered by Director Elections Asif Ali Yasin. Apart from gestions to increase the Women belonging to the turnout in the next general

University

institution could get the

best jobs in the country and

University of Technology,

Prof. Dr. Zafar M. Khan,

period of time as the Vice

father had been the

Headmaster of Govt. High

School Zaida, Swabi, and

had left a significant

asset/legacy of educational

service to the region.

It merits mentioning that the Vice-Chancellor of the

shape of an alert.

PESHAWAR (APP): The districts of the province.

It said that foggy conditions are expected over Nowshera, Mardan, Peshawar, Swabi and D.I. Khan districts, as well as, over Motorway (M1) / Highways in late night & morning hours. The center advised the travelers on Motorway and highways to take precau-



celebrate of 56th party foundation day. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

#### report regarding Shuhada-i- laid. He said that the unihave been introduced at the istration of the institution APS University of Science versity has received the university with the support and the unique role of the and Technology Nowshera honor that the Higher of NAVTTC, two batches vice chancellor. He hoped was formally presented to Education Commission has of which have been suc- that the Vice-Chancellor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Car- recognized its degree. cessfully completed. Similarly, the university Technology would take the Similarly, the Research, hnical Education, Indust- Innovation, has also started work on the ongoing journey of devel-

etaker Minister for Tecries, Commerce, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah. Chancellor

University, Brig. (Rtd) Cell has also been estab-Professor Dr. Zafar M. lished for the improvement Khan called on the minister of institutional quality. at his office in Peshawar comprehensive activities of the university from 2020 to 2023.

caretaker minister that tional institution will not around 610 kanals of land only do internships in these have been acquired near industries, but this initiative Rashakai Special Econo- will be made an effective mic Zone and Motorway and fruitful collaboration for the country's first ever between academia and

PESHAWAR (APP): A University, while the founthree-year performance dation stone has also been

(ORIC) has been established in the University for On Thursday, the Vice research-activities, while the the Quality Enhancement

He said that in order to and presented him with a get exposure to working in report the industry for the students regarding the development, and qualified graduates of educational, and training this educational institution, contacts have been established with various indus-During the meeting, the tries, as a result of which Vice-Chancellor told the the students of this educa-Technology industry relations.

He said that various pro- ance of the university, paid fessional education courses tribute to the entire admin-

Shuhada-i-APS University presents

three-year performance report

Commercialization Office affiliation of technical edu- opment at this important cation colleges in the university to greater heights province with the universi- so that the graduates of proty, which will further fessional education, sciimprove the promotion of ence, and technology at this technical education in the province.

Vice-Chancellor abroad. said that efforts are being made to provide all possible facilities required for education and training to the students, while the uni- has extensive experience in versity has established education, research, and laboratories administrative affairs. He modern equipped with equipment has achieved remarkable worth 200 million rupees, achievements in a short and work is underway to receive more equipment at a cost of 250 million rupees for the university labs. On this occasion, the has also been associated

caretaker minister, while with high service in the appreciating the perform-

Chancellor University of Technology. His family background field of education. His

Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO on Thursday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Bannu Grid Station on 1st December from 9 i.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly, consumers of 66 KV Kurram Ghar and Power House grid connected feeders will face inconvenience. Likewise, it said power supply will remain suspended from Mansehra Grid Station on 2nd and 5th December from 9 a.m. to3 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Murad Pur, Khaki, Bafa, Shankari, Balakot feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from Hattar-Saadi Cement Factory Transmission Line on 2nd December from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. resultantly consumers of 132 KV Saadi Cement Factory grid Connected feeders will face inconvenience.

### Training on health facility assessment tools concluded

PESHAWAR (APP): A lished tools to assess basic health facility assessment tools, conducted in collaboration of World Bank's Human Capital Investment Project concluded here on Thursday.

The training was aimed at equipping the Health Foundation and Independent Monitoring Unit's staff to outsource eight hospitals in the province. Dr. Adnan

Managing Director (MD) Health Foundation, Dr. Asmatullah Khan, Director Health Foundation, Dr. Ikramullah Khan, Project Director Human Capital Investment, Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, Director IMU, and relevant staff attended the training session.

During the two-day training, Dr. Ikramullah Khan highlighted that training provided a foundation for workforce to use estab-

two-day training session on infrastructure, medications, services, human resources, machinery, and medical equipment. comprehensive

evaluation ensures detailed understanding of the private sector's readiness before entrusting hospitals to them. Dr. Adnan Taj empha-

sized that training aims to enhance capacity of both organizations' personnel for the effective implementation of public-private partnerships.

He further explained that the training includes a baseline survey, allowing private institutions to assess the existing resources in government hospitals before taking over opera-

tional matters. This process ensures a thorough examination of private institutions against the available government facilities.

He told that eight hospitals in the province would be handed over to private institutions under a publicprivate partnership in the next three months.

Tenders of These hospitals were announced three months ago through a tendering process, and in the coming three months, technical bids of eligible private institutions will undergo scrutiny.

After the financial bids are compiled, these hospitals will once again come under the administration of private institutions, he added. It merits a mention that

tenders have already been issued for six category-D hospitals in South Waziristan Upper, Lower, Moh-Kurram, mand, D.I.KHAN, Ourakzai as well as the two Rural Health Centers in Upper and Lower Chitral for their management under private entities.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali addressing during a meeting regarding

issues of traders of Andar Sher bazaar. — F.P. photo

### In brief

Section 144 imposed in Bannu F.P. Report

BANNU: Bannu authorities Thursday imposed Section 144 to improve the law and order situation in the city prohibiting the display of weapons, pillion riding, and tinted windows of vehicles. Section 144 will be applicable from today till December 3, 2023, amid the ongoing polio campaign. Intelligence-based operation (IBO) of CTD in Dumel area of Bannu, a terrorist was killed and another was arrested in an exchange of fire. The terrorists belonged to the Khafez Gul Bahadur group, the CTD spokesman said. Weapons and mobile phones recovered from terrorists. The terrorists had fired on the police team assigned to the security of polio team last day," the spokesper-son added. The terrorists were also involved the attack on Khurram Karak police station and police post a few days ago, spokesman added.

#### Protest against FIR's registration F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Village Councils (VCs) chairmen leaded by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) Mardan Youth Wing president Saqib Khan protested against registration of First Information Report (FIR) on VC Sari Behlol chairman Jamal Mohmand,

Thursday. According to details, Peshawar Electricity Supply (PESCO) Company Sub Divisional Officer initiated complaint against

Mohmand at police station Saro Shah during operation. The protestors reached to offices Assistant Commissioner

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Takhtbhai while chanted that it is fraudulent FIR against public's Takhtbhai called concerned SDO PESCO while DSP for today (on Friday) while both officers assured dissemination of justice on merit in the case. PMLN Youth president Saqib Khan along with Syed Kamal Shah, Majid Ali, Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Abdullah Khan, Akhtar Hussain, Dr. Iqbal, Malak Sajid, Nadeem Afridi, Jahangir Khan, Farooq Mastkhel and VCs chairmen participated in the protest.

#### 11 drug peddlers held

FAISALABAD (INP) district police arrested 11 drug peddlers and recovered contraband from their possession on Thursday. Police recovered 3kg hashish, 3-kg bhikhi and 200 liter liquor from their possession. Bismillah Khan, Abbas Khan, Ahmad Hassan, Dawood Maseih, Javed, Basharat Hussain, Ghulam Muhammad, Ahmad Ali, Shah Munawar Bahram, Hussain and Shafqat were arrested from various parts of the city.

#### Woman, her 'paramour' killed

JAFFARABAD (INP): Two people, including a woman, were gunned down near Dera Allah Yar in Jaafarabad for honour, police said on Thursday. Police said the assassin after committing the crime fled from the spot. Giving further details, they said that a man named Ali Dost shot dead his wife and her alleged paramour Baqa Muhammad with shotgun in Muhammad Ibrahim. The Force said that soon after learning about the incident the cops reached the crime scene and shifted the bodies to the Civil Hospital, Dera Allah Yar, which were later handed over to their families.

## Seasonal diseases outbreak in Lower Dir

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Drought and change of weather has become an epidemic of cold, fever and chest diseases, thousands of people including children, women have fallen ill. And there has been an extraordinary increase in the number of patients suffering from chest diseases and whole families have been suffering from colds and fevers, thousands of people have fallen ill and there is a rush of patients at public and private hospitals. Children's

Senior

Specialist Dr. Tajuddin confirmed to the media that due to the dry weather, there has been an increase in the number of children suffering from cold, flu, petition concluded: The and fever, and a large number of children are being brought to them. He instructed the parents of the children to pay special attention to their children in the winter season, protect them from cold, dust, fog, give warm water to the children, and in case of illness, they should Specialist doctors should be consulted because children often get pneumonia due to colds, flu should pay attention to Khyber

timely treatment.

is better in cold.

Food Authority confis- in Dir Payin district. cates 200 kgs honey: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Lower Dir team, on receiving a secret tip, raided Bilal Plaza in of sugar and stearic acid the Food Authority Act.

Divisional sports com- level. competition between govschools has come to an end, the schools of Lower Dir in won, becoming the divisional champions in volleyball, badminton, tug-of-war and basketball.

Province.

the use of malts in colds is Upper Dir, Bajaur and not harmful, but malts are Lower Dir districts. In this an important source of vita- regard, the divisional sports min C and vitamin C. Use competitions of these districts have been concluded

According Divisional General Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Salahuddin Khan, Danish Public School of Dir Payin Taimargara late last night district beat Gandigarh and found 200 kg of fake School in volleyball. In the honey made from a mixture same way, in basketball, Lower Dir defeated Bajaur from the living rooms district, Lower Dir defeated there. It was recovered, Dir Bala in badminton, and fake honey and all the in tug-of-war competition, equipment used in its the team of Lower Dir preparation were confiscat- Government High School ed, action will be taken Pakhtuno Khadzi became against the accused under the winner champion of Dir district at the provincial

Four different teams will annual divisional sports represent Malakand Region One, the closing ceremony ernment and private high of the divisional sports comand higher secondary petitions was held at Government High School Mian Banda, in which Malakand Region One have District Education Officer Mehboob Elahi and principals of various schools of Upper and Lower Chitral, Pakhtunkhwa and Divisional General Malakand Secretary Naspil Salahuddin In response to a ques- Region One consists of distributed trophies and tion, Dr. Tajuddin said that Upper and Lower Chitral, prizes among the players.

#### (TMA) Landi Kotal first Bajaur, Dir Bala and ever introduced conservan-Malakand Division was Dirpayin were present. cy charges for delivery of divided into two regions to Headmaster, games in batter and interrupted cleanhold divisional competi- charge, teachers and fans and fever in winter, chil- tions after the annual sports participated, on this occadren are sensitive, so they competitions organized by sion DEO Mehboob Elahi

ness service in the main bazaar, however the local traders rejected it. Tehsil Municipal Officer (TMO) Landi Kotal Mr Samad said on Thursday that to run cleanness activities continuously and to provide a healthy environment to shopkeepers and visitors, implementation of conservancy fee was necessary. He and essential items to Gaza said the fee was put into practice under the local government Act 2013 and it had been already imposed

Khyber across Pakhtunkhwa. TMA is a semi-government department and without local fund generation, it could not continue its services to the locals, he added and said since 2019 it had been extending services by installing dustbins and TMA staff on a daily base

TMA imposes |

conservancy

charges to

ensure hygiene

environment

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Tehsil

Municipal Administration

JHELUM (INP): Jhelum rupees or three hundred rupees per shop and a little rupees per shop and a little bit extra from hotels and other large business centers and in return it would clean the bazaar two times daily, supply potable water, would keep functional street lights and would provide healthy environment for the local businessmen and visitors.

He urged the shopkeepers to let impose the conservancy fee that was in the best interest of the bazaar and if someone put hurdles in front of it, he would be dealt with as per law.

When President Anjuman-e-Tajeran, Landi Kotal bazaar, Haji Jafar was contacted on the matter he rejected the new fee and said the TMA should deliver first and then they would be ready to pay the conservancy charges. He maintained that the bazaar was the most neglected one therefore instead of putting financial burden on the shopkeepers; the government established development schemes to enhance trade opportunities in the

## Crackdown on criminals, 12 suspects arrested

LARKANA (INP): Larka- ation near the grid station, tery. Ali Goharabad police na police have arrested 12 Ratodero police apprehendsuspects in a major crack- ed accused drug dealer down on drug suppliers and social crime in the district on Thursday. According to spokesperson of Larkana police, the latest actions were taken on the instructions of SSP Larkana Syed

Abdul Rahim Shirazi. In a raid conducted in the Tayyab Laro area of Ratodero police station, police arrested accused drug dealer Gulshir son of Ranjan Buzdar. During the search operation, police recovered 288 bottles of liquor and a rickshaw used for employment purposes. In another successful oper- near the Christian ceme- district.

Chakar Rind. Police seized over one kilogram (1070 grams) of hashish from the Jatoi. accused. In a separate incident,

Allahabad police during a raid. Cash, mobile phones, and card addresses were also recovered from the accused. Continuing their antidrug campaign, Allahabad

Dar-ul-Aman directed

to improve cleanliness

Zubair Jatoi and recovered gutka from him. A case has been registered against In a routine patrolling operation, Guerillo police gamblers Saber, Abdul

apprehended

found an abandoned motor-Rehman, and Sajan, among cycle parked in suspicious others, were arrested by circumstances. The motorcycle has been taken into custody for further investigation. The Larkana police spokesperson lauded the efforts of the officers involved in these operapolice arrested accused tions and reiterated the drug dealer Sajjad Korai police's commitment to along with 500 grams of eradicating drug trafficking hashish during an operation and social crimes from the



## AKF sends 20 ambulances

**Anees Takar** 

MARDAN: The Khidmat Foundation has that will be established near of

made by Professor Dr. through the WHO, Turkey, Hafeez ur Rehman, the cen- and non-governmental tral president of the Al-Khidmat Foundation, dur-Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman Khidmat Foundation, during a Gaza Conference held added that arrangements for media briefing.

and numerous citizens. Dr. Fakhar Alam, the provincial president of Al-Khidmat Foundation, Dr. Shaquil Ahmed, President of Mardan district, Dr. Aman ul Haq, General Secretary, and female doctors from Al-Khidmat's women's addressed the gathering.
Dr. Fakhar Alam shed

light on the objectives and informing the conference attendees about the ongoing aid activities. He elaborated Al-Khidmat Foundation and Pakistan Medical Islamic Association (PIMA) have consistently provided substantial assistance to vic-Now, they are actively involved in the relief efforts their sponsorship.
for the oppressed He concluded by stating oppressed

Palestinians.

Al- Hafeez ur Rehman stated they will not let any doubts Al-Khidmat tarnish announced sending a convoy to Gaza, including 20 have been providing signature ambulances stocked with nificant aid to those affectable and PIMA transparency has been given top priority in all relief operations for the medicines and food sup- ed by natural disasters. sake of accountability and plies. Upon approval, They have now devoted clarity. around 50-bed hospitals their efforts to the welfare will be established near of the oppressed Gaza, and over 3,000 doc- Palestinians. He mentors have registered to pro-tioned that a shipment of vide medical services in the 90 tons, including food items and medicines, has The announcement was been dispatched to Gaza

at the Mardan Press Club, sending 20 ambulances are followed by a subsequent in the final stages, and efforts are being made to The conference wit- establish a field hospital in nessed the participation of collaboration with the relief doctors, paramedical staff, board. More than 3,000 doctors have registered with Al-Khidmat Foundation and PIMA to offer their services in Gaza. Once permission is granted, these teams will be dispatched to provide services in the affected areas.

He highlighted that 96% department of water in Gaza is unfit for consumption, and Al-Khidmat Foundation plans to install water filtration details of relief efforts, plants in collaboration with non-governmental organizations in Malaysia. Moreover, orphan centers will be established for orphaned children. Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman assured that Palestinian students residing in Pakistan will be fully supported, emphasiztims of natural disasters. ing that Pakistan holds complete responsibility for

that the people have trusted President Professor Dr. them wholeheartedly, and that

#### **Suspects** involved in theft case arrested

arrested two suspects involved in a recent theft case. The arrested suspects have been identified as Abdul Salam and Ghulam Dastgir.

According to DPO Thelum Nasir Mehmood Bajwa, the accused were involved in a series of thefts that had been plaguing the city. He said that the arrests were a result of a meticulous investigation carried out by the police.

Bajwa also assured the public that the police are committed to ensuring the safety of life and property in the city. He urged the public to come forward with any information they may have about any criminal activ-

The arrest of the two suspects is a major step towards curbing crime in Jhelum. The police are confident that they will be able to bring all criminals to justice.

#### F.P. Report Commissioner Irshad has directed the superintendent of Dar-ul-Aman Hafizabad executes the cleanliness improve cleanliness and to available for treatment against fertilizers dealers duties by collecting garbage and shifting it to the dump- facilities to women inhabi- was also being imparted to ers at arbitrary prices.

government. DC issued these directions while visiting the Darul-Aman. Deputy Director Social Welfare Hafizabad accompanied by her. DC quality of edible items, Aman.

kitchen, dining room,

library and reviewed other meeting held at district activities in the Dar-ul- complex, she also directed Deputy Aman. While giving a the officers of agriculture Sundas briefing to the DC, department to ensure provi-Superintendent Dar-ul- sion of fertilizers to farmers tants of Dar-ul-Aman women whereas sports women in the Dar-ul-

Meanwhile, Commissioner continue visits of markets Sundas Irshad checked the and shops to check prices, supply and demand of daily treatment and other facili- used items for providing ties being provided to relief to peoples and strict women in the Dar-ul- action would also be taken action would also be taken inspected the hoarders in the district. While addressing

Aman Aamna Ghani at government prices and informed that a doctor was punitive action be taken DC also reviewed steps TMO went on that TMA according to SOPs and facilities were also being being taken to contain would charge daily ten directions of the Punjab provided to the children of spread of smog and urged spread of smog and urged

officers the Environment, agriculture Deputy departments, district coun-Sundas cil and Secretary District Irshad has directed the Road Transport Authority Aamna Ashraf was also price control magistrates to to take effective measures against smoke emitting bricks kilns, vehicles and industrial units as well as to create awareness among farmers about hazards of burning of residues of against profiteers and crops so that farmers refrain from burning a residues voluntarily.

## Crackdown against hoarders

F.P. Report

Multan Division Engineer tricts. Aamir Khattak said that 100% results should be drug inspectors should ment to WASA and achieved in the anti-polio ensure their presence in campaign. Polio vaccine the medicine markets and should be administered to ensure the supply of certievery child under 5 years fied medicines at fixed of age in the division, oth-rates. erwise strict action should be taken.

expressed by and said that the recovery to pay the expenses of Commissioner Multan mechanism should be out- Mapco by improving the Division Engineer Aamir sourced.

F.P. Report Khattak while presiding over the performance MULTAN: Commissioner review meeting of the dis-

Engineer

These views were anger on WASA officials of the outsourcer. Ordered

repeated additional grants He said that all the from the Punjab governincreasing the rates for WASA Commissioner Division Engineer Aamir Khattak expressed his Aamir indignation at WASA for Khattak expressed his the delay in advertisement

## Climate change issues in Mohmand Tribal District

Murad Khan

District: Tribal (Federally with Pakhtunkhwa, it became a dis-The District Mohmand is Climate migration has been also divided into 2 subdivisions i-e recorded. Upper Subdivision (Which Ghar & Ekkaghund).

Pashto and District Mohmand amongst the list of those counin Urdu is a district in tries which are vulnerable to cli-Peshawar Division of Khyber mate change, here the glaciers Pakhtunkhwa province of are melting on a very fast rate, spring season. Pakistan. It was created as an creating golfs, increase in sea agency in 1951. Before 2018, it level, droughts and flooding, due was an agency of FATA to which human loss, infrastruc-Tribal Areas), with merger of is badly effecting. Like other **Khyber** parts of the country, Mohmand trict. Mohmand is bordered by badly from climate and environtricts to the east and Peshawar merger in 2018) was very green, district to the southeast. but due to global climate Population of the District as change, not only the beauty of per Census- 2017 is 553933. this district changed, but a lot of

Ghareb Ullah, a 70 plus years According to a report of the the springs water was so much some of the people are of the water table, or those areas which regarding preparation of Agenda tweets on @muradonline123.

Mohmand countries for CO2 emissions, Due to the presences of springs metals these skin, lungs and can-**District** (around 0.18) per capita, but on were cultivating crops and veg-

M. Phil graduate Shah Khalid trict. from Tehsil Safi District Mohmand says that A lot of **Administered** ture and Biodiversity of Pakistan indigenous plants have been disappeared and so many birds like Skylar, Chakur and other pretribal district is also effecting cious birds have been migrated from this district due to scarcity Bajaur District to the north, mental changes, if we study the of water and severe droughts as the quantity of rain has been Khyber District to the south, 30 to 40 years old history, a result of climate change effect. decreased very much, due to Malakand and Charsadda dis- Mohmand Agency (before FATA He added that as graduate in which the water table of these Environmental chemistry, I am areas has been effected very aware of the fact that In much. Due to lowering of water Pandialai and Ambar areas of table and scarcity of water the Mohmand Tribal District there yield of normal crops has been are a lot number of chromite reduced to negligible amount, mines and the people are extract- because the cultivation of staple ing them, so with flood water crops and vegetable of majority contains Tehsil Haleemzai, old retired teacher from these chemical flows into the areas of the Mohmand district Safi, Khwaizi & Baizi) and Shabqadar Pirqala said that in fields of vegetables and crops of depends upon the quantity of Lower Subdivision (containing before 40 to 50 years this area wheat and which is ultimately rain, so the crops are produced Tehsil Pindiali, Ambar, Prang was very much green, I have used by human beings, ultimate- in only those areas of Mohmand

change in Mohmand tribal dis-

Oxford Climate Journalism Network fellow & environmental journalist Muhammad Daud khan says that Mohmand District is situated in Hindu Kush mountains bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, where

Mohmand emitting less than 1 % carbon and more rainfall the people cer diseases have been spread in due to extreme weather events the people of Mohmand District. the Biodiversity and ecosystem, He reiterated that Pakistan was Mohmand or Momand in the other hand Pakistan is etables, that's why the whole He added that soil erosion, water because the survival of birds Mohmand Agency (Before scarcity Leishmaniasis, Malaria and animals is very difficult in FATA merger) was looking very and so many other issues has dry area like Mohmand, so beautiful, especially in the been occurred due to climate majority of the indigenous birds affected countries. Mr. Kakar has also been migrated from these areas and this migration of insects and birds put bad impacts on climate, as they take active part in pollination of plants, crops & vegetables. Mr. Daud Khan said that natural based solutions, rain water storage, making of small dams and plantation of eco-friendly plants are the possible solutions of the climate and environmental change issues.

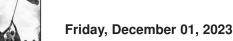
The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said that climate change was a national security issue for a country like Pakistan. He reiterated that Pakistan was among the lowest carbon-producing countries in the world. Yet, it is among the ty. top-most affected countries.

United Nations, Pakistan is the clean and clear that the people view that due to the extraction of have kanal water system (areas for COP28, the Caretaker Prime 158th country in the ranking of used it for drinking purposes. chromite, nephrite and other near Charsadda & Pranghar). Minister said that climate Minister said that climate Mohammad Daud added that change was a national security issue for a country like Pakistan. among the lowest carbon-producing countries in the world. Yet, it is among the top-most said that Pakistan is playing a positive role in the global climate debate through climate diplomacy. He directed the relevant institutions to complete their groundwork for presentations on Pakistan in the context of climate finance and other related issues at COP-28.

Not only Mohmand District but majority of the other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Baluchistan and Gilgit Baltistan also have been badly affected from climate change, so It will be noted that how Pakistan will present its case in the UNFCCC annual meeting of COP 28(conference of Parties) in front of UN and international communi-

While chairing an inter-ministe- Producer and Freelance seen the springs of water here, ly causing different diseases and district, where there is high rial review meeting in Islamabad Environmental Journalist who





## Russia is preparing a 'loyalty agreement' requirement for foreigners

Russia's interior ministry said. The proposed agreehas prepared draft legisla- ment would include claustion that would force for- es about morality, family, eigners to sign a "loyalty "propaganda about nonforbidding traditional sexual relathem from criticising offi-cial policy, discrediting ticular, foreigners would Soviet military history, or be barred from "distorting contravening traditional the historical truth about family values. Since the feat of the Soviet peo-President Vladimir Putin ple in the defence of the Fatherland and its contritroops into Ukraine in February 2022, bution to the victory over Russia has introduced a fascism". slew of tough laws that outlaw discrediting the estimated to have lost at military, and courts have least 27 million people in advanced and was being handed down long jail World War Two and even-

sentences to opposition tually pushed Nazi forces Berlin. As the 2024 presiden- Governments loyal to tial election approaches, Moscow then took power Putin has cast the war as across swathes of eastern part of an existential battle Europe. It was not clear with the West, saying he from Russian media will defend Russia's reports which foreigners "sacred" civilisation from the draft legislation - if it what he portrays as the becomes law - would West's decadence. The apply to or what the pun-TASS state news agency ishment would be for not reported that the draft leg- adhering to the "agreeislation had been prepared ment" which foreigners by the interior ministry would have to sign upon and would force all for- entry to Russia. The eigners entering Russia to Kremlin declined to comsign an agreement that ment on the initiative. essentially restricts what Opposition activists and they can say in public. A foreign diplomats in foreigner entering Russia Moscow have for months would be prohibited from been warning that the "interfering with the authorities are toughening activities of public author-their stance on any dissent ities of the Russian ahead of the presidential Federation, discrediting in election. The Kremlin said any form the foreign and earlier this month that domestic state policy of some measure of censor- meaning those that have the Russian Federation, ship was needed as imposed sanctions on it public authorities and Russian troops were fight- over its war in Ukraine.

tration" of troops on its bor- Russia for two weeks in a

der with Russia would be bid to halt an unusually

viewed by Moscow as a large flow of asylum seek-

threat, the Kremlin said, ers that Helsinki says after Poland offered to send amounts to a "hybrid

military advisers to help attack" orchestrated by

Helsinki police the frontier. Moscow, a charge the

National Security Bureau, about the Polish offer to

Jacek Siewiera, said in a Finland during a call with

The head of the Polish Kremlin denies.

post on social media X late reporters,

Finland to allow a "concen-

Kremlin warns of

tensions with Poland

MOSCOW/HELSINKI unaware of the Polish offer. unprovoked and unjustified

(Reuters): Any decision by It has closed its entire 1,340 said Peskov. Finland's

an official request for ensure border security tary cooperation on the

military advisers will pro- pose a threat to us - an infuriated Russia earlier this

vide on-site knowledge on increase in the concentra- year when it joined NATO,

border security, also in tion of military units on our ending decades of military

operational terms," he said. borders." Any planned non-alignment, due to the Finland said it was deployment would be war in Ukraine.

US Navy plane

went into a Hawaii bay

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii shows the "two points of the tide, so the full weight

(AP): Tires from a large air- contact the aircraft has of the plane is not on the

kilometers) from and salvage unit working at how much it moved, how

Honolulu. The Navy is the site, said the plane was much it could move." State

investigating what caused sitting on a mixture of environmental officials

the plane to overshoot a coral and sand. The left expect to conduct a damage

nway. engine is resting on coral. assessment once the plane The underwater footage The plane rises a little with is removed.

plane that's been stuck in a with the coral and the coral, he said.

Hawaii bay for more than a remainder of the aircraft

week are resting on parts of floating above," the Navy

a reef, according to video said. The video shows tires

the US Navy released as it on the coral as tiny fish

figures out a plan to remove swim through rock

the aircraft. There were no crevices. A Navy team

injuries to the nine people removed nearly all of the

who were on board when estimated 2,000 gallons the plane landed Nov. 20 in (7,500 liters) of fuel on the

shallow water just offshore plane, Rear Adm. Kevin

of Marine Corps Base Lenox said. Cmdr. Mark

Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay. Anderson, who is leading

The base is about 10 miles the Navy's mobile diving

km (833 mile) border with Border Guard and the inte-

Asked

tioned those who wanted to criticise the military to think carefully before they did. For the draft to become law, it has to be introduced to the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, and to go through committee review and several readings before being submit-

ted to Putin for signing The chairman of the Duma's CIS Affairs The Soviet Union is Committee said that the draft law was well worked on by the interior ministry, the government, the presidential administration as well as his committee. "The draft law on the socalled 'loyalty agreement'

with migrants entering the Russian Federation is in a high degree of readiness, Leonid Kalashnikov told Interfax. Kalashnikov said some details of the proposed law were still to be worked out. The interior ministry did not immediately respond to requests for a comment. The law has not yet been introduced formally in parliament, in according to Reuters onths searches of the Duma's database. Since the start of its war in Ukraine, Russia has imposed a number of restrictions on foreigners from what it calls "unfriendly countries"

rior ministry both said they

were unaware of any plan to

bring Polish military advis-

ers to Finland's eastern bor-

Kaneohe Bay is home to

coral reefs, an ancient

Hawaiian fishpond and a

breeding ground for ham-merhead sharks. Sierra

Club of Hawaii Executive

Director Wayne Tanaka

said the video underscores

potential damage to the

we've known: We have a jet

plane sitting on coral reef,"

he said. "We don't know

"It confirms what

sharks. Sierra

immediately reply

requests for comment.

## Chechen leader's son

MOSCOW (Reuters): der. The Finnish foreign and defence ministries and its defence forces did not Finnish President Sauli Kremlin Niinisto held talks with his that Poland would send mil- spokesman Dmitry Peskov Polish counterpart Andrzej itary advisers to its NATO said: "This is an absolutely Duda in Warsaw last week ally Finland, in response to redundant measure to but they did not discuss miliallied support in the face of because there is no threat Finnish border with Russia, a hybrid attack on the there." "The Finns must be Niinisto's office said in a of burning the Koran. Finnish border". "A team of clearly aware that this will statement to Reuters. Finland

The video drew broad condemnation, including hardliners. Adam respected dignity honour,

#### Jourova says no talks about Kyiv without Ukraine

BRUSSELS (Reuters): A deputy head of the European Union executive said she would find "unacceptable" any talks about the war in Ukraine that would not include Kyiv or envisage the country giving up territory. The European Commission's vice-president Vera Jourova also said she would be "disappoint-ed" if a Dec.14-15 summit of EU leaders refused to endorse proposals for more financial aid to Kyiv and a recommendation to launch accession Ukraine.

Czech

Commissioner who worked on her own country's EU entry nearly 20 years ago offered Kyiv a sympathetic ear recalling how difficult it was to meet European accession requirements. She said that, under Volodymyr President Zelenskiy, Ukraine was finally ready to overcome endemic corruption. But she refused to speculate on whether Hungary would lift its veto in December on money for Kyiv and starting membership talks, saying a "very intense" diplomatic push was taking place to convince Prime Minister Viktor Orban. She said the Commission would adopt this year a draft EU law on using for Ukraine's benefit the proceeds on some 200 billion euros of frozen Russian assets. She said that unanimous backing of all the 27 EU countries would be needed to

### named to post in rifle battalion

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov's teenage son, who was shown beating a prisoner in custody this year, has been named as an observer in a new battalion that is part of Russia's defence ministry forces, a senior Chechen official said. Adam Kadyrov, who turned 16 last week and who recently was appointed as his father's top bodyguard, was shown in a social media video posted by Ramzan Kadyrov in September punching and kicking a prisoner accused

from some pro-Kremlin Ramzan Kadyrov, a staunch ally of President Vladimir Putin, said at the time he was proud of his son and acquiring "adult ideals of and defence of his religion". Adam Delimkhanov, who heads the Chechen division of the Russian national guard and is also a member of Russia's parliament. said the young Kadyrov was named a curator, or observer, of a rifle battalion. "This appointment was a natural result of Adam's significant services in upholding the religious, family and cultural values of our people,' Delimkhanov, who is seen as Chechnya's second most senior official behind Kadyrov, said on the Telegram messaging app. Kadyrov's press service did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request to comment.

## Freed Israeli hostages tell families of ordeal in Gaza captivity

GAZA: Israeli women and children on their return from captivity in Gaza have spoken of being beaten and threatened, moved from place to place and forced to whisper during weeks spent with little to do, their families say. Most captives released during a six-day-old truce have been rushed to hospitals in a country still reeling from the shock of their abduction during a Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7 in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed.

Since the latest round of releases began on Friday, with Israel releasing some jailed Palestinians in exchange, the freed captives have been kept away from the media. Their stories have come out through the filter of family members, without independent verification, offering a hint of their ordeal. Most of the 240 captives that Israel says were seized on October 7 are still in captivity. Deborah Cohen told France's BFM ΓV she had been told her 12-year-old were beaten by Palestinian residents on arrival in Gaza during the Hamas attack. She said his captors made him watch footage of the Hamas violence.

they threatened them with a weapon to make them be quiet. Once they got to Gaza, all the civilians, everyone was hitting them ... We're talking about a child, 12 years old," she said. Hamas, the Palestinian armed group which governs Gaza, says it has treated the captives in accordance with Islamic teachings to preserve their lives and wellbeing. It says some captives were killed by Israeli air raids launched in response to the October 7 attacks. More than 15,000 people ground assault, including more than 6,000 children, according Palestinian officials in Gaza.

medical team at Shamir Medical her before their return to Israel.



captivity. "The people who came to us lost a significant amount of their nephew Eitan Yahalomi and others body weight in such a short time - 10 percent or more." In an interview that has since been taken offline, Margarita Mashavi, a doctor at Wolfson Medical Centre - one of the "Every time a child cried there, main facilities caring for freed capey threatened them with a weapon tives - said those she spoke to described being kept several stories underground. "They didn't give them light. They gave it to them for only two hours," she was quoted as saying by the Ynet news site.

The families of two girls who were held together found it hard to hear their children on their return home because they spoke only in whispers. "I had to put my ear close during a military offensive that was to her mouth to hear. In captivity, she was told not to make any noise. You can see the terror in her eyes," have been killed in the Israeli air and Thomas Hand, the father of nineyear-old Emily Hand, told CNN. Yair Rotem said his niece Hila Rotem Shoshani, 13, was held with Emily Some details are slowly surfacing Hand, and was also now speaking in from medical professionals treating whispers. She spoke of hugging her them and relatives of the freed capmother Raaya, still in Gaza, who she wrote. "If only in this world we tives. Ronit Zaidenstein, head of the cried when the girls were taken from could truly be good friends." -

spoke Hebrew and at times, would motion with a finger across their throats as if to warn of death if they did not do as told. She told Israel's Channel 12 they were moved from place to place, both underground and above ground. They lost weight as food was scarce at times, and ate mostly rice and bread.

Adva Adar said her grandmother Yaffa Adar, 85, had shown toughness by constantly contemplating reuniting with family. "She said that she was thinking about the family a lot and that it helped her survive and that she could hear the voices of the greatgrandchildren calling her and that it gave her a lot of power," the granddaughter told Reuters. One Israeli mother, Daniel Aloni, wrote to thank Hamas's armed Qassam Brigades before her release with daughter Emilia. Their story went viral in Arabic media. Daniel wrote to thank them for giving Emilia sweets and fruit and treating her daughter like a queen. "I will forever be thankful that

### Taiwan president: China too overwhelmed' to consider invasion

leadership is too "over- thought is that perhaps this whelmed" with its internal is not a time for them to problems to consider an consider a major invasion Jan. 13. The DPP's Lai envoy to the United States. invasion of Taiwan, of Taiwan," she said. Ching-te, currently vice President Tsai Ing-wen said "Largely because the inter- president, is the frontrunner means war. The DPP pushin an interview with the nal economic and financial to be Taiwan's next presi- ing this dangerous inde-New York Times. China, as well as political chaldent according to opinion pendence double act will which views democratical lenges, but also, the interpolis. Tsai said it was "no only poison the interests ly governed Taiwan as its national community has own territory, has ramped made it loud and clear that up military pressure against war is not an option, and the island over the past four peace and stability serves years, leading to concerns everybody's interests." Tsai of a conflict that would and her government have

think the Chinese leadership at this juncture is over-

my middle of campaigning for have global repercussions. repeatedly called for talks But Tsai, in a transcript with China but been of the interview her office rebuffed, as Beijing views this is a democracy and published on Thursday, said Tsai and the ruling people know that they have

Tsai says only Taiwan's

presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on khim, formerly Taiwan's secret" that China was try-ing to interfere in Taiwan's ots on the island," ing to interfere in Taiwan's elections.

"But I think they're probably not particularly successful in their effort of trying to influence the election here. Primarily, because next leader of Taiwan," she

running mate Hsiao Bi-"Taiwan independence spokesperson Chen Binhua told a news conference. Speaking to reporters in Taipei on Thursday, top China-policy maker Chiu Tai-san dismissed Beijing's criticisms. speaking, those comments China had too many issues Democratic Progressive made their best decisions as show they don't even know at the moment. "Well, I Party (DPP) as separatists. to who is going to be the what democratic politics and elections are," said people can decide their added. China's Taiwan Chiu, who heads Taiwan's whelmed by its internal future. Taiwan is in the Affairs Office stepped up Mainland Affairs Council.

## Azerbaijan's Aliyev scolds Blinken over US backing for Armenia

Azerbaijani President Ilham September. Aliyev told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a vided diplomatic backing call that recent American for Armenia, which had actions in support of supported Karabakh's sepa-Armenia had jeopardised ratist authorities, and US US-Azerbaijani ties, Baku officials visited Yerevan in said. The two countries had the days after the offensive. enjoyed relatively cordial In a statement, Aliyev's relations until Azerbaijani office said Aliyev had told forces recaptured the large- Blinken that "the latest ly ethnic Armenian-popu- statements and actions that O'Brien would visit months distanced itself

The United States pro-

had taken note of comments by Assistant Secretary of victory a congressional hearing that there was "no chance of Azerbaijan after the offenit added that Aliyev and

(Reuters): lightning offensive in US relations". It said Baku Azerbaijani officials visiting the US. Baku's military State James O'Brien during prompted the exodus of almost all the territory's 120,000 ethnic Armenians. business as usual" with The United States and other Western countries have sive in Karabakh. However, pledged aid to help Armenia cope with the influx. Blinken had agreed, in the Armenia, a traditional ally interest of normalising ties, of Russia, has in recent lated breakaway region of taken by the US have seri-Baku, and Washington from Moscow and sought Nagorno-Karabakh in a ously damaged Azerbaijan-would lift a ban on senior closer ties with the West.

## Ukraine strains to bolster its army as war fatigue weighs

Ukrainian army in March 2022, he had to line up at the draft office alongside crowds of patriotic countrymen. There are no crowds now, she says. had hoped for, and one that some now Danylevych, a 43-year-old HR man-acknowledge they're not guaranteed to ager, gave her blessing when win. Oleksandr joined up with tens of thousands of other Ukrainian citizens to

defy the Russian invasion. Now she's finding it hard to cope, with no end in sight. Her husband has only had about 25 days' home leave since he enlisted and their two children will be discharged. The campaign, are growing up without a father. "We want Ukraine to win, but not through to 100 people in Kyiv's main square in the efforts of the same people," she said in an interview at her home in level of exhaustion among Ukrainian Kyiv. "I can see they need to be troops and the mounting toll that is replaced and that they also need to taking on families back home. rest, but for some reason other people don't understand." Women on the fensive has so far failed to deliver a home front have also had to become decisive breakthrough, both sides are stronger, she added: "But at what cost dug in along largely static front lines did we become stronger?" Her hus- and questions are being asked over band - a university lecturer with no whether foreign military aid will be as prior combat experience who's now a forthcoming as it was. The country has platoon commander - watched his son relied on tens of billions of dollars in get married this year on his phone by video call from the ruined city of allies to sustain its war effort, but military, which declined to comment, Ukrainians have also been angered by Bakhmut. His 14-year-old daughter stockpiles of artillery shells are empty-

Danylevych's husband enlisted in the the grinding war, this family and others around the country are coming to terms with the prospect of a much longer and costlier conflict than they

reef.

This autumn, Danylevych was one of 25,000 people to sign a petition to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy saying that military service cannot remain open-ended and calling for troops to be given a clear timeline for when they which has included two protests by 50 recent weeks, illustrates a growing Ukraine's vaunted summer counterof-

sustaining previous levels of support. Such protests would have been unthinkable a year ago when national morale soared as Ukraine beat Russian forces back from Kyiv and retook swathes of the northeast and south. Martial law, declared at the war's start, prohibits public demonstrations.

Danylevych's campaign points to difficult choices war planners face as they try to maintain the flow of recruits to defeat a much larger army amid steady losses, while retaining a big enough workforce to sustain the shattered economy. Only Ukrainian men aged between 27 and 60 can be mobilised by draft officers. Men aged between 18 and 26 can't be drafted, though they can enlist voluntarily. Ukraine, which has said it has about 1 million people under arms, has barred military-age men from going abroad. Its constantly running mobilisation programme, which was declared at the start of the war, is a state secret. So are battlefield losses, which US estimates put in the tens of thousands.

The Ukrainian defence ministry

KYIV (Reuters): When Antonina misses her dad. Almost two years into ing and governments are cooler on Ukraine's military chief said one of his offices that have allowed people to places at universities in the first year priorities was to build up the army's avoid the call-up, prompting reserves as he laid out a plan to pre- Zelenskiy to sack all the heads of the vent the war settling into a stalemate of attritional warfare that he warned would suit Russia. The plan focuses on boosting Ukraine's aerial, electronic warfare, drone, anti-artillery and mine-clearance capabilities. He added that Ukraine, like Russia, had limited capacity to train troops and alluded to gaps in legislation that he said allowed

citizens to shirk mobilisation. We are trying to fix these problems. We are introducing a unified register of draftees, and we must expand the category of citizens who can be called up for training or mobilisation,' he wrote in rare comments published as an article by The Economist. The recruitment process largely takes place out of the public eye. Draft officers stop men in the street, at the metro or at checkpoints and hand out call-up papers to them, instructing to report to recruitment centres. Over the last year, social media videos occasionally surface showing draft officers dragging away or threatening men they want to mobilise causing public outcry. Many

regional recruitment offices this sum-Seldom does a week go by without

a law enforcement agency announcing criminal cases against people including draft officials accused of taking between \$500 and \$10,000 to provide fake documents for people to shirk mobilisation or travel abroad. At the River Tisa, which acts as the border from southwestern Ukraine to Romania, guard patrols used to focus on catching tobacco smugglers but now collar fleeing draft dodgers. About 6,000 people have been detained trying to leave across that stretch, the border guards told Reuters. One of them, Dyma Cherevychenko, said at least 19 people had drowned trying to flee the country during the conflict. "They died for nothing, died in the river when they could have contributed to the war effort," the 29-year-old added.

The Ukrainian parliament has meanwhile been debating legislation that would stop people over the age of 30 using higher education as a legal citing wartime secrecy. This month, a string of corruption cases at draft of men aged over 25 who booked

of the invasion shot up by 55,000 compared with the year before, Education Minister Oksen Lisovyi wrote on Facebook in September. Some voices in the West have suggested that Kyiv step up the scale of its recruitment by drawing on younger men. Ben Wallace, Britain's defence minister until the end of August, said the average age of Ukrainian soldiers at the front was over 40 and suggested it was time to "reassess the scale of Ukraine's mobilisation".

"I understand President Zelenskiy's desire to preserve the young for the future, but the fact is that Russia is mobilising the whole country by stealth," he wrote in the Telegraph newspaper. David Arakhamia, a senior lawmaker and Zelenskiy ally, said on Thursday that parliament planned to draw up legislation to improve the mobilisation and demobilisation procedure by the year's end. The bill, he said on TV, would cover what to do with people who have been fighting for two years without rotation, how to demobilise soldiers who have returned after being prisoners of war, and also way around mobilisation. The number address "issues related to the conscrip-

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### Honour killing, a grave social menace

ONOUR killing has become a grave social issue in Pakistani society with recurrent incidents of murders/extra-judicial killings under the vague system of traditional tribal Jirga or Panchyat to give apparent validity to that heinous crime. Recently, the KP Police has arrested four people, including a man who killed his teenage daughter, on instructions from family elders because she had appeared in a picture on social media. According to the Police, an 18-year-old woman was shot dead by her father last week in the Kolai-Palas district, while her boyfriend who appeared with her in the picture was rescued by the police team.

Honour killings, where individuals, predominantly women, are murdered for allegedly bringing dishonour to their families, is a global phenomenon that remains a significant social and human rights issue in Pakistan. This practice is often rooted in cultural, social, and patriarchal norms rather than religious teachings. Despite legal reforms and increased awareness, honour killings continue to occur due to deeply entrenched beliefs, orthodox behaviours, and social attitudes. The government of Pakistan in collaboration with human rights activists, NGOs, and civil society has been endeavouring hard to address this grave challenge and eradicate this tragic phenomenon, but progress remains slow rather those efforts met failure largely due to weak implementation of the law, faulty investigation, and prosecution. Historically, Islamic teachings strongly condemned the killing of any living organism including human beings, and animals, in the strongest possible terms as the Arabs in the pre-Islam era had been killing their daughters in defence of their selfrespect and fulfilment of dark era tradition, which unfortunately exists in the modern society in one or the other way. Islam termed the killing of a person as the murder of entire humanity and set stern punishment for this heinous crime. However, the curse of honor killings or Karo Kari still continuing in our society and hundreds of women become victims of honor killings in rural areas every year. Public images of women are considered taboo in tribal and conservative communities. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, over 470 cases of honour killings were reported in 2021, while 384 cases were registered in the previous year.

The rights groups and civil society have expressed concerns over the country's failure to stamp out such crimes and called for strict punishment for the alleged killers. Despite tighter laws and societal outrage in Pakistan, honour killings continue, with scores of such incidents reported by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan every year. The government of Pakistan has formulated multiple pieces of legislation to protect women and girls from social injustices and threats to their lives and survival in society including the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act, 2020, Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act 2020, the Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021, and the Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022 are the sovereign legislations enacted by the Government to protect and empower women. Meanwhile, the specific legislation against honour killing or Karo Kari incidents had also been framed such as the Criminal (Amendment) Acts of 2004 and 2016 but all those endeavours failed to achieve their goals over the past decades because of loopholes in the legislation and implementation along with the troublesome conduct of the family members of the victims who always tried to elude the justice. There is a dire need for a public-private partnership in the cases of honour killings, wherein civil society/ NGOs/ human rights organizations pursue the case of the plaintiff/victim instead of her/his family to logically conclude the cases and inflict stern punishments to the murderers. Otherwise, this curse is less likely to be eradicated from our society at any time in the future.

#### Inclusiveness, single recipe to multiple issues

THE former Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, has recently called for immediate Intra-Afghan Dialogue and emphasized that the international community should not seek to remove the interim Afghan government by force. During an interview with foreign media, Karzai noted that the importance of the Taliban resuming girls' education could help the Taliban gain legitimacy and international recognition as a representative government of the Afghan nation. According to him, the Taliban administration acknowledges the necessity of dialogue but requires preparation and time to initiate these talks. The Afghans don't want conflict, collapse or split of the incumbent regime, as they have had enough of that in the past and currently want to build their future.

Inclusiveness in war-torn Afghanistan is crucial for fostering peace, stability, and sustainable development. It involves ensuring the representation and participation of diverse religious and ethnic groups, women, minorities, and marginalized communities in decision-making processes, governance, and societal affairs. Embracing inclusivity can help in building a more cohesive and resilient society, addressing long-held grievances/rivalries, and creating opportunities for all Afghans to contribute toward the country's progress and prosperity. It's essential for fostering trust, and unity, and ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in shaping Afghanistan's destiny through collective efforts and teamwork

There have been wide-ranging calls for inclusiveness for the Afghan government from across the globe, while this segment was an important condition of the Doha agreement which paved the path for the Taliban rule in the country. Historically, the interim Taliban rulers completely ignored the global aspirations for nation-building in conflict-hit Afghanistan by rigorously pursuing their party's agenda which gradually worsened the economic and humanitarian crises pushing that country into isolation. No doubt a deviation from the current manifesto and restoration of girls/women's rights could not only pave the way for global recognition of the Afghan government but will open up new avenues of economic partnerships, and trade collaboration with the rest of the world. Historically, inclusiveness and democracy are the sole solutions to the Afghanistan issue and these two actions, as and when applied, will not only unlock the full potential of political and economic prospects but would lead to greater autonomy and progress in that nation. Otherwise, the unceasing political dogfight and foreign conspiracies will not allow any Afghan government to build a righteous, peaceful, and prosperous future for its nation.

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## NATO needs caution in handling relations with China

Ding Chun & Ji Haonan

Ministers' meeting in Brussels on values, and more. Notably, align closely with the Tuesday and Wednesday NATO's accusations against strategic choices of the US, ed from China's economic has attracted wide atten- China extend beyond the revealing a strong US inflution. As expected, NATO military realm to encom- ence. However, shifting reiterated its determina- pass technology, critical toward the Asia-Pacific and tion to support Ukraine's infrastructure, strategic confronting China does not the fruits of its developmentry into NATO. As to China, NATO Secretary chains. The NATO 2030 many NATO member also played a constructive General Jens Stoltenberg agenda report described states, nor does it meet the role in international securialso addressed the so- China as a "full-spectrum security needs of countries ty affairs, including UN called challenges that systemic rival", fostering in the Asia-Pacific region. China presents to Euro- an atmosphere reminiscent Atlantic security. Despite of a "new Cold War". stressing that "China is Concurrently, NA" not our adversary", accelerating its "IndoStoltenberg said that Pacific pivot", seeking partNATO must be clearedners in the Asia-Pacific been impacted by the dation. Conversely, the proeyed about the impact of region. It has invited Japan, Russia-Ukraine conflict motion of the China threat.

Stoltenberg said that China, and their economic narrative of the "China development has already threat" lacks a solid founbeen impacted by the dation. Conversely, the pro-China's "coercive policies on our security" and wel-comed that allies are

has consistently under-

scored the challenges posed

by China, conspicuously

influence in the "Indo-

Pacific" region. This delib-

tions about the motivations

behind and implications of

opportunity to scrutinize

North Atlantic. With the

with

forces have begun propa-

portray China as an adver-

ing China of attempting to

tioned,

President

sary of NATO.

European countries do not have any fundamental Concurrently, NATO is geopolitical conflicts with

The lukewarm response from Asiaengaging in dialogue with Beijing on issues of mutual concern.

In recent years, NATO

The take warm response from Tistathat the strategic logic of "confronting that the strategic logic of "confronting China" does not resonate widely. China's development presents opportunities rather than challenges. Both the US and Europe manifesting a posture of have substantially benefited from China's balancing against China's economic growth, and China, through initiatives like the Belt and Road purview, meddling in extraerate stance has evoked Initiative, has shared the fruits of its concerns, as it raises ques- development with the world. It has also ing played a constructive role in international tragedies. Historical experi-NATO's persistent empha- security affairs, including UN peacekeepsis on countering China. ing operations, the Iran nuclear issue, The meeting presented an and the reconciliation between Saudi and discern the nuanced Arabia and Iran.

dimensions of NATO's evolving approach to China, delving into the the Republic of Korea, and energy crisis. intricacies of geopolitical Australia, and dynamics that underpin the Zealand - four "global part-alliance's strategic recali-ner countries" far away bration. Since its inception, from the North Atlantic - to NATO has focused primari- participate in foreign minisly on Europe, with its mem- ters' meetings, defense minbership relatively confined isters' meetings, and sumto the areas surrounding the mits. NATO aims to forge a "tailored partnership" with conclusion of the Cold War, Japan and has invited the the raison d'être of NATO ROK to join the NATO Cooperative has been continually ques-Cyber French Defence Centre Emmanuel Excellence. These shifts in Macron proclaiming the strategic thinking and prac-"brain death" of NATO. tices, whether overt or Devoid of issues, some covert, warrant vigilance.

Behind NATO's drumgating the narrative of the beat of the "China chal-China threat, seeking to lenge" lies the persistent influence of the United States. Unlike the indiffer-At the 2019 London ence toward NATO and dis-Summit, NATO acknowl- dain for member states' edged for the first time the insufficient military spendchallenges posed by ing during the Trump era, China's rising power. The the Biden administration NATO 2022 Strategic views NATO as a tool for Concept document further restraining China. NATO asserts the need to "remain has revived Cold War-era "Indo-Pacific", attempting subvert the rules-based to link China with the threat international order," posing posed by NATO's interests, security, around China, these moves ment presents opportunities

New limited financial resources not only will international cannot be diverted to meet security be compromised, the ambitions of the US or but mutually beneficial NATO. This year, French economic and cultural President Macron opposed exchanges will also suffer. NATO setting up liaison This runs counter to offices in Japan, and NATO's vision of con-Hungarian Minister Péter Szijjártó "sovereignty, territorial explicitly stated that "We integrity, human rights, and don't want NATO to international law become an anti-China respected". NATO faces a bloc". The European Union strategic choice regarding has repeatedly emphasized its approach to China being against decoupling either strengthen "construc from China, indicating that tive engagement" or por-Europe has no intention of tray China as a "systemic being tied to the US agenda challenge". Faced with the

to contain China. lishing the trilateral security partnership of the US, UK, and Australia, as well as the quadrilateral cooperhas the support of its tradiopen to constructive ideological opposition and response from Asia-Pacific against China and getting engagement" while accus- intensified its focus on the countries indirectly under- entangled in a vicious cycle logic of Russia. China" does not resonate NATO must proceed with a systemic challenge to Continuously seeking allies widely. China's develop- thoughtful consideration.

rather than challenges Both the US and Europe have substantially benefit growth, and China, through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, has shared peacekeeping operations the Iran nuclear issue, and the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The narrative of the "China adopting confrontational stances, and intervention in the Asia-Pacific region pose challenges to international security.

Examining NATO's post-Cold War history, it is evident that while waving the banner of "collective security", NATO has simultaneously interfered in security matters beyond its territorial affairs and national sovereignty, leadirreversible ences also demonstrate that prioritizing values and engaging in zero-sum Cold War thinking only perpetuates lasting security dilemmas among nations. If these security dilemmas extend into economic, technological and cultural domains Foreign structing a world where intricacies of the interna-As the US sidelines tional security landscape NATO and seeks "minilat- and the growing promi eral" cooperation, estab- nence of non-traditional security issues, NATO should listen to diverse internal voices and carefully assess its own security ation of the US, Japan, environment. It should India, and Australia, it only refrain from returning to the Cold War path, positional allies. The lukewarm tioning itself as a vanguard scores that the strategic of escalation. In navigating "confronting its relationship with China, The China Daily

## The generals of Israel and Gaza

**Ghassan Charbel** 

rejoice over the news of a death that they deemed to be the "grand Palestinian state to the prize." The generals are agenda of major world Ariel Sharon and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Tales at the time ceeded in setting it to the said Dayan wanted to see side. Knockout blows are the body himself and, when he did, he ordered that sweets be handed out now found itself confronted to the soldiers involved. with a new generation no Yes, the corpse was that of the "Guevara of Gaza," who was released from prison years earlier with an increased determination to fight the occupiers. The Guevara of Gaza,

whose real name was

Mohammed Al-Aswad, was born two years before the Nakba. When it happened, his family was displaced from the West Bank to Gaza. He was drawn to the ideas of the Arab nationalist movement and later joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which was led by Dr. Habash. He George admired what had happened in Vietnam, as well as Fidel Castro and the legend that Ernesto Guevara. In the early 1970s, Sharon arrived in Gaza with an agenda to carry out assassinations. A special unit was formed to carry out the task. It was led by Meir Dagan, who would later become chief of the Mossad. Al-Aswad plotted a series of bomb attacks on

Israeli patrols and took part

phantom, who regularly

changed his place of resi-

Gaza was rapt by this

in some of them.

dence. He exhausted the occupiers to such an extent that Dayan once declared: 'We control Gaza by day and Guevara controls it by night." One day, Israeli forces surrounded a house where its No. 1 most-wanted man was hiding. He exited the house all guns blazing. The Israeli forces fired back and shot him dead. The two generals rejoiced, believing that this chapter had ended. Half a century after the death of the "first general of Gaza," Israeli generals were taken by surprise when the "third general of Gaza" declared the launch of last month's Al-Agsa Flood operation. His him five times. The first or escalate the fighting. succeeded in injuring him and the second killed his tury, Israeli and Palestinian wife and two of his children. The Nakba had also displaced his family to Gaza and he grew up in Khan Yunis. He too left an Israeli prison with a greater determination to fight the tom. He is always on the move and no one knows

where he lives. Guevara was not his idol. Instead, he looked up to Ezzeddine Al-Qassam and Ahmed Yassin. He joined Hamas, which was officially formed in 1987. Deif took charge of Hamas' forces after Israel's assassination of the "second general of Gaza," Salah Shehade, in July 2002.

In the mid-20th century, a man named Yasser Arafat arrived on the scene. He dreamed of going down in history as "the first bullet and first state." Israel did not derive lessons from its experience with Arafat. The rivers of blood kept flowing for decades. Has it not learned that killing the the conflict over the past ing war."

**THE date is March 9,** five years. He said the hor-**1973.** Two generals rors that have recently taken place in Gaza have returned the issue of an independent powers at a time when Israel and its allies had sucimpossible in this crisis. Israel tried them and it has less determined or fierce than previous ones.

The man said the complete elimination of Hamas was impossible, just as it was impossible to eliminate Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization. These forces are more than just a military apparatus. They are pursuing rights above all else. The man asked if Hamas could invest the developments in Gaza to form a state? Could it reconcile with reality, as happened with the PLO? Could we ever see Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh seated with an Israeli delegation at an international conference? When you negotiate with your enemy, then you are recognizing their existence. Since you are incapable of eliminating him, then are you obligated to reach a settlement with him? In 2017, Hamas agreed to the idea of an independent Palestinian state, but it never even considered recognizing Israel because that would have led to a long-term and open truce. Would Israel agree to this? Would its supporters agree to this? Would Hamas agree to the formation of a Palestinian state that is free of weapons?

Could we ever imagine Haniyeh at the White House, extending his arm to shake the hand of an Israeli prime minister like Arafat did with Yitzhak Rabin? We must remember that Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, through their suicide attacks, played a major role in scuttling the Oslo Accords. Israel is also culpable when it undermined the agreements and left nothing to implement. Are we allowed to forget the obvious Iranian touch in Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad's behavior? Ending the conflict will be name is Mohammed Deif. difficult and complicated. It Israeli agencies have long will demand strict decisions dreamed of assassinating that are more dangerous him. They have targeted than those needed to extend

generals have come and gone, but the river of blood has kept on flowing. The Arab world has paid a very hefty price for the Israeli oppression of Palestinians. The Israeli generals tried all occupiers. He is like a phanoptions to eliminate and oppress the Palestinians, who continued to rise up with their fists, stones, bullets or explosive belts. The world was deluded into believing that the volcano would stop erupting and become dormant. The world committed several errors for a long time, particularly the "sole major power." I recall descriptions of Arafat by Mahmoud Darwish and Ibrahim, both of whom he was close to. They said that seeking a settlement was definitely harder for him than firing the first bullet. They also said that, when he shook Rabin's hand, he was confident Palestinian state was a "stone's throw away." They agreed that, in this bitter "generals" of Gaza will not conflict, "the decision to break its will? I met with a agree to a solution was man who was involved in more difficult than choos-

## We must respect others' beliefs - no matter how painful

ago. a multitude of different ble anymore. cultures and experiences,

through enced before. Flipping destroying

world.

**THERE** are many may be the same, but the things I am grateful story is entirely different for that have come to the point where, aside another, whether we like it es, including Huda Beauty, from moving to the from the main players, the or not. When it comes to are expressing advocacy for Middle East more than 10 narratives are almost unrec- human life, we are all humanity before financial As an ognizable. Bias within jour- responsible. What is done profit. The collective global American expat, one of nalism is nothing new; it to us becomes what we the things that has opened has always been there to my eyes the most is the some degree and a good kaleidoscope of experi- journalist is one who can ences and perspectives acknowledge their bias and that have helped expand work to neutralize it. But my horizons and ways of given the current state of seeing the world. Living the world and the way we in the diverse city of communicate, it is hard to Dubai has exposed me to imagine this is even possi-From homogenous

as well as offering access mainstream media coverto a whole host of media age that operates with sources from around the blinders on to doctored viral content and propagan-Watching the current sit- da, the truth is nearly uation in Gaza unfold impossible for any of us to various news fully discern. But one thing sources has been an entire- should be as clear as day:

unmistakable imprisonment create a ate acts. With Gaza, the sands more and more desperate, or flight. The escalating and persistent violence witnessed from Israel poses a

ly new kind of eye-opener the Gaza conflict is a communicated by more and things can be true. Our that I have never experi- humanitarian crisis; it is more world leaders, includ- world has become more everyone ing Sheikha Moza bint and more polarized, seeing from one channel to the involved and even those Nasser's resolute resigna- only in black and white. We next, from Egyptian to who are not. Because the tion as a UN ambassador. tend to think, "If you are Saudi news to the UK or reality is, we are all An increasing number of not 100 percent with us, framework from which to US and others, the topic involved in one way or organizations and business- then you are 100 percent operate, beliefs are a nar-

Jewish soul.

Carla Dibello voice is getting louder, know. And so, we repeat it. reinforcing that, even in Those who are hurt are war, there are rules. I grieve those who hurt again. The as a result of the Oct. 7 cycle is evident on both Hamas attack on Israel, sides, constituting an mourning for the hostages pattern. and innocent lives lost. At Unimaginable violence and the same time, I grieve because of the attacks on breeding ground for desper- Gaza and the growing thouof innocent Palestinians are growing Palestinian lives lost. Out of more than 14,000 in a constant state of fight Palestinian deaths, 40 percent of those killed have been children. One of the most impor-

threat to the essence of the tant life skills we as a global society have lost is Disapproval is being understanding that two

initely not how anything gets resolved. It is critical that we are able to continue to communicate respectfully with those who have different perspectives from like our own, instead of anyone who goes against the narrative of a belief system built from personal histories - even when it is incredibly painful to do so. I have lost friends whom I truly love due to conversations about Palestine. And it breaks my heart because, at the end of the day, I think we hold the same principles and values. But in this new world of ours, it is too easy to categorize anyone different as the enemy.

Organizational psychologist Adam Grant argues that the difference between belief systems and values is that, while values offer a more flexible, big-picture

against us." But that is just row and static scope that not how life works and def- make it difficult for us to adapt to new evidence or perspectives. Identifying how the world should be according to our beliefs, rather than intrinsic values compassion and respect, makes it easy for us stonewalling or vilifying to get stuck in seeing only a small part of the whole story. Too many of us are so wed to our belief systems that we abandon our actual values, leaving ourselves blind to the critical foundation of what it means to be a human being. This is not about politics. This is not about religion. This is about human life and the way we treat one another, the way we see each other and the way we communicate with each other. This is just as much anyone else's world as it is yours or mine. And seeing it as such, even when it feels threatening to who we are and where we come from, is our only hope for a way out.

Arab News

## Europe's rising tide of immigration hysteria

N the Netherlands, a formerly fringe far-right party wins more seats in the Dutch gen-

eral election than any other political group. In Dublin, a knife attack outside a school triggers rioting and looting by right-wing thugs. In the UK, support for the right-wing Reform party is in each of these stories is immigration, a topic that has risen to the top of political agendas across Europe, threatening to transform liberal democracies into illiberal bastions of intoler-

Make no mistake. This is not about "illegal" immigration. It is about racism, pure and simple. For instance, it suits the UK government to make an issue out of "stopping the boats" crossing the English Channel. But the numbers involved are tiny compared with the number of migrants coming to the UK legally to work as doctors, nurses and care home assistants, or to study as students. And even those students are coming under fire. The UK is seeing a record number of students coming from overseas to study. Worth millions of pounds to universities, which charge foreign students far higher fees than their British counterparts, they contribute significantly to the

nation's gross domestic product. Some stay on in the country after completing their course. If they do, it is because they have got a job and are paying taxes to the treasury. Regardless, right-wing politicians are now demanding that such students should not be allowed to bring family to live with them. Europe is walking, eyes tight shut, into a new dark age that makes a mockery of the 70 millionplus lives lost during the Second World War in the effort to rid the world of the cancerous, supremacist ideology of the Nazis. A funda-mental misunderstanding under-Britain's economy would collapse. this growing distaste for non-

pins Europe's rising tide of immigration hysteria: Europe, with birth rates declining, needs immigration. In the UK in particular, migrants the rising tide of racist hysteria, form a large part of the workforce, including doctors and nurses, but also carry out many of the low-paid the UK, the Conservative governincreasing. The common theme jobs. But at the same time, right- ment is fragmenting, torn apart by wing politicians are peddling the the competing narratives of the

Regardless, traditional, more reasonable political parties across Europe are in a bind. If they ignore they will be swept away, and so they are pandering to the mob. In false trope that migrants are taking beleaguered party's few remaining "our" jobs and housing, clogging centrist MPs and extremists like

The Conservative government, he said, had "totally betrayed" the British people because immigration to the UK was at a record high. It is, but only because, if it was not, Britain's economy would collapse. Regardless, traditional, more reasonable political parties across Europe are in a bind. If they ignore the rising tide of racist hysteria, they will be swept away, and so they are pandering to the mob. In the UK, the Conservative government is fragmenting, torn apart by the competing narratives of the beleaguered party's few remaining centrist MPs and extremists like the recently sacked Home Secretary Suella Braverman, the key cheerleader of the bizarre policy of dispatching boat people to Rwanda.

up "our" health system and - most the recently sinister of all - "changing the shape of our country before our very

wealthy British property developer who founded the Brexit Party and is now the leader of its successor, Reform UK, which says Britain is "broken" and "needs net-zero lawimmigration." Conservative government, he said, had "totally betrayed" the British people because immigration to the

sacked Home Secretary Suella Braverman, the key cheerleader of the bizarre policy of dispatching boat people to That latest incendiary quote Rwanda. In the Netherlands, a comes from Richard Tice, a four-party coalition government four-party coalition government collapsed in July after failing to reach agreement over measures to control the flow of migrants. Into the moral vacuum stepped radical right-winger Geert Wilders, a preposterous man who rants about the tsunami of asylum and immigration" and who has pledged to "ban" the Qur'an, close the country's bor-UK was at a record high. It is, but ders and deliver "Nexit," a Dutch

European foreigners is hilarious given that it is a direct consequence of the colonialism that European states such as the UK and Holland imposed on the world for centuries.

But such truths cast no shadows on the fantasy landscapes occupied by the likes of Wilders. The advantages of cultural diversity are obvious, and too numerous to list, and in choosing to present multiculturalism as a threat rather than an asset, right-wing politicians expose themselves for what they are racists. In Ireland last week, antimigrant mobs gathered following an incident in which five people, including a five-year-old girl, were stabbed outside a primary school in Dublin. In the words of the police, 'hateful assumptions" that the attacker was a foreign national spread quickly and mobs took to the streets, expressing their disdain for foreigners by, oddly, vandalizing and looting Irish shops Ironically, the man who risked his own life to save the wounded victims was himself a migrant - a fastfood courier and a father of two originally from Brazil.

Unfortunately, Europe is increasingly under the spell of those who would highlight our differences rather than our similarities in a cynical bid to seize power. The roots of all the disruptions in the Middle East and North Africa that have, to a significant extent, contributed to Europe's migrant problems can be traced to European intervention in the region dating back to the First World War. The challenge now for Europe's moderate, mainstream politicians is to recognize and own this history, to hold the line of decency and to combat, rather than pander to, the false narratives of the extremists. So far, however, none have appeared capable of rising to this challenge and Europe is slipping inexorably into a moral dark age as

## Walking to America

Belén Fernández

isthmus Tehuantepec, the narrow strip of land that separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Pacific Ocean in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, is known for its spectacularly fierce winds, which have toppled many a cargo truck navigating its thoroughfares. The isthmus is currently also playing host to mass human movement, as refuge seekers from Central America to Africa and beyond navigate the landscape in the hopes of eventually reaching the United States, still some 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) to the north.

And for these thousands upon thousands of humans in precarious transit, overpowering winds are but Chiapas, which included having one of myriad existential obstacles. various objects thrown at them by recently spent a few days in the isthmian town of Juchitán and took a taxi out to the nearby village of Santo Domingo Ingenio, where I met up with a 10-member Venezuelan family whose acquaintance I had made in early an unspecified location hours away November in the neighbouring state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala. Driving up the highway from Juchitán, the taxi lurched in the wind as we passed staggered groups of people heading in the opposite direction, some carrying babies or pushing strollers, others shielding their faces from the punishing sun overhead.

The family had joined up with the latest northbound migrant caravan to form in Mexico - although the caravan has since largely dissolved in accordance with divideand-conquer tactics of the Mexican government and mafia outfits, which jointly profit from the United States's criminalisation of migration. Lacking any money for food - much less to avail themselves of mafia-organised transport ridden stretch of jungle between

by Mexican bus companies - this family belongs to the class of refuge seekers that has basically been reduced to walking to America. The extended family's youngest member is an eight-yearold boy; there are also two 13-yearolds, a boy and a girl. I brought them some cash, water, and a heap of fried chicken from Juchitán, and we sat on the sheet of plastic that was serving as their bed in Santo Domingo Ingenio's central pavilion, where the caravan was meant to camp out for the night.

They filled me in on all that had transpired since our last meeting in apparently xenophobic local resi by Mexican immigration officials. Thanks to this sadistic stunt by agents of the state, who bused the children and one of the women to from the others, the family spent several sleepless nights before being able to regroup. Most of the family members could barely walk, the soles of their shoes and feet having been torn up by hours of contact with the scorching pavement. One of the women laughingly showed me her innovative solution to the gaping holes in the bottom of her pink plastic clogs, which had been to utilise sanitary napkins as inserts. Somehow, they all maintained a distinct graciousness that, had I been in their shoes, would have certainly been long gone, pulverised somewhere on the

road from Venezuela to Mexico. At our previous encounter, the family had recounted their trek through the Darién Gap, the corpseoptions or the inflated "migrant Colombia and Panama, which they

prices" unofficially implemented likened to "a horror movie". In one scene, they said, they had investigated a hand sticking out from a tent along the way to find that it belonged to a dead pregnant woman inside. The horrors of the jungle notwithstanding, the family reported that they would take the Darién Gap over Mexico any day. Hobbling, they escorted me back to my taxi, which was parked next to a couple of heavily armed, balaclava-sporting contingents of the Mexican National Guard, valiantly guarding the nation against asylumseeking pedestrians.

Granted, US-bound migrant caravans have long elicited expedient- that the Mauritanians - who had ly sensational fear-mongering, entered Mexico without visas -When the first caravan set out from were being bused from Juchitán to from the Mediterranean Palestinian town of Huwara. Honduras in 2018, then-US dents and being forcibly separated President Donald Trump took to Twitter to warn that "criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in" - a matter that amounted veritable "National Emergy[sic]." And while Trump's successor, Joe Biden, was supposed to pursue a nicer and less sociopathic migration policy, the US remains on "National Emergy' footing as Biden unabashedly expands Trump's border fortification vision. Obviously, the US also continues to be responsible for wreaking much of the international political and economic havoc that causes people to leave their countries in the first place.

For his part, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) has dutifully enlisted Mexico in the US war on asylum seekers, and recently praised Biden for allegedly refraining from building border walls - a curious compliment, no doubt, for someone who is building up a storm. Meanwhile, back in Juchitán, collaborative state-mafia extortion is

going strong, and refuge seekers with access to money are being milked for all they are worth When two Danish friends and I visited a certain hotel in the centre of town, for example, we found it jampacked with citizens of the African nation of Mauritania, many of them fleeing political persecution and fear of torture back home. In the hotel lobby, two women seated at a table handled passports, stacks of one hundred dollar bills, and a credit card machine.

Out front, a man from the Mexican state of Sinaloa who was involved in coordinating the operation openly told my friends and me Mexico City for "about 10.000 pesos" per person, or nearly 600 dollars. The buses would not be stopped by Mexican immigration personnel, we were told, as the obscene bus fare presumably made it possible to pay off all the proper people and still have plenty left over. The same night that I visited the Venezuelan family in Santo Domingo Ingenio, I received word from them that the caravan had been dislodged from the village and moved to one even farther away from Juchitán - meaning their trek to the US border would now

be that much longer.
Two days later, they were still in the same village, where reports had begun to surface that caravan participants were being kidnapped and held for ransom. Petrified, the family was planning to separate from what remained of the caravan, and to face being blown over by the winds of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec on their own. If only winds could blow down borders and set humanity straight.

Aljazeera

## Pressed for time

Patrick Verkooijen

ORLD leaders attending the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai from Nov 30 to Dec 12 to take stock of progress toward limiting the rise in atmospheric temperatures to 1.5 C above preindustrial levels and debate what more should be done. We already know that progress

in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that are causing global warming is inade-The United Nations quate. Programme Environment Emissions Gap Report 2023 forecasts that without more effective action, the Earth is on track for 2.9 C warming this century. The consequences of that would be catastrophic, for each and every one of us. To avoid this disaster, humanity needs to do far more and far faster to cut emissions. But that's not all. Today, the level of CO2 in our atmosphere is already more than 50 percent above its pre-industrial level. This is causing more extreme, more frequent episodes of severe weather around the world.

The consequences are obvious for all to see, in China and elsewhere. Storms, floods, and droughts are causing widespread destruction, costing lives, and put-

most urgently, we need to adapt the ed. places where people are most at risk: our towns and cities. Around 60 percent of the Chinese people live in cities. China's low-lying, densely populated coastal cities are estimated to house one-fifth of its population and generate one-third of its GDP. They already experience frequent flooding, storm surges, and erosion.

But many inland cities are also vulnerable after decades of rapid construction and expansion. Lives, homes, jobs and hard-won prosperity are all in danger. Unabated, climate change could lead to estimated GDP losses of 0.5-2.3 percent as early as 2030. This means that adaptation should not be seen as a cost, but as an investment in our future well-being and economic resilience. Estimates suggest that every US dollar invested in adaptation could result in up to \$10 of economic benefits. Wisely, China is scaling up adaptation through its National Climate Adaptation Strategy. Following on from a radical 2013 plan to tackle air pollution, this seeks to improve early warning of extreme weather and put a nationwide climate impact and risk assessment system in place by 2035.

Part of this initiative is a program of 28 climate-resilient pilot ting livelihoods at risk. We need to cities, where strategies to adapt prepare for a future of climate urban areas to more extreme change and unstable weather. And, weather will be developed and test-

The Global Center on Adaptation is contributing to this roll-out, working with coastal cities as they seek to strengthen climate-resilience capacity by planning, designing and implementing targeted policies and programs. Our aim is to share the knowledge we have gleaned in our low-lying home city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and elsewhere in our work around the globe, while simultaneously making the learning accumulated in China available to the leaders and citizens of other cities wrestling with the challenge of climate resilience.

Already, there are outstanding examples of adaptation achievements by some pioneering Chinese cities. One example is Changde, in Hunan province. With a population of nearly 6 million, it bestrides a network of tributaries to the Yuanjiang River. Many had been segmented, or built over, leaving it vulnerable to flash flooding. But by reconnecting the rivers, and developing green space for public use, it has improved drainage, protected infrastructure, and created 69 hectares of recreational space. Another sponge city that has improved its capacity to absorb torrential rainfall is Jiaozhou, on the outskirts of Qingdao, Shandong province. By introducing permeable surfaces and retention ponds, it captures up to 80 percent of rain-

water runoff for use in flushing toilets and other non-potable purposreducing the likelihood of flooding to once in 50 years.

And finally, the city of Wuhan has dramatically reduced the dangers of flooding by the Yangtze River. It has removed levees, replacing them with a gently sloping seven-kilometer beach park that can help accommodate extreme summer rainfall. Planted with 45,000 trees, it naturally filters run-off water, while providing a vast leisure space for residents. Such efforts helped inspire the GCA to open its first international office in Beijing in 2019, to work with China on finding cost-effective ways to help areas and people most vulnerable to climate change. When I compare the efforts of Rotterdam and Shanghai to adapt, I am most of all struck by the similarities of their challenges, and the

creativity of their responses. Global leaders at COP28 must fulfill their pledge to double adaptation finance by 2025. They will no doubt wrangle over who should do what to halt global warming and when, and who should help the poorer states adapt. Those are big and important issues. But we should also recognize that our climate is changing worldwide, and we are all in this together. Sharing knowledge and lessons about how best to adapt our cities isn't just a matter of being good neighbors. It is also common sense.

## in West Bank, too

month and a half, Israel's genocidal goals in Gaza have become increasingly clear. Not only is the Israeli at least 45 children. The Israeli military, in army mass-slaughtering civilians, but it is also carcoordination with

pet-bombing the enclave with the aim of destroying including solar panels -warehouses and farms attacks Palestinian communities has rendered the strip unliveable, forcing the Palestinian town Huwara.

But it is not only in Gaza that Israel hopes to get rid In June, the Israeli govof the Palestinian population. The Israeli ethnic cleansing effort extends to the occupied West Bank where Israel is moving forannexation ward with a similar - albeit a more surreptitious - plan. To separate the continuing genocide in Gaza from the broader Palestinian context Palestinian economy is to deny that the target of Israeli crimes is neither Hamas nor the Gaza Strip, but rather the Palestinian existence in historical

This is not an imagined Palestinian fear, but a reality that even the forefathers of the Israeli state constantly and openly admitted to. There is no way besides transferring the Arabs from here to the neighbouring countries, and to transfer all of them, save perhaps for [the Arabs of] Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem," Joseph Weitz, the director of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) wrote in his diary in 1940. "No one village must be left, not one [Bedouin] tribe. And only after this transfer will the country be able to absorb millions of our brothers and the Jewish problem will cease to exist. There is no other solution,

he concluded.

all civilian infrastructure

meant to sustain life.

Hospitals, schools, water

source of electricity -

have been targeted. This

Palestinians there into

another Nakba.

Palestine as a whole.

plans, any

treatment

The Jewish militias that carried out a campaign of massive ethnic cleansing of Palestinians to establish Israel did not take over the West Bank and Gaza in 1948 not because they did not desire it, but because they lacked the capacity. International pressure and the limit of their own military capabilities prevented it. At the same time, these territories conveniently served as destinations for the Palestinians expelled coastline, cities such Yaffa, Safad, Lydd and the villages around them, which the militias had taken over. The war of 1967 gave Israel the opportunity to fulfil its goal to rule over all of historical Palestine. It occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, in addition to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights, which remains occupied to this

Since then, various plans have been drawn up for annexing a part of, or the whole of, the West Bank and Gaza while pushing out the Palestinian population either into isolated bantustans or towards neighbouring Jordan and Egypt. The building of more than 150 illegal Israeli settlements and 120 outposts throughout the occupied West Bank is a policy that stems from these plans. It was also the plan in Gaza until 2005 when Israel dismantled its settlements and besieged the strip two years later. Under the pretext of "protecting" the 700,000-strong settler population, Israel has encroached on more and more Palestinian land, expelling more and more Palestinians from their communities and denying them access to their farms, grazing land and olive groves. This has harmed Palestinian livelihood and self-sufficiency.

It has also emboldened and encouraged settlers to harass, torture and kill Palestinians in their own land. This, combined with policies aimed at strangulating the Palestinian economy and pushing the majority of Palestinians into a state of constant precarity, has the ultimate goal of forcing the Palestinian population to "voluntarily' leave. Over the past year, the Israeli government under Benjamin Netanyahu ramped up these policies. By the time Hamas launched its October 7 offensive, the situation in the occupied West Bank had long been intolerable. The year 2023 was shaping to be the deadliest for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the UN began documenting fatalities in 2006. By October 7,

Israeli forces and settlers

Mariam Barghouti

A Nakba is unfolding

killed some 248 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, including

Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces, undertook violent raids and massacres across the West Bank with a focus on the northern districts of Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem. The number of also skyrocketed and grew in both scope and violence. In February, settlers carried out a pogrom in the

Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced new measures facilitating and accelerating Palestinian land. By July, the approved expansions of Israeli settlements had already on the verge of disaster - suffered even more Palestinians. from the destruction of

These practices have also had a devastating impact on the Palestinian economy. The Israeli army has closed major checkpoints across the occupied West Bank, paralysing transportation almost completely. Day labourers have struggled to earn a living, while food stocks are dwindling and imports are held for longer at Israeli ports.

The health sector is also in a state of crisis, unable to handle the spiking number of injured people alongside patients. To make matters worse, the Israeli army has also taken to besieging hospitals in the West Bank. These tactics all serve to spread fear and despair ernment and its Finance among the Palestinians, ultimately preparing them for annexation and expulsion. Today, we are witnessing a continuation of the Nakba in Gaza and the West Bank. The Israeli goal is to ultimately expel the reached record highs. The Palestinians and attempt to assimilate the survivors, as it tried to do with the 1948

Today, those survivors infrastructure and the curb- have Israeli citizenship, but ing of the freedom of are treated as second-class

Over the past year, the Israeli govunder Benjamin Netanyahu ramped up these policies. By the time Hamas launched its October 7 offensive, the situation in the occupied West Bank had long been intolerable. The year 2023 was shaping to be the deadliest for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the UN began documenting fatalities in 2006. By October 7, Israeli forces and settlers had killed some 248 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, including at least 45 children. The Israeli military, in coordination with the Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces, undertook violent raids and massacres across the West Bank with a focus on the northern districts of Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem. The number of settler attacks on Palestinian communities also skyrocketed and grew in both scope and violence. In February, settlers carried out a pogrom in the

and settlers. Demolitions of Palestinian homes and livelihood structures increased. More than 750 such buildings had been destroyed by October 1, displacing more than 1,100 Palestinians.

All these processes, aimed at the ultimate expulsion of Palestinians and the annexation of their land, were already going in full force before October 7. Israel then used the opportunity following Hamas's October 7 attack to accelerate them. And while until then, the "death to Arabs" chants could be heard publicly mostly at settlers' gatherings, after October 7, a majority of Israelis felt quite comfortable with voicing openly this sentiment between themselves and to the world. Over the past 50 days, Israel has killed 249 Palestinians in the West Bank, including at least 60 children. The Israeli raids on Palestinian villages, towns and refugee camps across the occupied West Bank have intensified in scope, severity and the use of lethal weapons, including automatic rifles, tanks and "Maoz" suicide drones We have reached record

highs of Palestinians arrested and put under administrative detention - Israel's formalised version of kidnapping. At least 3,260 Palestinians have been arrested across the occupied West Bank since October 7, including many The children. Palestinians released so far under the hostage exchange deal are also likely to be rearrested. Reports and video evidence of abuse and torture in detention have multiplied. Palestinians are also routinely harassed and beaten even within their homes or in the streets.

Encouraged and armed by the Israeli authorities, the Israeli settlers have also become even more violent. They have ramped up forced expulsions of Palestinian Bedouin comcentral areas than 1,000 people since sustainable.

movement by Israeli forces citizens and often exposed to discriminatory and violent practices by Jewish-Israeli citizens and the authorities. Facing this looming catastrophe, the Palestinians in the West Bank are left to fend for themselves.

> The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the only Palestinian actor with access to weapons, but it has done nothing to protect Palestinians against Israeli violence. The strong National Security Forces are trained by the United States and Jordan in policing, not in confronting another armed force. Worse still, these forces and the intelligence units, have directly assisted Israel in attacking and dismantling any pockets of armed resistance in the West Bank in recent years. Contrary to Israeli propaganda claims. the youth that have decided to take up arms - mostly concentrated in Jenin and Nablus - are not part of Hamas; some are members of Fatah or are defectors from the PA's forces, but many have no political affiliation at all. Since October 7, the Israeli army has focused on eradicating these resistance groups so that the civilian population in the West Bank would be completely defenceless in the face of violence, dispossession and expulsion.

But as Israel ramps up violence, Palestinian resistance is coming to the fore. The Palestinians will not stop struggling against occupa-tion and apartheid simply because they cannot afford to. No one wants to live on the brink of survival, pushed and kept there at gunpoint by a foreign regime. The least the world can do is stop falling for Israeli propaganda and uphold the Palestinian right to resist its coloniser and oppressor in pursuit of liberation. This is the time to muster up the bravery to speak up and stop Israel's genocidal drive. This is where the history books munities in the south near offer us the sobering recogthe Jordan Valley and in the nition that violent apartheid near states built on massacres Ramallah, displacing more are neither legitimate, nor

## Pakistan Stock Exchange gains 29 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The whereas the share prices of a maximum decrease of Rs 100-index of Pakistan 19 remained unchanged. Stock Exchange (PSX) on

billion were traded during 1.51 per share. the day as compared to Unilever Foods wit-692,220,122 shares valuing nessed a maximum increase at Rs 285.38.

transacted their shares in ner-up was Ismail Ind with them recorded gains and share price to Rs 1,243.78. sustained losses,

The three top-trading Thursday gained 29.27 companies were Fauji points, a slight positive Foods Ltd with 34,548,158 change of 0.05 percent, shares at Rs9.05 per share, closing at 60,531.27 points Fauji Fert Bin with against 60,502.00 points 33,025,000 shares at Rs the previous trading day. 24.00 per share and A total of 467,159,704 WorldCall Telecom with shares valuing Rs 18.752 28,095,487 shares at Rs

Rs 27.039 billion the last of Rs 400.00 per share

Rafhan Maize witnessed 287.8 respectively.

Xalq Bank Azerbaijan team

Rs 10,100.00, followed by Mari Petroleum with a Rs 42.32 decline to close at Rs

Rupee gains 22 paisa against Dollar: Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 22 paisa against US Dollar in the interbank trading and the previous day's closing

However, according to day. price, closing at Rs the Forex Association of Some 379 companies 22,500.00, whereas the run-Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the the stock market; 148 of a Rs 86.78 rise in its per Dollar in the open market by 06 and 07 paisa to close stood at Rs 285.25 and Rs

The price of the Euro 191.50 per share closing at decreased by Rs 1.12 to close at Rs 312.37 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.49, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

**Business** 

The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs 1.94; whereas a decrease of 11 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the closed at Rs 285.16 against British Pound, which traded at Rs 362.17 as compared to the last closing of Rs 362.28.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased at Rs 77.65 and Rs 76.01 respectively.

#### Gold rates stay static at Rs221,000

SLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change in its prices and was sold at Rs 221,000 on Thursday.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 Karat also remained stagnant at Rs 189,472 and Rs 73,683 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained unchanged at Rs 2,620 and Rs 2,246.21 respectively.

However, the price of gold in the international market increased by \$2 to \$2,064 from \$2,062, the Association reported.

#### **Shipping** activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, GCL Lazaro, Al-Dayyan and Ardmore Engineer carrying Caol, LNG and Gas oil, berthed at Bulk Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile another oil tanker Hafnia Tagus carrying 26,997 tonnes Gas oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same day.

A total of eightships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, a container vessel MSC Ellen left the port on Thursday morning and two more ships Ardmore Engineer and African Dove are expected to sail on today

afternoon. Cargo throughput of 187,374tonnes, comprising 139,491tonnes imports cargo and 47,883tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,636 Containers (391 TEUs Imports and 2,245 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24

There are Eleven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, BD Pioneer, Hafnia Tagus and Seaspan Beacon & another ship Navios Lapis carrying scheduled to load/offload Rice, Gas oil and Containers are expected to take berths at MW-1 FOTCO and QICT on Thursday, while a container vessel Big Breezy is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Friday.

#### **Tractor** production increased

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 55.1 per cent to 17,098 units during the first four months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 11,027 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-October, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 1,267 units as compared to 597, showing a decline of 52.9 per cent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association PAMA).

Production of pickups, ight Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 42 per cent to 6,797 units during the months under review from 11,712 units during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The production of buses witnessed a decline of 57.7 per cent from 336 units to 142 units during the fiscal year 2024, the PAMA

## Nestlé Pakistan contributes PKR 5 million

LAHORE: CEO Nestlé Pakistan Jason Avanceña presenting corporate contribution of PKR 5 million

to support hundreds of children at SOS Children's Village

F.P. Report

to President SOS Children's Village Sourya Anwar.

the welfare, upbringing, communities in Pakistan. PKR 5 million to support past too," he said. SOS Children's Village in Shared Value (CSV).

privilege to be here today to of Pakistan especially its voluntary efforts in providing a loving and nurturing environment for orphaned children.

"It is highly commendable to see how your organ-

efforts have made a pro- caring, and secure home to found difference in the lives LAHORE: Committed to of countless individuals and Pakistan extended corpo- partner and support your He added that, Nestlé

its endeavors, as part of its Pakistan believes in the philosophy of Creating philosophy of Creating Shared Value (CSV) where Talking at the event, we collectively work Jason Avanceña, CEO, towards a clear, common Nestlé Pakistan said, "It's a goal: to be a 'force for good'. "We recognize that witness the incredible work we have a responsibility to SOS Children's Villages is contribute to the well-being doing for the communities and development of the communities in which we operate," he said.

Thanking Nestlé for its contribution, Anwar, President SOS opment, and social welfare. Pakistan since 1977. The Children's Villages said, We are grateful for ization is tirelessly working Nestlé's support towards toward empowering these our cause. The concept of 72,000 people through its deprived community of children. Your tireless SOS is to provide a loving, seven water filtration facili- children.

the parent-deprived community of children. At present, SOS has 15 Children's and education of orphaned And it is this passion that Villages, 4 Children's Hochildren of Pakistan Nestlé has always led Nestlé to mes, 13 Youth Homes, 22 Herman Gmeiner Schools rate contribution worth activities and projects in the and 4 Technical Training Centres in Pakistan."

'Nestlé Cares', the company's voluntary program provides the opportunity to engage and assist underprivileged communities through direct and indirect participation. Nestlé has been active in supporting and providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities where needed. Nestlé continues to actively engage in initia-Souriya ability, community devel-

viding clean and safe drinking water to approximately

ties around its manufacturing sites in different cities. Nestlé also served 2.49 billion fortified servings of value-added products last year alone across all occasions and life stages. Meanwhile, Nestlé Healthier (N4HK), Nestlé's global nutritional awareness initiative has reached out to 360,000 students and 2200 teachers through a curriculum-based education program promoting healthy nutrition, hydration, hygiene and active lifestyle.

SOS Children's Villages of Pakistan is a non-profit organization working for the welfare, upbring and tives that promote sustain- education of orphan and abandoned children of Nestlé Pakistan is pro- concept of SOS is to provide a loving, caring, and secure home to the parent-

## People demonstrate generous help for 3rd Shaukat Khanum Hospital

F.P. Report

KARACHI: At a fundraising event organised in DHA City Karachi, a large of supporters number donated generously for Pakistan's third and largest Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital Cancer and Research Centre being built in Karachi. The CEO of the hospital Dr Faisal Sultan and CMO Dr Aasim Yusuf gave a site tour to the attendees. Brigadier (Retired) Mehmood Babri, Secretary DHA

the future as well.

tion of the grey structure, ple finishing work is ongoing Bald and it is our collective plete the project.

taking the total project cost two Shaukat Khanum to support the new hospital



Karachi, addressed the however, despite these audience and assured possi- issues, his team is deterble support for the cause in mined to open the hospital within the next two years On this occasion, Dr and bring this state-of-the-Faisal Sultan gave an art specialist cancer hospi-update about the project tal, with all services under and said that after comple- one roof, closer to the peoof Sindh Balochistan.

responsibility to help com- billion are still needed to complete the project, "We He said that the econom- have faith in the support of ic challenges and inflation the Pakistanis around the treatment for all. has affected the project, world who have built the

Hospitals in Lahore and Peshawar, and are sustaining these for the past three decades where over 75 percent of patients are provided treatment free of charge. We know that our people will step forward to help inaugurate the third hospital as well."

He said that this year, the He shared that Rs. 19 hospital also achieved QOPI certification, which demonstrates the hospital's commitment to quality

People were encouraged

by becoming a Founding Donor, dedicating a room in honour or memory of a loved one, or by giving any amount of their choice. In the end, millions of rupees were donated by the generous people of Karachi who played their role towards building hope, step by step, for cancer patients of Sindh and Southern Balochistan. In the end, Dr Faisal thanked all the generous supporters and especially, the management of the DHA City Karachi for mak-

ing it a successful event.

## Speakers pay tribute to S.M.Munir for his services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ence for his father. Islamabad Chamber of He said that Commerce and Industry Munir had dedicated his (ICCI) held a condolence life to serve the business reference for the Late community of the entire S.M.Munir, renowned ind- country and always strugustrialist, former President gled for the promotion of FPCCI,

the occasion of his first anniversary. A large number of busiof the city attended the condolence reference and paid tribute to SM Munir for his great services to the busi-

ness community of the country, said a press release issued here on Thursday. In his telephonic address, SM Tanveer, son of late Industry said that late SM S.M. Munir and Punjab Munir was a role model for a role to advance the mis-Minister for Industries and the business community Commerce, thanked Ahsan and in recognition of his

He said that late SM

former Chief their business interests. He Executive TDAP and for- said that the life of late SM mer Patron-in-Chief of Munir is a beacon of light United Business Group on for the business community and hoped that they would always remember his services. He vowed to continue nessmen and industrialists serving the business community of the country through the platform of United Business Group in pursuance of the mission of late SM Munir.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Zafar Bakhtawari President services, the auditorium of community. ICCI and his team for hold- ICCI will be named after

lot from late SM Munir Secretary General UBG who always worked for the welfare of the business community.

Munir always played on the front foot for resolving the issues of the business community. Late SM Munir has set good precedents for the business community through his hard work and honesty and we have to adopt his principles to excel in the business field to make the country's econo-

my stronger. Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI paid tribute to SM Munir's great personality and services to the business community. He resolved that we all together should play sion of late SM Muneer for the welfare of the business

ing the condolence refer- him. He said that he learnt a mer President ICCI and S.M.Munir.

Pakistan said that late SM Munir Bhaijaan was a towering business leader whose He said that late SM services to the business community will always be written in golden words. The void created in the leadership of the business community by the death of the late SM Munir will never be filled. He said that heroes like the late SM Munir should be made role models for the society. His greatest achievement is that instead of creating followers, he created business leaders for this country.

Former President ICCI and FPCCI, Zubair Ahmad Malik highlighted the services of late SM Munir to the business community and hoped that the UBG would achieve a landslide victory in the forthcoming elections of FPCCI to continue Zafar Bakhtawari, for- the mission of late

# meets BOP's SME experts



F.P. Report

LAHORE: A high-level delalong with representation and small businesses. from ADB, met with Asif Riaz (Group Head Consu- Azerbaijan's oldest and mer Banking - BOP) and largest Public Sector banks, Ahsen A. Khawaja (Head received a detailed presen-SME - BOP) to explore suctation on BOP's SME tices of The Bank of Punjab, especially in the areas of BOP's

egation from Xalq Bank extend support to Start Ups

Xalq Bank, one of

products and building a sus-techniques, proxy models tainable lending model to gender diverse products and its successful programs with Govt. for promoting entrepreneurship in the country. The delegation from Xalq Bank was led by Deputy Chairmen Dilshod

> The Bank of Punjab has been recognized as the Best Bank for Small & Medium Businesses by AsiaMoney Banking Awards 2023 and

Kutliev and Zafar Azimov.

cess stories and best prac- Banking Business Model. The Xalq team commended comprehensive financial inclusion, support- product suite for SMEs and ing "S" part of SMEs, use of its efforts in providing a

big data analytics, scoring models, and ways to collaborate with the Government Team also appreciated Pakistan Banking Awards by Institute of Bankers Pakistan in 2022 & 2023.

China company acquires renewable energy firm

based M/s. CNNP Rich Investments Limited (SSIL) Energy Co. Ltd. strategical- is based in Mauritius. ly invests in Pakistan's through its wholly owned

International Co., Limited. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has tric generation facility in granted approval for the Pakistan. CRE has acquired Limited (SSIL) by M/s. Pakistan. CRE International Co., CCP of

SSIL owns 100 percent renewable energy sector shareholding of M/s. UEP Wind Power (Private) CRE Limited, a private company operating and maintaining a 99MW wind-powered elec-Investments acquired UEP Wind Power

merger.

Rich Energy Co. Limited Given that the transaction located in Honk Kong. did not lead to the domi-

nance of the acquirer in the relevant market, the CCP has granted approval for the

This transaction serves as a testament to the growing interest of foreign investors in Pakistan's renewable energy sector. While the transaction indirectly reflects a substantial acquisition of M/s. Super SSIL and thus indirectly foreign investment in the country's energy landscape it also underscores the CCP conducted a com- potential for collaborative

Limited. CRE is the wholly prehensive review of the advancements in the renewowned subsidiary of CNNP merger documentation. able energy domain. CPEC's focused on high quality development



KARACHI: The Chinese introducing remarks extend Consul General in Karachi to warm welcome to the vis-H.E Yang Yundong highlited the promising future of the importance of Pakistanthe China-Pakistan Econo- China relations in the conmic Corridor (CPEC). He temporary world and strateemphasized that CPEC's focused on high quality development, will (CPEC) for Pakistan's ecoelevate the China-Pakistan nomic transformation and strategic partnership to regional prosperity. Pakistan greater heights, contribut- and China are interlinked on ing to regional peace and friendship front sharing prosperity.

General, while visiting fronts. Due to our eternal Export Processing Zones friendship spread over many Authority Head Office decades Pakistan and EPZA along with high powered offers excellent investment delegation. The Chinese opportunities to Chinese envoy said that Industrial cooperation with EPZA has front, encouraged and increasing number of Chinese entertrial cooperation.

Saifuddin Junejo in his iting EPZA. He underscored the gic significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor areas of mutual interest on The Chinese Consul many economic and cultural

We will make all out efforts to facilitate Chinese prises to come to EPZ and investment in EPZ's. friendly environment to engaged multi-field indus- Chairman EPZA while Chinese industrialist and addressing a delegation & investors.

businesses. From EPZA

group of investors from China, said that EPZA is considered and already providing excellent facilities to the investors which can be compared with other industrial zones in the world.

EPZA planning to establish multi product EPZ in an area of 1500 acres on the land of Pakistan Steel Mills. This location will help in facilitating easy and cost effective import and export besides skilled labour will also be easily available in the area. Plan was recently discussed at SIFC executive Committee meeting. Further he said that

ancient social and economic relations with China are strengthening with every passing day. EPZA and Pakistan will provide





### In brief

### Lancashire

sign Lyon SYDNEY Lancashire signed Australia Test off-spinner Lyon for 2024. The 35year-old made his return to first-class cricket last month after tearing his calf against England in the second Ashes Test in June. Lyon, who will be available for all formats, took six wickets in four games during a brief spell in county cricket Worcestershire 2017. Lancashire are still without a head after Glen Chapple's exit at the end of last season. "This is an exciting opportunity for me, and I am really looking forward to heading over to England for a full season of county cricket Lancashire," Lyon told the club website. "I love playing cricket in England. I'm keen to keep learning, keep improving my game and hopefully I can

contribute to winning matches for the Red Rose and pass on some of the experiences that I have gained over the years." Lyon also signed to play for Hampshire in 2020 but the move was curtailed amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to suffering he calf injury which ruled him out for the final three Ashes Tests in the

#### achieve that feat. T20 World Cup qualification'

summer, Lyon had

appeared in 100 con-

secutive Tests, making

him just the seventh

player in men's inter-

national cricket to

LONDON Jganda's qualification for the men's T20 World Cup in 2024 is a "dream come true", says their captain Brian Masaba. Uganda have reached the tournament for the first time after a nine-wicket victory over Rwanda. The win means Masaba's side finish second in the frican qualifiers in Windhoek, Namibia. "We're still trying to process all the emo-tions," Masaba, 32, told the BBC World Service's Sportsworld. "It's been a long process, a long journey. This is the culmination of a lot of sweat, blood and tears. "As a team it was a very, very special moment for us." Uganda will join Namibia, who qualified on Tuesday with a game to spare, at the tournament in the United States and West Indies. Uganda's run to qualifying included beating Žimbabwe by five wickets in their first International against a full ICC member, which Masaba describes as "the turning point".

#### Galatasaray fightback

(AFP/APP): Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag insisted his side are going in the right direction despite a 3-3 draw Galatasaray on Wednesday that leaves the Red Devils on the brink of Champions League elimination. United twice let a twogoal lead slip in Istanbul as costly errors from goalkeeper Andre Onana and poor finishing left them still bottom of Group A. Ten Hag's side need to beat Bayern Munich in their final match at Old Trafford to have any chance of qualifying. But even victory over the German champions will not be enough if Galatasaray beat FC Copenhagen in two weeks' time or the Danish champions take at least four points from their final two matches. "We are going in the right direction so I know we will be successful in the long-term but if you want to stay in the Champions League you need to win these games," said Ten Hag.

## Super Eight stage of National T20 Cup 2023-24 to commence

Eight stage of National T20 from three Cup 2023-24 is scheduled to Rawalpindi's National Bank Stadium, nament up till now. UBL Sports Complex and NBP Sports Complex.

eight teams progressing uled for 9 December at National Bank Stadium. The final will also be played at the same venue on 10 December.

Pakistan Cricket Board has also announced free entry for spectators for the scheduled at National Bank Stadium. Three enclosures - Hanif Mohammad, Javed Miandad and Fazal Mahmood - will be accessible to the spectators.

The teams that have qualified for the Super Eight include: Peshawar and Lahore Whites from Group A, Lahore Blues and Karachi Whites from Group B, Rawalpindi and Abbottabad from Group C, and Sialkot and FATA from Group D.

Lahore Whites' righthanded batter Ahmed Shehzad has been the leading run-scorer in the tournament thus far. The 32year-old produced three streamed consecutive half-centuries YouTube

Umair Islamabad's left-arm pacer, will be bowled at 2000 According to PCB information on Thursday, yhe tournament so far. In four matches, the 26-year-old from the group stage will has taken 12 wickets. be facing each other in a However, Islamabad failed round-robin format, play- to qualify for the Super has taken 12 wickets. December, are as follows: ing seven games each. The top four teams will then play the semi-finals, schedspinner Arif Yaqoob has the most wickets with a tally of nine scalps at 10.44, including a four-wicket haul. His fellow teammate, right-arm pacer Sohail Khan has the best bowling figures of the tournament so far with 5-10, which came against

> Hyderabad's successful wicket-keeper in bagging a total of seven our revised domestic strucdismissals including four ture. We hope that the qualcatches and three stump-Shafiq has been the most Super Eight stage. successful fielder with six catches in four matches.

Hyderabad.

Four matches have been scheduled for each day of the Super Eight stage, how the rest of the tournawhile there will be no play ment pans out, with the on 5 December. All games title at stake, which all played at National Bank eight captains must be Stadium will be broadcast eying. The fight for the on PTV Sports and ARY trophy will be very inter-ZAP in Pakistan and live- esting as each team has a

KARACHI (PPI): The Super and accumulated 213 runs Facebook page in overseas matches. territories. The afternoon Zeeshan games that are being broadbe played from 1 to 8 Malik and Peshawar's cast will start at 1500 PKT, December 2023 at three ven- Sahibzada Farhan are the with toss conducted at 1430 ues across Karachi - two centurions of the tour- PKT. Toss for evening Afridi, 1930 PKT and the first ball

**Sports** 

The first set of fixtures, be played on 1 1300 PKT - Rawalpindi

Abbottabad at UBL Sports Complex 1300 PKT - Sialkot v FATA at NBP Sports

1500 PKT - Peshawar v Lahore Whites at National

Bank Stadium 2000 PKT Blues v Karachi Whites at National Bank Stadium

Director Cricket Operations, Nadeem Khan: National T20 Cup has seen Khan has been the most multiple close games so far which reflects the competithe tournament till now, tive cricket on display in ity of cricket will only ings. Karachi Whites' Asad improve as we head into the

> "All eight teams that have qualified ahead are exciting to watch. We are looking forward to seeing on PCB's solid chance at getting to channel and and winning the final."



University Professor Dr. Gul Majeed on Thursday.

Director als of the table tennis event December in connection with the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt program. Trials will be held in 19 and 20. this regard.

December 4 at 11.00 a.m. up from various regions to Iqra Rehman.

PESHAWAR (APP): In Director of Sports Islamia the provincial league and Vice Chancellor Islamia connection have been completed well in time. Vice-Chancellor Prof.

Islamia College premises phases by dividing the that Islamia College has province into five regions, played a key role in raising according to which the name of our country, Sports Islamia Peshawar trials will be held University Ali on December 5th and 6th, Pakhtunkhwa, in addition to Hoti, Professor Dr. Gul while on December 6th, 7th Majeed Khan said that it and 8th trials would be was decided to start the tri- organized at Mardan. The trials at Hazara region will from the first week of be held on December 13 to their strength in the field of 15, 2023 while the trials at sports, he said. Prof. Dr. Swat Region would be Gul Majeed said that four organized on December 18, members of the selection

He disclosed that the tri-Ali Hoti said that Vice als would be organized at Nadeem are from Punjab Chancellor Islamia College Bannu on December 27-29. while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar He said during the trials members of the selection Professor Dr. Gul Majeed merits would be followed would formally inaugurate and genuine players would Mehmood, Kifayatullah the Championship on be given chances to come Khan, Khawaja Haseeb and

connection with the Prime College University and later on a team out of the Minister's Youth Talent Organizing Secretary Ali provincial league would be Hunt program, the table Hoti and Basketball coach constituted to represent KP tennis trials will start from Firdous Afridi disclosed in the National League part December 4 in Peshawar, that all arrangements in this of the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Boys and Girls Table Tennis League. He thanked HEC for trust-

told during a press conference here at his historical trials will be conducted in organizing the event and said especially curricular activities as well as in extra-curricular activities.

The students of this historic school have shown committee has been constituted wherein Maqsood and committee including Amina

### PSL 9 trade window Iftikhar Ahmed becomes part of Multan Sultan

is the most surprising move of the HBL Pakistan Super League 9 trade window, Multan Sultans, the franchise with the best win percentage (55.22) in the history of the tournament, have snapped Iftikhar Ahmed. The trade deal with Quetta Gladiators also sees Multan Sultans get the first pick in the platinum round one in exchange for Rilee Rossouw and the first Silver category pick.

Iftikhar has evolved into his power-hitting and foxy off-spin. He brings an experience of 229 T20 matches in which he has scored 4,476 runs. He also has a century in the format to go with 30 half-centuries.

Since the start of his career in October 2010, the muscular batter has been smashing a boundary every 6.75 balls.

He recently reached the 50-wicket landmark and his economy stands at 7.31.

Iftikhar Ahmed stated "I am delighted to become a Sultan. It is an honour for me to represent the people of Multan as their passion tion to help them bag the who you can rely on to always stay a Sultan.

MULTAN (APP): In what prestigious HBL PSL trophy. Captain Muhammad Rizwan said "I am very excited to welcome Iftikhar Ahmed. He brings out- Rilee Rossouw who has standing all-round skills, been an outstanding team which we need to be a

field skills that made us finalize this trade, but he is dependable and whenever also a brilliant team player who uplifts dressing rooms with his presence. We are eager to put together a set of players whose skills are him." Chief executive Ali in sync with our positive, a formidable all-rounder for bold and aggressive brand of cricket.'

champion team.

Rehman stated "This is definitely one of the biggest trade deals in the history of the HBL PSL, and I am delighted to welcome domestic core, Iftikhar Iftikhar Ahmed in our Ahmed aka Iftimania is the camp. I have seen Iftikhar grow into a fabulous crick- Pakistan. He adds destruc-

become, every coach wants

to have him in his team. develop a strong domestic us some incredible memocore of cricketers and ries. While he will not be in Iftikhar fits that perfectly. our dressing room this sea-He provides tremendous son, we will definitely value to any T20 side with remember him for his servfor this game was second to his power hitting in the ices to the franchise. none. Multan Sultans have middle-order and that is Wherever he will go, he evolved into a strong team the reason why we were will always be remembered and their record in the last keen on getting him on our for his time at Multan three seasons speaks for side. He has also turned Sultans, as once you

provide you with breakthroughs in any phase of the innings "We will definitely miss

Rilee Rossouw who has player and has had a great role in taking us to where "It was not only his on- this franchise is today.

Rilee was our Mr we wanted him to deliver, he got the job done for us. We wish Rilee well for everything that is ahead of Khan Tareen said "Multan Sultans have always had experienced and aggressive Head coach Abdul batters in the middle order and that has been one of the keys to our success.

With our focus on developing and protecting a domestic core, Iftikhar best middle-order hitter in eter and considering the tive power against spin and match-winner he has pace and brings calmness

with years of experience. "I also want to thank "Our philosophy is to Rilee Rossouw for giving itself. Now, it is my ambi- into a useful off-spinner become a Sultan, you



Hotels is organizing Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men & Women at Mushaf Squash Complex.

#### Shan Masood promoted in PCB's central contract list

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has upgraded Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood's category in the central contract list from D to B. The decision has been made in line with the board's policy that if a centrally contracted player below A or B categories is appointed captain, their contract would be upgraded to category B for the tenure of their captaincy, said a press release.

The 34-year-old Shan was Test captain on November 15, until the conclusion of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle. The left-handed batter has featured in 30 Tests, amassing 1,597 runs and will lead Pakistan in his first assignment as captain in the upcoming three-match series against Australia, commencing from December 14.

Full schedule: 1st Test-Perth, December 14-18; 2nd Test- Melbourne, December 26-30; 3rd Test–Sydney, January 3-7, 2024.

#### Warner's Test retirement could lead to batting order reshuffle

SYDNEY (INP): Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has hinted that replacing David Warner may not come down to a straight like-for-like opening batter with a suggestion the order could be reshuffled to accommodate Cameron Green.

Green lost his place for the final Ashes Test at The Oval and is expected to remain outside the XI when the Pakistan series starts next month, but McDonald reinforced that he remains a "generational" talent and there is a belief he won't be out of the side for long.

Providing injuries don't crop up during the Pakistan series -- and there remain some question marks over the workload on Mitchell Marsh's body -- the first vacancy could arrive following Warner's Test retirement which he has earmarked for the SCG Test in early January. It has been widely assumed that his replacement would come from one of Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris or Matt Renshaw, but McDonald referenced previous occasions when an Australia top order has been reshaped with players taking on new roles.

## 18-member Pakistan cricket team leave for Australia tour

LAHORE (INP): An 18- for the first time. With been representing Pakistan member Pakistan cricket Pakistan facing a groupteam has departed for Australia from Lahore to 2023 World Cup, the play a tough three-match Pakistan Cricket Board Test series starting on (PCB) made wholesale December 18. The team changes to their coaching will travel to Australian city of Sydney via Dubai. The Pakistani team will

play a four-day match Minister's XI December 6 before the start of the Test series against Australia. The first Test of the national team will start from December 14 in Perth. The second test match will be played in Melbourne from December 26, while the third

Test will be played in Sydney from January 03.

The Pakistani team is led by Shan Masood, who has been entrusted with the tion of Imam ul Haq and Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel responsibility of captaincy Abdullah Shafique has and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

stage elimination from the staff with captain. Babar Azam stepped down voluntarily as the Pakistan skipper across all formats, while Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal have been roped in as fast-bowling and spinbowling coaches ahead of the tour Down Under.

Pakistan's appointed Test skipper Shan Masood spoke in a press conference prior to his departure, stating that they are a settled unit. Underlining Babar Azam's importance in the line-up, Masood claimed: "Our Test team has been a settled played 30 Tests and has unit. The opening combina-

for more than a year now. They have given a lot of performances. After the retirement of Azhar Ali, I have mostly played at number three spot in domestic and international cricket. This is the top three in our plans. Babar Azam is our best batsman. No one would disturb his batting position, which is number four spot. You make your team around the team's best batsman.'

Test Squad

Shan Masood (c), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz

## Pak women's team to depart for Dunedin on Friday to feature in white-ball series

ISLAMABAD Pakistan women's team would depart for Dunedin from Christchurch on Friday to feature in the white-ball series against

was scheduled to take place from December 3 to 9 in Dunedin and Queenstown, while the three ODIs – part of ICC Women's Championship – will be held in Queenstown and Christchurch from 12 to 18 December, said a press release.

Since arriving in Christchurch, the 17-member

New Zealand. The three-match T20I series

squad led by Nida Dar took part in two practice sessions and played two practice games against New Zealand XI. In the 50-over practice match played at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln University, the Pakistan women's team defeated the New Zealand XI by 57 runs on the back of four wickets from captain Nida and a crucial 38 runs in the lowerorder from wicketkeeper-batter Najiha Alvi. In today's T20 match held at the same venue, New Zealand XI secured a 28-run over the

(APP): Pakistan women's team. score of 168 for seven in 20

> overs after being put into bat first, with Georgia Plimmer contributing 52 runs. Pakistan's spinners Nida and Nashra Sundhu bagged two wickets apiece, while fast bowler Waheeda Akhtar also grabbed two wickets. In turn, opening batter Muneeba Ali top-scored for the touring side with a 31-ball 32, hitting four boundaries, as the Pakistan women's team managed to score 140 for eight in 20 overs. For the New Zealand XI, Kayley Knight

Following the match, both teams played a super over to provide additional practice and adapt to different T20 match situations. The super over was tied on both occasions, with both sides failing to achieve the required target set by the opposing side batting first.

and Nensi Patel took three

wickets apiece.

Talking to PCB Digital, interim head coach Mauhtashim Rashid said, "We had good practice sessions and practice games here in Christchurch before

the start of the series. The New Zealand XI posted a conditions here are different, the players are trying to adapt to the conditions and these back-to-back matches are going to help the players to achieve that goal.

'We have tried our young players today in the T20 match as we are preparing for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup next year. We have young players coming forward, some are in Pakistan, and we plan to give more chances and exposure to those who are here, hoping they will gain valuable experience from it."

Pakistan squad: Nida Dar (captain), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali (wk), Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Sadia Iqbal, Shamas, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar.

The three twenty20s will be played on December 3, 5 and 9 while ODIs will be played on December 12, 15

## Najmul puts Bangladesh in control against New Zealand

Najmul Hossain Shanto hit his third Test century in four innings to put Bangladesh on course for a strong total in the second innings of the first Test against New Zealand in fours so far in his innings. Sylhet on Thursday.

The hosts reached 212-3 at stumps on the third day, leading New Zealand by 205 runs, with Najmul unbeaten on 104.

Former captain Mushfigur Rahim made an unbeaten 43 and put on 96 runs in the unbroken fourth-wicket stand with Najmul.

Najmul, who scored a century in both innings of Bangladesh's previous Test against Afghanistan in June, also shared 90 runs with Mominul Haque for the third wickthe first Bangladeshi cricketer to over. score a hundred on his debut as

Ajaz Patel in 191 balls before signing off the day in style with a boundary in the last ball. The 25-year-old has struck 10

He was however involved in two behind.

runouts on the day, with the last being Mominul, who made 40. Najmul and Mominul helped Bangladesh recover from 26-2 after

New Zealand made 317 in their first innings to take a slender seven-run lead. Patel, the only New Zealand bowler with some success on the day, trapped opener Zakir Hasan leg-before for 17

Tim Southee directed a straight drive by Najmul onto the stumps at the non-striking end to run out et. The left-hander has now become Mahmudul Hasan for eight next

Mominul, who joined Najmul in Test captain. He took his hundred, the rescue act, was also the hero for

SYLHET (AFP/APP): Skipper his fourth in Tests, with a single off Bangladesh with the ball, having taken the last two New Zealand wickets in the morning.

The tourists, replying to Bangladesh's first-innings 310, resumed on 266-8, still 44 runs

Southee and Kyle Jamieson frustrated Bangladesh for more than an hour to share 52 runs for the ninth wicket, until left-arm spinner

Mominul removed them both in the same over. Mominul trapped Jamieson legbefore for 23 to leave New Zealand

316-9, and then bowled Southee four balls later for 35 to finish with career-best figures of 3-4.

Southee hit three boundaries in his 62-ball stay.

The two-match series is the beginning of a new cycle in the World Test Championship for

'PPP: ever-loving, ever-

### In brief

#### **IRSA** releases 91,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 91,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1497.94 feet and was 97.94 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 22,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1176.20 feet, which was 126.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,600 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 52,600, 45,000, 38,200 and 11,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of

#### **ANF** busts drug trafficking gang

7,300 cusecs of water

released at Nowshera and 3,300 cusecs

released from River

Chenab at Marala.

RAWALPINDI (APP) Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a major operation managed to bust an inter-provincial drugtrafficking gang and arrested its seven members including the ringleader, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that ANF arrested an accused namely Allah Noor who was the ringleader of a drug smuggling gang which was involved in interprovincial drug trafficking through the motorway. He said that the operation was launched after comprehensive planning. Earlier, six members of the gang were also arrested. ANF also recovered 419 kg of drugs including chars and opium from their possession. He informed that ANF during an operation cona raid on ducted November 18 and succeeded in arresting the leader of the group, Allah Noor. Another 12 kg charras was also recovered from the possession of Allah Noor.

#### Six held for running illegal petrol agencies

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police under an ongoing operation against illegal Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and petrol agencies conducted raids and arrested six accused. According to the police spokesman, Bani, New Town, Sadiqabad, Civil Lines and Saddar Wah police arrested six namely Amin, Umar, Hidayat, Imran, Haris and Adeel for operating illegal LPG and petrol agencies. Police confiscated LPG cylinders, refilling gadgets and petrol from their possession and registered separate cases against the accused, he added.

#### 11 drug peddlers, bootleggers netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers here on Thursday arrested 11 accused besides recovering over four kg charras, 130 grams of Ice, 20 litres of liquor and 22 bottles of liquor from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Mandra police arrested Fakhar Abbas for having 1350 grams of charras and Atta Shah with 510 grams of charras. Dhamial police rounded up Shahid for possessing 1100 grams of charras and Amir with 35 grams of charras. Airport police in their raid netted an accused namely Hamza for having 560 grams charras and Chontra police nabbed Mudasir for having 560 grams



Capital

DC Islamabad urges

parents to cooperate

with polio

vaccination teams

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz

Memon on Thursday urged

parents to cooperate with

the polio vaccination teams

and ensure that their chil-

dren receive the necessary

of the campaign, Memon

of achieving the target of vaccinating all children

under the age of five in Islamabad. He expressed

concern that some children

were not present for vacci-

nation on the third day and

instructed officials to prior-

itize them for the remaining

General, DHOs, Assistant

Commissioners, represen-

tatives from the Health

Department, and other

stakeholders. The partici-

pants discussed the per-

formance of the campaign

so far and identified areas

Memon reiterated the gov-

ernment's commitment to

eradicating polio from Pakistan and called upon par-

ents to play their part by ensur-

ing that their children are vac-

cinated. He also commended

the efforts of polio workers and other stakeholders

involved in the campaign. The

ongoing polio vaccination

campaign in Islamabad is part of a nationwide effort to elim-

Int'l mountain day

to be observed

on Dec 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Mountain Day,

themed "Restoring mountain ecosystems", will be observed

on December 11 across the

world to highlight the signifi-

cance of the mountains and

According to details, the

nominated

Mountain

United Nations General

Day" in 2002. However,

beyond their aesthetics,

mountains play a crucial role

in our planet's well-being,

impacting global ecosys-

tems, climate, and communi-

ties. This theme was selected

to fully include mountains in

the UN decade on ecosys-

tem restoration 2021-2030.

co-led by the Food and

Agriculture Organization of

the UN and the UN

their peoples' lifestyles.

Assembly

December

'International

inate the crippling disease.

for improvement.

Commissioner

days of the campaign. The meeting was also attended by the Additional

two doses of polio drops. Addressing a review meeting on the fourth day

ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, speaking at a seminar "Repression of Minorities in India and Atrocities in Kashmir' organized by Friends of Kashmir International and Kashmir Media Service.

## Pak, Kuwait relations getting stronger with each passing year: Ambassador

Pakistan Ambassador to relations into mutually ben- of seven agreements con-Kuwait Malik Muhammad eficial economic ties, he cluded to attract multi-bil-Farooq Thursday under- said. The two country lead- lion dollars investment lined the importance of the ership had a good follow- from the State of Kuwait in strategic Pakistan and between Kuwait that both countries' leadership was keen to strengthen bilateral rela- Pakistan' economy, he ing water and supporting tionship in different added. "Both countries mining activities), estabdomains such as food secu- enjoying friendly relations, lishment of Mining Fund to rity, trade, investments and people-to-people engage-ment. In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he 60th anniversary of the Mangrove Preservation. elaborated that Pakistan establishment of diplomatic and Kuwait had share a relations between the two cherished relationship that countries," he added. only grew stronger with each passing year.

"We are seeing greater interest from Kuwaiti to invest," he added.

He also expressed his satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was on a two-day official visit to Kuwait with the primary objective of signing of ical

relationship up conversation where they various sectors of Pakistan discussed the prospect of including Food Security/ greater investments from Agriculture, Hydel Power Kuwait amid the growing which are rooted in history," he said. "Pakistan and Kuwait are celebrating the Development

level contacts in future," he and Kuwait to discuss ideas mentioned. ership has serious con- change and Kuwait is being cerned over redressal of the focused on the issue of clidire humanitarian situation mate change." In concludin Kashmir and Gaza." international community to mutual commitment to prevent the use of starva- building up bilateral trade tion as a military and polit- and economic cooperation MoUs in multiple areas Palestinians in the Gaza." regional and international geared to transforming the He said two nation leadrs issues were need of hour.

(APP): six decades' long bilateral also witnessed the signing Water Supplies (safe drinksupport mineral industry, Technology

> He added, "Upcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) "Both nations have also would also be a 'great maintained regular high- opportunity' for Pakistan He further on how to support countries highlighted, "Kuwait lead- most affected by climate ing remarks, Ambassador "Kuwait has called on the stressed that the two nations' weapon against and regular interaction on

## 'Nation expresses gratitude to key middle eastern allies'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime nomic Special Representative on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Thursday said the Pakistani nation had expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Kuwait for substantial support for Pakistan's economic development, providing a much-needed boost dur-

ing challenging times. Talking to national and international media, he said Saudi Arabia, a longstanding ally, had not only reaffirmed its commitment to bilateral ties but had also extended the period of its deposits worth \$3 billion for another year as it would help contribute significantly Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, strengthening its economic foundation amid global uncertain-

interests, strategic collaboration to economic stability. foster economic stability and growth in Pakistan.

key partner in the region.

Pakistan's economic uplift.

had ducive business environengaged in groundbreaking ment, and promote sustainmulti-billion dollar deals able economic growth in the across diverse sectors. He country. He said the recent said these agreements, facil- multi-billion dollar deals itated under the Special with the UAE and Kuwait Investment Facilitation were a testament to the suc-Council (SIFC), marked a cess of the SIFC in fostering

Ashrafi lauded

chief's steadfast commitment He said the UAE's com- to maintaining law and order mitment to these initiatives within the country. The underscored its confidence national security institutions, in Pakistan's potential as a in a resolute response to orchestrated attempts aimed at Ashrafi said Kuwait, sowing discord between the another key player in the Pakistan Army and the nation, Middle East, had joined the had proactively thwarted negcollective effort to support ative propaganda, reinforcing unbreakable bonds He said the SIFC, under between the military and the the transformative leader- people, he added. He said the ship of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim rity and law enforcement Munir and, Caretaker Prime agencies, and cyber-security Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had played a pivotal units had played a significant role in identifying and neurole in attracting both local tralizing malicious cam-and foreign investments. He paigns that sought to undersaid this innovative initia- mine the trust and harmony

### ties. Ashrafi said the UAE, tive would streamline shared between the Pakistan recognizing the shared eco- processes, create a con- Army and the citizens. Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Centre"

established at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal ing the resource center.

OPEN University(AIOU) has established Dr. Sahibzada Shah l Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Center" in its central library.

The center aims to provide educational support to students conducting research on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW). The resource center was inaugurated by Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi. He expressed hope that this center will be an important milestone in the field of teaching and research.

Prof Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi further added that digitizing Seerat would be a great advantage for the institution. In today's day and age, younger generations are more inclined towards digital devices than books.

Therefore, it is essential to digitize the work of Seerat to attract young people to Department of Seerat Studies, Dr. Shah this field. Prof Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, prayed for the success Hashmi congratulated the Chief Librarian, of the Seerah Digital Resource Center and Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh, on establish-

Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh announced that this is Pakistan's first Seerah Digital Resource Center.

This center offers a vast collection of digital resources, including images, audios, videos, PDFs, maps, and recently 1342 books on Seerat were purchased for this center. The library team, with the support and consultation of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Department of Seerat Studies, searched for materials, books, audio, videos, etc. from various sites, revised them, and added them to the database. Shah Farrukh expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, for his full support for this initiative and stated that the establishment of this resource center is a distinction of the institution. At the end, Chairman of the Department of Seerat Studies, Dr. Shah the overall development of the university.

#### Ashraf has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is the only political on the 56th Foundation day of PPP, "It is PPP which reflects the true aspirations of the poor, farmers, farm workers and the middle class living across Pakistan and imparts them the confidence to raise their voices for their rights, he added.

The Speaker also underscored that PPP continued its struggle under the leadership of Ms. Nusrat Bhutto and Ms. Benazir Bhutto after the martyrdom of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB).

"Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's sacrifices for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan will always be written in golden words in history," he said.

He said that PPP is the most popular party from Karachi to Kashmir and there are a large number of workers of the party who are working hard to achieve the mission of Quaid-e-Awam and Shaheed

#### living political party in each Pakistani's heart' SLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National "PPP always leads the country on the Assembly of Pakistan Raja Pervaiz path of development and raises the standard of living of the downtrodden sections of the society whenever it forms governance," he party which has strong roots in common added. Raja Pervez also paid tribute to the people's hearts and minds. In a message unforgettable sacrifices of the leaders and workers of PPP for the restoration of democracy and the promotion of democrat-

ic values in the country. He said that the PPP conferred this nation and country with a unanimous constitution and laid the foundations of the nuclear program, besides establishing a network of universities, educational institu-

tions, and hospitals. The Speaker said that the PPP believes in expediency and the power of the people and the party also remained successful in enactment of the 18th Amendment with the support of other political parties.

He also emphasized that it proved that PPP believes in people, democracy and the strength of federal units. The Speaker urged the workers of the PPP to disseminate the ideology and message of the people's leader Shaheed ZAB known in every house under the leadership of Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

## 'Indian military involved in genocide of Kashmiris'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Thursday said Indian military was involved in the genocide of Muslims in Illegally Indian emphasized the importance Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a seminar titled 'Repression on minorities in India and atrocities in Kashmir," she expressed deep concerns over the human rights violations in the held territory. She said people of the occupied val-

oppression and negative tactics like jailing the political leadership. by Kashmir International and Kashmir

ley could never be defeated through

Media Service (KMS). Caretaker Federal Minister Human Rights, Khalil George deplored that India had adopted the same policy in the occupied territory which Israel was following in the Palestine.

He said that the main objective of the Bharatiya Janata Party government was to turn the majority of Muslims in IIOJK into a minority but the people of the occupied territory would foil all such nefarious designs of the Modi regime.

The minister said that India was a sowere being mistreated and victimized by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the government of get Operation Blue Star when thou-Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India state terrorism," he added. never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade. Other Peoples Party, Hasan Ibrahim and senspeakers, Including former Azad ior Leader of Kashmir, Farooq Rehmani Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar said after 5th August 2019, the Modi Hussain Syed, President of Jammu and All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad being completely pushed towards Jammu and Kashmir chapter Senior the wall.

Leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International Ghazala Habib, Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani, former Federal Minister J. Salik, Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International Abdul Hameed Lone, Pakistani-American entrepreneur Abdul Hafeez Khan, Senator Danish Kumar, Anchor, Harmeet Singh and Analyst Waqar

They said the Modi regime had usurped the rights of the minorities, The seminar, was jointly organized especially the Muslims in the country.

Member Kashmir Council Senator Denash Kumar also said that India had emerged as an extremist state where the existing minorities were facing prejudice, violence and oppression on a large scale.

He said the Modi government was making discriminatory policies against all minorities and India had now become a very dangerous country for the people disagreeing with its views.

He said it was written in the Indian Constitution that the state would treat all religions equally and tolerantly, but in reality, the land was being narrowed called democracy where minorities in every way for the minorities living there and they were being forced to

leave their religion and become Hindus.
"How can Sikhs, living in India, forsands of Sikhs were killed as a result of

President of Jammu and Kashmir Yaqoob Khan, Senator Mushahid government had accelerated the repression and tyranny in the occupied terri-Kashmir Peoples Party Hasan Ibrahim, tory and at this time the Kashmiris were

## PTDC to organise 'Salam Pakistan' photography competition on Dec 11

(PTDC) will organise Salam Pakistan phofilm competitions on December 11 in connection with International Mountain Day.

Talking to APP, the PTDC official said ence, the official added. that "Salam Pakistan" is the official tourism brand of the country that was recently launched by the Prime Minister. He urged filmmakers and storytellers to

capture the essence of our diverse and stunning landscapes as Pakistan was amazing and rich with tourism potential. He said that four to five-minute docu-

mentaries and photography competitions on the topic of culture and mountain her-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan itage, mountain people and their lifestyle, Tourism Development Corporation fascinating mountain scenery, mountain adventure and sports will be part of the tography and short tourism documentary event. The winners of these competitions will be awarded with cash prizes and awards at the sustainable tourism confer-

> He said more information can be obtained from PTDC's official website https://tourism.gov.pk while photography and short tourism documentary films can be submitted till December 4 at https://bit.ly/47Lhvug.

> The selected images will also be displayed on the banner at Pakistan National Council of Arts Islamabad on the occasion of World Mountain Day, he concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in making different designs on the wall of underpass for beautification

#### **Appointments announced**

KABUL (BNA): The Supreme Leader of IEA has decreed new appointments within the Ministry of Finance. The announcement was made by Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in a post on the social media platform X. According to the announcement, Eng. Sultan Mohammad Zubir has been appointed as the Deputy Finance Minister in Policy. Mufti Abdul Samad has been appointed as Deputy Administrative Finance Minister.

# The Frontier Post Jamadi-ul-Awwal 15, 1445 — Friday, December 01, 2023

Detergent factory opens in Nimroz

ZARANJ CITY, Nimroz (Ariana News): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Thursday that a detergent factory worth \$150,000 was opened in Zaranj city, the center of Nimroz province this week.

Speaking at a ceremony to officially open the company, Fazel Mohammad Fazli, head of industry and trade in Nimroz province, said: "Domestic companies are important in the country's economy and self-sufficiency,

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

## **IEA** strives to ensure food, medicine safety



Prime Minister Mawlavi and international criteria. Abdul Salam Hanafi said that the Islamic Emirate is stressed that food and medand medicine safety for the need and a priority of the ers, who are considered Afghan people, and warned against the import and production of substan
Afghan people, and without it, people's health would be endangered.

Islamic Emirate and that mational traitors for harming the children and the people of Afghanistan. dard and harmful medicine and foodstuffs.

zation process of the control. National Food and Drug Administration in Kabul,

KABUL (BNA): Deputy ducts according to national

working to guarantee food icine safety is a primary

He added that in the past, chemical and harmful sub-He made these remarks stances were sold as mediat the launch of the digitalicine and food without any

He urged the traders and

people's health and said that the National Food and Deputy Prime Minister Drug Administration is responsible for identifying and prosecuting the offend-

Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, the acting head of the National Food and Drug Administration, said that 50% of the administration's system has been digitized and that producers of food and med- they will continue this work

## which aims to standardize icine not to bring in or due to its economic and domestic and imported promake products that harm vital importance. Kabul residents want coal

KABUL (Pajhwok): Some government to reduce the coal residents of capital Kabul are complaining about high coal prices and have Meanwhile, Mohammad expressed their inability to Naeem, a resident of 15th buy it due to economic police district of Kabul city, hardships. The Kabul told Pajhwok that his ecomunicipality started distrib- nomic condition was not uting coal against what it good and he could not afford called a reasonable price of to buy coal. He said due 9,000 afghanis per ton in 22 unemployment, people's police district of Kabul.

of Kabul claim the price is should reduce coal prices. still high and ask the government to reduce its price. resident

Paihwok pality was selling one tonne coal and wooden items. for 9,000 afs, but they

LOGAR (Ariana News): The reconstruction of the

first phase of the Kharwar

Dam project in Logar

province started and will

cost an estimated 31 mil-

gurated in the presence of

the acting minister of energy and water, Abdul

Latif Mansoor; the gover-nor of Logar, Zia-ul-

Rahman Madani; senior

Emirate of Afghanistan

nomic development and this.

ministry said.

progress.

officials of the Islamic this regard.

(IEA), and the tribal eld- ed during the inauguration

ers of Logar Province, the that the IEA is committed

During the opening of ices to the people of the project, Mansoor said Afghanistan and will work

that now is the time for eco-day and night to achieve

The project was inau-

lion afghanis to complete.

price of coal so that poor people could buy it.

prices reduced in winter

economic situation was not However, some residents good and the government

Mohammad Ibrahim, a of situation is not good, that's Afghan News the munici- way I have not yet bought brought to Kabul.'

chase the coal on this price. but due to its high prices, he buy coal because he did not He also asked the govern-

**Reconstruction work of** 

**Kharwar Dam started** 

Madani meanwhile stat-

to providing tangible serv-

progress. According to the min-hectares of agricultural
He also said the ministry is genuinely striving to fulDam originally started durmately 13,000 families,

fill their responsibilities in ing the reign of Dawood said the ministry.

Meanwhile, Qutratullah a coal seller in Shaheed Square area of Kabul City, told Pajhwok: "We sell one ton high-quality of coal for 13,000 afghanis and any coal that comes in a sack is sold at 12,000 afghanis." However, Hamayum

Afghan, spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP), the price could not be reduced from 9,000 afghanis per ton Shahid because MoMP had waived Wahidullah, a resident of Ahangara area, told off royalties on it. Each ton Khwaja Bughra area of Pajhwok: "My economic of common coal is charged 2.200 afghanis that is

He added the Salang He said he would need highway has been closed could not afford to pur- two tons of coal in winter, for repair works this year and the cost of transport has He added he was yet to could not afford to buy it. increased compared to the past, so an appropriate rate have money. He asked the ment to reduce the price of has been set.

### households during these challenging times. Earlier, Qatar provided humanitarian

cargo, including 60 tons of instructional materials for the education sector and vital food relief supplies.

This delivery under-scores Qatar's commit-

these hard times. The humanitarian aid delivered to Afghanistan reflects Qatar's unwavering commitment to supporting the Afghan people in meeting their urgent

Over the past few years. Qatar has consistently provided hundreds of tons of hectares of agricultural vital humanitarian goods, including food supplies, through an air bridge connecting Qatar to Kabul.

#### Iranian forces arrest armed drug smugglers from Afghanistan

ΓΕΗRAN (Khaama Press): Iranian media has revealed the arrest of a group of armed drug smugglers who crossed into Iran from Afghanistan. The arrest operation also led to the confiscation of weapons.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on Wednesday that these individuals were apprehended as part of a military operation.

During the operation, authorities uncovered a property used to store both drugs and weapons The seized contraband included a significant

quantity of drugs, comprising 461 kilograms of opium, 106 kilograms of cannabis, and 57 kilo-

Additionally, the security forces seized a cache of weaponry, which included a 14.5mm cannon, an RPG (Rocket-Propelled Grenade), wo RPG rockets, and a total of 936 shells. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has

raised concerns about security and regional stability in the area. Despite having diplomatic relations between Iran and the Taliban administration, there have been border clashes and water rights issues.

While Iran maintains diplomatic ties with the Taliban administration, tensions have surfaced along the border, leading to clashes with their border police and disputes over water rights.

# Immigrants lacking permits to be deported

TEHRAN (TOLOnews): The Iranian Minister expelled from our neighboring countries of Interior Ahmad Wahidi claimed that the Islamic Emirate has asked Iran for an opportunity to provide the conditions for the return of Afghan immigrants with permits.

According to Iranian media reports, Wahidi said that there are currently 5 million Afghan refugees living in Iran.

The Minister of Interior of Iran asked the Islamic Emirate to provide conditions for the return of Afghan immigrants, and Afghan immigrants who do not have legal documents for residence will be deported. "Based on our figures, there are currently

around five million people. There are two parts that have been fully explained before, a part of them do not have permits which should be deported," Wahidi said. Meanwhile, the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi asked the citi-

zens of the country and aid institutions to help the immigrants who have returned to the

According to Hanafi, so far more than 400,000 Afghan immigrants have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

The immigrants who were forcibly

against all national and international norms, have returned to their homeland, and the Islamic Emirate has provided them services with all the possible means it had," Hanafi

Some refugee rights activists expressed concerns regarding the situation of Afghan immigrants in Iran.

The Afghan immigrants in Iran are facing challenges due to not having legal living permits," said Mohammad Khan Talibi, immigrants' rights activist.

Raffaella Iodice, the EU Chargée d'Affaires to Afghanistan pledged 142 million euros in aid to returnees in a meeting with Khalil Rahman Haqqani, the acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation.

The Ministry of Refugees wrote in a statement that the situation of immigrants who return from Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran -- both voluntarily and by force -- was discussed in the

In the meeting, Haqqani asked Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan not to persecute Afghan immigrants and to respect the human rights of immi-

#### **Qatar** provides relief to victims

KABUL (Khaama Press): The "Qatar Charity Foundation" and "Qatar Red Crescent" extended their assistance to the victims of province Afghanistan on Thursday.

The Embassy of Qatar in Kabul is actively coordinating relief efforts as Qatar extends its hand of support to the earthquakeaffected regions of Herat province.

In addition to the ongong assistance, Qatar is planning two additional flights to Afghanistan on December 3rd and 4th, demonstrating its commitment to aiding those in need during this challenging time.

In a recent relief effort, six well-equipped camps and 1000 food packages were delivered to Herat province on a domestic

Each food package contains 24 kilograms of essential supplies, ensuring aid reaches those in need within the Herat province.

It's important to note that this initiative is part of the ongoing support from the Qatar Charity Foundation (2000 food packages) and the Oatar Red Crescent (6000 food packages), dedicated to providing transparent and vital assistance to Afghan

ment to providing essential support to the people of Afghanistan during

essential needs.

## Kabul delegation in Turkmenistan to discuss railways

KABUL (TOLOnews): The head of the Afghanistan Railway Authority, Bakhtur-Rahman Sharafat, has traveled to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan at the head of a delegation, and plans to discuss cooperation in the railway sector, bilateral cooperation, and increasing transfit, with Turkmenistan officials.

Abdul Sami Durani, spokesman for for the authority on the trip, said the head of the railway administration is trying to increase trade with Central Asian countries through railways.

"During the trip, the increase of bilateral cooperation transfers and other issues will be discussed Investment considers the Chaman-Spin Boldak and the project is completed, with the officials of Turkmenistan," said Durani.

Asia... so we can develop exports.

Chamber.

Chamber.

Meanwhile, some business via railway
"Loading and unloading of more invest
Farlier. the head Meanwhile,

Chamber of Commerce and by the neighbors, such as Sharif railway project, if Afghanistan.



provision of facilities in the railway sector in the coun-"The head of the rail- try to be important in develways is on a trip to Central oping trade and increasing Mohammad, deputy of the from being dependent on

they are having a conversa- are easier for many peo- nessmen said more invest-Zabiullah Mujahid, spoke- extend this railway line needed to boost trade. sman for Islamic Emirate. inside Afghanistan, and

Chamanshould be started soon,'

the the railway lines promised Turkmenistan-Mazar-e- railway

Kandahar,

will help Afghanistan a lot in terms of trade and tranone country," said Khan

Earlier, the head of the ion about this," said ple, and we are trying to ment in railway projects is railway department asked all the financial institutions "The completion of the and others to invest in the

## Nearly two thousand Afghan migrants return home from Iran

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations of Afghanistan has announced that more than a thousand Afghan migrants have returned to their homeland from Iran. Thursday, Ministry said on its social media platform X that a total of 1,764 Afghan

migrants have returned home from Iran. The ministry added that this number of migrants the International Organizfrom Iran on Thursday through both forced and

voluntary means. The Border Directorate of Islam Qala has stated that there are both families returnees

have been returnees Commissioner Refugees (UNHCR) and Iranian government.



returned to the country ation for Migration (IOM) after being registered with the Migrants Department for assistance. It's worth noting that just

Tuesday 28th of November, the Ministry of Migrants and individuals among the Affairs also announced that approximately 2,455 Afgh-The Ministry has clarian migrants had returned to fied that some of these the country from Iran. It should be mentioned

referred to the offices of the that recently, thousands of United Nations High Afghan migrants have been for deported daily by

many migrants have opted neighbouring countries. This exodus is primarily driven by factors such as the scarcity of job opportunities, economic hardships, persecution, and security threats within the

portion of returnees have been either deported from or voluntarily returned to Afghanistan.

country.

Their decision is often prompted by the mistreatment they face in host to leave Afghanistan for countries, including harassment and deteriorating economic conditions in those countries. The complex dynamics

of migration in Afghanistan reflect a challenging landscape where people are forced to weigh the risks Conversely, a significant and benefits of leaving or returning, all in the context of the country's evolving political and economic

#### Education, work ban in Afghanistan drives female to migration KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban, a place she explosion in Kabul about 8 financial and educational strong in the face of chal-suggest that cases of abor-

Afghanistan have been away her dearest loved severely restricted due to ones, and now she grapples the imposed limitations. with an uncertain future in They are not allowed to Pakistan. Khalida says, "I work or pursue education in left Afghanistan, perhaps own but have also been deprived

of access to justice within the Taliban administration's of women from the country. In this report, you will read and working. lies, friends
Khalida is now 23 years ties behind.

old. She left Afghanistan

in described as having taken country. for a few years or forever.'

According to conducted She was studying at a research, they have not university and also working only become victims of at a telecommunications crimes against humanity company in Afghanistan before the rise of the Taliban rule in the country. Through her job and educajudicial system. This has tion, she was able to supled to widespread migration port herself financially. However, following the political changes the story of a girl who left Afghanistan, she joined the Afghanistan after being thousands of girls who had prohibited from studying to leave their homes, families, friends, and universi-

just 16 years old. She says, 'I lost my mother and father on the same day, at the same moment, when I

Khan, but was never com

The Kharwar Dam is 36

meters high and 140 meters

long, with the capacity to

After completion, it will

about

meters of water.

irrigate

17 million cubic

pleted.

What compelled Khalida to leave her homeland and unknown future? She says, "I lost the dearest people in my life in Afghanistan, and I never thought of leaving, but the prohibition on studying and working did-Afghanistan.'

working and studying, dreams with each passing often enforced through day. She made every effort coercion and force in to achieve what she want-Afghanistan, has affected ed, but the arrival of the Khalida lost both her lives in the country. They dered all her efforts in vain.

years ago when she was independence. According lenges, to the Khaama Press public poll, after the rise of the Taliban, the status and influence of women within me, and I had to escape. families have also been significantly impacted, leading to a noticeable reducface an uncertain and tion in women's agency within the family structure.

Khalida believes strong individuals always emerge from a sea of difficulties and hardships.

After losing her parents, n't allow me to stay in she tried to become selfsufficient and considered The ban on women herself responsible for her various aspects of women's Taliban administration renafter the return of the parents in a devastating have been deprived of any She says, "I tried to stay

but in Taliban, even the smallest movement was denied to

Ultimately, she left behind half of her family members and went to Pakistan with her younger sister, who was already married.

The challenges of migration: Khalida's story

Khalida says, "When my existence, which made All migrants understand themselves, including their responsibility for the sixhomes, families, friends, month-old child has created and universities.

Reports from Pakistan continuing her life.

an tion among migrants with Afghanistan ruled by the immigration cases have significantly increased, as the birth of an unplanned child can complicate immigra-

tion proceedings.

Kĥalida's younger sister had an immigration case for the United States, but she was forced to leave her newborn child Khalida, a standard narra-

tive among migrants. Taking care of a sixleaving Afghanistan, I felt month-old child is not diffilike I was carrying half of cult for a girl who has experienced the bitterness of the journey burdensome. motherlessness in her child-However, hood. that they must travel light, Khalida, who values work along with other migrant leaving behind half of and education, assuming girls.

a series of challenges in

migration and its hardships in one sentence: "Migration is a punishment. She not only fears depor-

tation but also had an encounter with thieves who took everything she had when returning home from work one day.

She was transferred to a hospital with the help of local people.

In response to the recent decision by the interim government of Pakistan to expel Afghan migrants, Khalida expresses her fear and spends most of her time in a room with a window,

Khalida has access to all the necessary financial resources in Pakistan. Still, uncertainty, forced

of being a foreigner in another country have subjected her to severe mental challenges. We attempted to speak

with Khalida in the room they shared in Pakistan. She said, "Khalida had long hair, and nothing is more important for a girl than her hair. However, amid worsening mental struggles, one day she picked up the scissors unusually and cut her hair shorter than usual with her own hands.'

Khaama Press's findings, conducted through conversations with migrant girls, reveal that the prohibition on women working and pursuing education in Afghanistan serves as the primary catalyst for families' decision to migrate.

## PHC halts work on development projects until general elections

**Humayun Khan** 

PESHAWAR: A divisional inquired that is election to submission of reply in this initiated regard, on Thursday.

Hussain advocate argued Justice that caretaker government observed that blue-eyed has no jurisdiction to carry people take credit in times out developmental projects of elections. while works are continued after announcement of gen- Additional eral election by Election General argued that the Commission of Pakistan developmental projects

government has jurisdic- Justice developmental works are er governments are taking continued after announce- so much interest in devel- Exit Control List.

Justice Ijaz Anwar

bench of Peshawar High be held from ECP's lawyer Court (PHC) comprised of while Mohsin Kamran Justice Ijaz Anwar and advocate assured that polls Justice SM Attique Shah must be held on scheduled has stopped developmental date. Additional Advocate works till general elections General informed that these and ordered respondents for developmental projects are Bannu, Waziristan and other areas The counsel Mian Zakir before caretaker setup. Anwar

meantime, Advocate were started earlier and Justice Ijaz Anwar added that it will benefit remarked that caretaker public at large. However, Ijaz Anwar tion over day-to-day matter remarked that 8th February as well as ensure free and is at the head then restart fair election. He added that the development works. general election is sched- Justice SM Attique Shah and inquired that how can eral and provincial caretak-

AAG argued the projects were started before caretaker government. He added that everyone is aware about ground realities.

PHC has stopped devel-

opmental projects till general election scheduled on 8th 2024 February ordered respondents for submission of reply in this regard. Meanwhile, PHC ordered submission of reply in writ plea of former KF Minister Shaukat Yousafzai for offloading from airplane while going to Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar and adjourned further hearing till 5th December.

counsel Sikandar Hayat before PHC's appeared divisional bench comprised of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique while uled on 8th February 2024 inquired that why both fed- argued that former minister was stop from aboard without any case or named in

## Litigants prime focus of Justice System: CJ PHC

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice Homes (PHC) Justice Mohammad Integration of Software of Committee meeting at the desired prompt follow up PJC Secretariat, in which for timely completion of Advocate General Khyber the projects. Pakhtunkhwa, Registrar-Excise & Taxation, Law

and it was thus imperative ate their sufferings. for all the stakeholders to Likewise, the jail issues make concerted efforts to minimize their plight associated with protracted liti- the Chair that issues of congation, through timely and cern, wherever exist, shall effective dispensation of be resolved shortly.

Laboratory,

The directives issued by PHC, Inspector General of the NJPMC about expedi-Police (IGP), Additional tious disposal of cases of Chief Secretary (ACS), P & Under Trial Prisoners D, ACS-Home, Senior (UTP) came up for discus-Member Board of Revenue sion. While directing the Secretaries, Prosecution to produce the Finance, Administration, police witnesses before trial courts without delay, the and Parliamentary Affairs Chief Justice also urged the Departments and Joint AG and ACS-Home, to Secretary Law and Justice actively pursue the matter simplified mechanism of At the outset, the Chief inter-provincial transfer of Justice remarked that liti- accused, with the Ministry gant public was the prime of Interior in order to expefocus of the justice system, dite the UTP cases to allevi-

Observation the SMBR to resolve all the and Juvenile administrative issues with Peshawar High Court Rehabilitation Centers and in one month to entail release of funds by the Ìbrahim Khan chaired the the Justice System compo- Finance Department for 12th Provincial Justice nents, the Chief Justice early construction of com-

> Regarding the issue of security, particularly in NMDs, the IGP informed that adequate security has been provided generally throughout the Province. As far as shifting of Courts in NMDs, the Chief Justice directed to take immediate measures for transfer of Courts, where pending, to their respective territorial jurisdictions in order to make justice easily accessi-ble to the local at their doorsteps for their inclusion in the mainstream, which was the objective of merger of the erstwhile FATA.

The misuse of seized vehicle/case property received a critical consideration and the Chief Justice directed the relevant quarters to share all such data with the District & Sessions Showing serious con- Judges concerned for After an update by the cern over the delay in prompt disposal of the CS, Home, IGP and acquisition of land and cases and consequent open Secretary, Finance, regard- release of funds for Judicial auction of the relevant coning progress on projects of Complexes in Newly fiscated case properties in the Merged Districts (NMDs), accordance with law.

## Henry Kissinger, dead at 100



WASHINGTON (Reuters): Henry Kissinger, a diplomatic powerhouse whose roles as a national security adviser and secretary of state under two presidents left an indelible mark on US foreign policy and earned him a controversial Nobel Peace Prize, died on Wednesday at age 100.

Kissinger died at his home in Connecticut, according to a statement from his geopolitical con-sulting firm, Kissinger Associates Inc. No mention was made of the circumstances. It said he would be interred at a private family service, to be followed at a later date by a public memorial service in New York City. Kissinger had been active past his centenary, attending meetings in the White House, publishing a book on leadership styles, and testifying before a Senate committee about the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. In July 2023 he made a surprise visit to Beijing to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During the 1970s in the midst of the Cold War, he had a hand in many of the epoch-changing global events of the decade while global serving as national security adviser and secretary of state under Republican President Richard Nixon The German-born Jewish refugee's efforts led to the U.S. diplomatic opening with China, landmark US-Soviet arms control talks, expanded ties between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and the Paris Peace Accords with North Vietnam.

Kissinger's reign as the prime architect of US foreign policy waned with Nixon's resignation in 1974 amid the Watergate scandal. Still, he continued to be a diplomatic force as secretary of state under Nixon's successor. President Gerald Ford, and to offer strong opinions throughout the rest of his life. While many hailed Kissinger for his brilliance and broad experience, others branded him a war criminal for his support for anti-communist dictatorships, especially in Latin America. In his latter years, his travels were circumscribed by efforts by other nations to arrest or question him about past US foreign policy.

ISLAMABAD: Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded at Headquarters, Naval Islamabad. The Conference was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the conference. matters related to national security, geo strategic affairs, combat readiness and training of troops were discussed. The conference assessed the evolving maritime situation in the region due to ongoing conflict in Middle East. Under the prevailing maritime situation in the Middle East, deployment of PN Ship for the protection of Pakistan's merchant ships was discussed. Progress on PN projects including future plans was also reviewed and way forward was delib-

erated. The Naval Chief emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness to effectively thwart any aggression against Pakistan. The Naval Chief lauded the initiatives undertaken towards capability development through acquisition of state of the art platforms and emerging technologies. The Admiral expressed full confidence over high state of operational preparedness of Pakistan Navy to meet maritime challenges while safeguarding the maritime

Pakistan Navy.



called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Solangi underlines need of state media reforms

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday urged the Senate's Standing Committee to discuss and work out the plan for reforms in the state media institu-

Addressing the Senate Committee on Information and Broadcasting, the minister underlined the need to carry out reforms in the state broadcasters to bring them at par with modern standards. Senator Fawzia Arshad presided over the meeting which was attended by members of the committee including Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio, Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui and Senator Naseema Ehsan as well as Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid, MD Pakistan Television (PTV), Director General Radio Pakistan, and Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan

During the session at Committee Room No. 1 of the Parliament House, the panel discussed the implementation of the recommendations, worked out in its meeting on October 9, 2023. The committee also took up the recommendations related to the appointment of 53 daily-wage employees during the meeting.

The information minister said the caretaker government could not make permanent appointments or decide about the closure of any institution. He said services of different people were hired sometime back to mitigate the shortage of staff and run essential programmes, but hiring of daily wagers through advertisement, seemed to be a time-consuming process.

Murtaza Solangi said the committee's

recommendations in this regard would be implemented in letter and spirit. The com-mittee's guidance on advertising for daily-Muhammad Asim Khichi.

wage recruitment or any kind of hiring would also be followed, accordingly. He said the committee might also direct the ministry to conduct an investigation into any department for probing into the recruitment of daily-wage employees.

He emphasized the importance of clear guidance to avoid recurrence of such issue n the future. The Information Minister highlighted the need for reforms in all state broadcasters, including PTV, and urged the committee to discuss a programme on reforms of the state media institutions. He pointed out that 76 per cent of Radio Pakistan's overall budget was currently allocated to salaries and pensions, and there were still pending dues for numerous employees.

The minister said that Radio Pakistan was the oldest institution of the state and emphasized the need for reforms in the institution that had more numbers of pensioners than the existing workforce. Solangi expressed gratitude to the commit tee members who showed confidence in him and said he would continue to seek their guidance in future as well.

The committee also discussed the issue of new recruitments, especially in PTV and Radio Pakistan, from August 9, 2023 until now. Both the federal minister and secretary briefed the committee on the issue. The federal secretary explained that election cells were established in broadcasting institutions of the Ministry of Information, and the services of some individuals had been obtained for the purpose. Solangi informed the committee that those individuals, rendering the services, had extensive experience in broadcasting. He assured that efforts were afoot to ensure that no anchor in any program showed bias towards any political party. The committee expressed satisfaction over

#### Truce in Gaza extended another day

JERUSALEM: Israel and Hamas agreed at the last minute Thursday to extend their ceasefire in Gaza by another day. But any further renewal of the deal that has seen dozens of hostages and prisoners released could prove more challenging since Hamas is expected to demand greater concessions for many of the remaining captives.

As word of the extension came, gunmen opened fire on people waiting for buses along a main highway entering Jerusalem, killing at least three people and wounding several others, according to police. The two attackers, brothers from a Palestinian neighborhood in annexed east Jerusalem, were killed. Hamas said they were members of its armed wing and celebrated the assault, but called it "a natural response" to actions in Gaza and elsewhere. It was unclear if the attack had been ordered by Hamas' leaders or if it would have an impact on the truce. International pressure

has mounted for the ceasefire to continue as long as possible after nearly eight weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground campaign in Gaza that have thousands killed Palestinians, more than three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million and led to a humanitarian crisis. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on his third visit to the region since the start of the war, said "my heart goes out" to the victims of the Jerusalem attack, Blinken is expected to press for further extensions of the truce and the release of more hostages.

"This process is producing results. It's important, and we hope that it can continue," he said. The talks appear to be growing tougher, however, with Hamas having already freed most of the women and children kidnapped during the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war. The militants are expected to make greater demands in return for freeing men and soldiers. Qatar, which has played a key role in mediating with Hamas, announced that the truce was being extended Thursday. In the past, Hamas has released at least 10 Israeli hostages per day in exchange for Israel's release of at least 30 Palestinian prisoners.

The announcement followed a last-minute standoff, with Hamas saying Israel had rejected a proposed list that included seven living captives and the remains of three who the group said were killed in Israeli airstrikes. Israel later said Hamas submitted an improved list, but gave no details. Israel says it will maintain the truce until Hamas stops releasing captives, at which point it will resume military operations aimed at eliminating the group. The Biden administration has told Israel that it must operate with far greater precision if it expands the ground offensive to the where south, many Palestinians have sought refuge.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under intense pressure from families of the hostages to bring them home. But his far-right governing partners are also pushing him to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed, and could bolt his coalition if he is seen as making too many concessions. The initial truce - which began Friday and has now been extended twice - called for the release of women and children. Israeli officials say Gaza militants still hold around 30 women and children, who would all be released in a few days if the swaps continue at the current rate. — Aljazeera

### Justice Mazahar Naqvi moves SC against SJC notice

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Naqvi Thursday approached the Supreme Court challenging the revised show cause the SJC admitted that the notices issued to him by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), which he contends, are "politically motivated complaints".

legal team, has filed a peti- of the forum as he had tion against the revised show cause notice and the SJC proceedings being pursued cause notice is also contrary against him. In the plea, he to the consistent practice folhas also responded to the 10 lowed by the SJC. When allegations put forward proceedings of the SJC are allegations put forward against him. In the petition, Justice

Naqvi contends that the the SJC has not proceeded complaints against him are with the matter further till politically motivated due to the matter is decided by the the verdict on the Punjab Supreme Court of Pakistan. elections taken after the suo This procedure was folmotu proceedings initiated by former chief justice Umar Mr. Justice Shaukat Aziz Ata Bandial during the hearof the Mehmood Dogar case. The judge further con-

ment wanted to delay the polls and his cabinet later paign" against him. He also tion," said the petition. contended that the Pakistan

because safeguard the Punjab Provincial tion of any document". Assembly," said the plea.

ty of the so-called com- they backed by evidence the SJC.

Justice the so-called complainants" Naqvi, further contends, that by issuing the revised notice first show cause was neither 'valid nor proper''.

He also contends that before issuing the notice, the SJC did not consider his The judge, through his request for the reconstitution appealed in an earlier petition. "The Revised showchallenged before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, lowed in the case of Hon'ble Siddiqui and Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Justice Qazi Faez Isa, now Chief Justice of Pakistan. In view of this practice, the

tends that the Shehbaz Petitioner sought stay of the Sharif-led federal govern- proceedings of SJC vide application dated 22.11.2023. No order has started a "malicious cam- been passed on this applica-The judge has appealed to Bar Council and other the apex court to quash the

organisations or lawyers met initial show cause notice, with then-PM and after that, hearing notice and the they started "targeting" him. revised notice. He also con-It is evident that the so-tends that he was not called complaints filed informed of the procedure against the Petitioner before that was followed against the Supreme Judicial him in SJC. The judge has Council (SJC) are politically also challenged the power of motivated. These were filed the SJC secretary to issue the the notice, contending that as Petitioner in performance of per Article 210 of the his solemn duty to protect Constitution, the council has the the authority, "to issue direc-Constitution highlighted the tions or orders for securing constitutional violation in the attendance of any person delaying general election to or the discovery or produc-

"No such power is vested In the petition, the SC in the Secretary, SJC," said judge has contended that the the judge. He also stated that revised notice was sent to the allegations stated in the him by the SJC "without revised notice are "false and first determining the veraci- baseless" and neither are enhance the proceedings of

plaints and/or bona fide of therefore they are not sustainable. In the plea, the Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar contrary to the rules. Justice judge has also asked the apex court to consider the grounds raised in the earlier petition as an "integral part of this petition"... The judge has prayed to

the court: "Declare that the initiation of proceedings by the SJC are coram non without lawful judice, authority and of no legal effect and quash the same: (ii) Declare that the purport Revised SCN dated 24.11.2023 is without lawful authority and of no legal effect and quash the same: (iii) Grant any other relief that this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper." Last week, after days of deliberations on misconduct complaints against Justice Nagvi, the SJC issued another show-cause notice to the top court judge.

The notice, issued with a majority of four to one sought clarification from Justice Naqvi on 10 points within 14 days, according to sources within the SJC. The SJC meeting on the third consecutive day was held under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Justice Amir Bhatti and Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Justice Naeem Afghan attended the meeting as members of the top judicial

During the lengthy ses sions, complaints were thoroughly examined, and after assessing the content of the complaints, the council decided to proceed with the complaints, the source added. Following the deliberations, it was resolved. with a majority of four to one, to issue a show-cause notice to Justice Mazhar Naqvi and to further

#### Naval Chief heads moot F.P. Report

frontiers of Pakistan.

Command & Staff Conference is the apex decision making body of Pakistan Navy in which Chief of the Naval Staff along with all Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders review the policies and plans of

#### computerization of land records ed the meeting. seven in Charsadda, three Briefing the participants, PESHAWAR: A progress it was informed that after review meeting of the the Chief Minister's notice Swat and Shangla. Board of Revenue (BoR) on slow implementation of same period, a total of 261 was held with the caretaker the land record computeri-Chief Minister Khyber zation project, significant Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) improvement has been Syed Arshad Hussain Shah made in the process of land in the chair.

KP CM directs completion of

records computerization, The meeting took stock adding that during the last of implementation status on one week, 30 more Mauzas have been operationalized the Chief Minister's directives issued in the previous in different districts of the meeting and reviewed the province, and thus, total number of operational progress so far made on the project regarding computerization and digitization of Mauzas has increased from 2356 to 2386.

Similarly, the number of land records in the province. Caretaker provinmanual Mauzas cial minister for Revenue reduced from 813 to 474 and Finance Ahmed Rasool within one week. It was further told that during the Bangash, Caretaker Minister for ST&IT Dr. last 11 days, a total of 31 Najeeb Ullah, Senior Mauzas have been made Member Board of Revenue live which include; 10 Ikramullah Khan and other Mauzas in Bannu, six itor the progress on daily relevant authorities attend- Mauzas in Abbottabad, basis.

in Peshawar, three in Kohat and one Mauza each in Whereas, during the

Mauzas have been notified for stoppage of manual mutations which include; 15 Mauzas in Haripur, 10 in Swat, 11 in Shangla, 44 in Bannu, 15 in Peshawar, 159 in DI Khan and seven Mauzas in Battagram. In order to complete the process of land records computerization within the minimum possible time, realistic targets have also has been set for the Deputy Commissioners of all districts, whereas "Land Records Computerization Tracking System" has been put in place on the portal of PMRU in order to mon-

