

Cop martyred in Tank attack
F.P. Report

TANK: A senior police officer was martyred while two others injured when terrorists sprayed their van with bullets in Tank on Saturday. SHO Abdul Ali Khan was martyred while constables Riaz and Akram received injuries in the terror attack. On receiving information about presence of terrorists in Karri Shah Noor area of Tank, a police party led by SHO Abdul Ali Khan rushed to the site.

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S Arabia calls immediate truce in Gaza

Raisi called on Muslim countries to impose oil and goods sanctions on Israel

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said Israel bears responsibility for the "crimes committed against Palestinian people," reiterating calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza during his opening remarks at the Arab-Islamic Summit on Saturday.

The Saudi crown prince stressed the Kingdom's "unequivocal" rejection of the continued Israeli aggression in Gaza and the forced displacement of residents. He pointed to the 'double standards' in applying the international humanitarian law, condemning the international community's silence towards the violations against the Palestinian civilians.

He added: "We are facing a humanitarian catastrophe that testifies to the failure of the UN Security Council and the international community to put an end to the Israeli violations -- a matter that demonstrates double standards." The crown prince reiterated calls for an immediate end to the military aggression in Gaza and the release of hostages to save lives. He called for a coordinated, collective effort among Arab and Islamic states to take effective action to lift the siege and deliver humanitarian and relief aid in Gaza.

"The Kingdom has made tireless efforts since the beginning of the aggression in Gaza and has continued consultations to stop the war." He stressed that the only solution to achieve stability in the region is to end the occupation and the establishment of settlements. "A Palestinian state must be established on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital," said the crown prince.

tal," said the crown prince.

Saudi Arabia hosted the emergency summit in response to the exceptional circumstances taking place in the Palestinian Gaza Strip. The summit brought together leaders from Arab and Asian nations, who called for an immediate end to the war on Gaza. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Arab leaders including Palestine's President Mahmoud Abbas, Egypt's Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Syria's Bashar al-Assad, and Iraq's Abdul Latif Rashid were among the leaders who attended the summit on Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and President of Libya's Presidential Council Mohamed Al-Manfi were among the participating leaders. The summit also saw the attendance of Asian leaders including Presidents of Indonesia Joko Widodo and Krygstan Sady Japarov. Speaking during the summit, the Palestinian president said the Palestinians are facing an "unmatched genocidal war," calling on the United States to pressure Israel into halting its offensive on Gaza.

Abbas also called for international protection for the Palestinians in the face of Israeli attacks. He urged the UN Security Council to practice its responsibilities by stopping the aggression against the Palestinians and delivering aid in Gaza. "We will not accept military and security solutions in the Gaza Strip," he added.

Raisi called on Muslim countries to impose oil and goods sanctions on Israel and designate the Israeli army "terrorist group." He

accused Israel of using internationally banned weapons in the Gaza Strip and violating international humanitarian laws. Raisi called the United States a major partner in Israel's crimes against Gaza with its unconditional backing of the aggression and provision of weapons daily.

He urged Islamic countries to work together to pressure Israel and America to stop the war in Gaza. "The top priority now is a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip." He added: "We must work to remove Israeli forces from Gaza." Raisi had earlier said that time had come for action over the conflict rather than talk as he headed to Riyadh. "Today, the unity of the Islamic countries is very important," he noted.

During his speech at the summit, Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani stressed his country's negotiation efforts to release the hostages held in Gaza, saying that the international community has failed to bear its responsibilities. He questioned "for how long will the international community treat Israel as if it is above international law?" "Who would have imagined that hospitals would be openly bombed in the 21st century and that families would be wiped from the civil registry by indiscriminate bombing?"

Al-Thani called for a permanent opening of a humanitarian corridor to bring aid into Gaza. In his remarks, Jordan's King Abdullah II called for a serious peace process to begin in the Middle East. He said the war on Gaza was an extension of an occupation that has started more than seven



decades ago, stressing that the two-state solution is the only way to bring peace in Palestine.

"The war waged by Israel on Gaza is hideous and has to stop," he said. King Abdullah said Israel's denial of food and medical supplies into Gaza constitutes as a "war crime." Meanwhile, the Egyptian President El-Sisi denounced Israel's forced displacement of the Palestinians, calling for an international investigation to be conducted into Israel's violations against the people of Gaza. He urged for an immediate sustainable ceasefire in Gaza "without restrictions or conditions."

"The policies of collective punishment of the people of Gaza...are unacceptable and cannot be justified by self-defense or any other claims. They must be stopped immediately," it said. He warned that failure to end the war in

Gaza could result in its expansion to the rest of the region. "The international community must put pressure to stop the bloodshed and address the roots of the conflict," said El-Sisi. Saudi Arabia has consistently called for an end to the bloodshed in the occupied territories.

The kingdom was scheduled to host two extraordinary summits, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit and the Arab League summit, on Saturday and Sunday. The joint summit will replace the two separate gatherings in light of the Gaza situation, the Saudi Foreign ministry said. The joint meeting "will be held in response to the exceptional circumstances taking place in the Palestinian Gaza Strip as countries feel the need to unify efforts and come out with a unified collective position," it said.

This week, the Israeli army

advanced into Gaza City in the north of the enclave, resulting in a deluge of civilians flooding to the south, where Israel promised they would be safer. Gaza's Health Ministry said 11,000 people have been killed since the war began, and 27,000 have been injured. Israel has conducted a massive military operation into the occupied territory after Hamas militants killed 1,200 Israelis living near Gaza on Oct. 7.

The World Health Organization said on Friday that Gaza health services were at a breaking point. Hospitals are nearly out of crucial medical supplies and lack of water and electricity are hampering their work. Doctors are treating patients without anesthesia. Israel has imposed a blockade as part of its campaign limiting the number of humanitarian supplies entering Gaza. — Arab News

PM suggests possibility of initiating ICJ proceedings against Israel

RIAYDH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday suggested that the Arab and Islamic countries should explore the possibility of initiating proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for its war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Genocide Convention and under the interim measures request.

The UN Secretary General could be requested to establish a special commission of inquiry to investigate Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity since October 7, the prime minister said during his address at the a Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which brings together leaders from the Arab and Islamic world to discuss the current worsening situation in Gaza and the future strategy.

The prime minister further said that they should also demand establishing of the international mechanism and call for halt to illegal settlements by Israel. "We call for a political solution for which it is imperative that conditions are created for a dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel to evolve a way forward through the two-state solution," he reiterated.

The prime minister said that permanent solution to the conflict was in the establishment of a secure, viable, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its Capital and urged upon the Muslim countries to work towards that end. Gaza urgently needed reprieve and immediate and complete ceasefire, he said, adding Israel must be forced to halt its indiscriminate aerial bombardments and ground invasions in compliance with the international humanitarian and human rights laws, and should ensure immediate lifting of the blockade and ensure rapid and unhindered humanitarian aid supply.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted a Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which brings together leaders from the Arab and Islamic world to discuss the current worsening situation in Gaza and the future strategy. The caretaker prime minister stressed that the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of the international humanitarian and human rights law, and their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes. Prime Minister Kakar underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's campaign of terror with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance for the people of Gaza.

Israel as an occupying power must be reminded of its responsibility to create conditions for the urgent delivery of food, water, electricity and medical supplies to Gaza, he stressed. He also underlined that the root cause of the current situation was the perennial settler colonialism and denial of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and for their right to self-determination.

The prime minister said that some 70 years back the framers of the UN charter pledged to save the coming generations from the scourge of future wars, but unfortunately, they were witnessing another war in Gaza, 'what is worst, this war is a genocide'. He said that their hearts bleed at the distressing images of the state of women and children while the bombs were dropped at hospitals, refugees camps and ambulances as Israel had turned Gaza into a living hell.

Israel's incessant flouting of international laws with impunity had few parallel in history, he said, adding "I condemn these atrocities in the strongest terms." The prime minister also regretted the loss of human lives including children, women and the vulnerable. He said that the international laws prohibited infliction of deaths and destruction on the innocent civilians and this massacre must stop.

He also appealed to the conscious of all the world leaders to immediately ensure ceasefire, and unhindered and full scale humanitarian assistance to Gaza. Prime Minister Kakar also appreciated the diplomatic and humanitarian efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan and other countries of the region, to bring the escalating situation under control.

He observed that the huge onus was on the UNSC members to rise above their differences and urgently perform their primary responsibility of maintaining peace and security in the

region. "Human lives cannot be sacrificed at the altar of technicalities," he stressed and also appreciated UN Secretary General for his calls for restraint and urgent humanitarian efforts.



PM, Saudi Crown Prince for urgent end to Israeli aggression

RIYADH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, on Saturday, underlined the need for urgent international collaboration geared to stopping Israel from brutal and indiscriminate aggression against the besieged and innocent Palestinians.

They further emphasized the urgency of lifting the blockade of Occupied Gaza to facilitate the delivery of vital humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected population. The two leaders held a meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit to discuss the latest situation caused by the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinians both in Gaza and West Bank, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the role and efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the sagacious leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince, for promoting the Palestinian cause.

Pakistan exit World Cup

KOLKATA (AFP): England defeated Pakistan by an impressive 93 runs in their last group match being played at Kolkata's Edens Gardens on Saturday, with Green Shirts crashing out of the tournament.

Batting second and chasing England's 338-run target, Pakistani batters kept losing their wickets as the English side restricted the Green Shirts to 244 runs as the national side was bowled in the 44th over. During the chase, Pakistan lost early wickets with openers Abdullah Shafique and Fakhar Zaman being sent back to the pavilion by David Willey in the first three overs, leaving their side 10-2 in 2.4 overs.

The Men in Green got a bit of a breakthrough as skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan provided some stability to the team but both were after 22.3 overs as Pakistan were four down for 100 runs. Salman Ali Agha top-scored for the struggling Pakistani side by scoring 51 runs. Shaheen Shah Afridi contributed to 26 runs down the batting line. Haris Rauf and Wasim smashed sixes at the end as the two combined for 53 runs but their heroics were not enough in front of the massive target set up by the English batters.

Earlier in the day, England — while batting first — managed to post 337 runs on the scoreboard courtesy of a solid batting display by their top order. David Malan and Jonny Bairstow provided their side with a dominant start as they scored 80 runs within 13 overs without a loss. The former was the first batter to depart for the pavilion after becoming the victim of Iftikhar Ahmed for 31 runs.

Malan was soon followed by Bairstow as the right-handed aggressive batter ended up losing his wicket for 59 runs. However, after losing two wickets, Joe Root and Ben Stokes built a crucial 132-run partnership that helped Jos Buttler's men get in a comfortable position.

Stokes top-scored for his side with 84 runs courtesy of 11 fours and two sixes. The left-handed batter was on his way to score his consecutive World Cup century but was bowled by Shaheen Afridi. Root scored 60 runs before becoming the victim of Afridi. However, Buttler (27 off 18) and Harry Brook (30 off 17) provided their side with important runs late in the game that helped them set a 338-run target.

For Pakistan, Haris — who became the bowler to concede the most runs in a single World Cup edition — took three wickets, while Afridi and Wasim Jr bagged two and Iftikhar could only pick one.

KP caretaker CM Azam Khan dies at 89

Ikram Ullah Khalil

PESHAWAR / CHARS-ADDA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan died apparently due to cardiac arrest at a local hospital here on Saturday.

According to doctors and his family sources, Azam Khan was brought to a local hospital at Peshawar the other day after feeling

served in key posts in both the federal and provincial governments and earned great name of being highly competent and honest bureaucrat.

From September 1990 to July 1993, Azam Khan also served as the chief secretary KP. He was also chairman of the Pakistan Tobacco Board. The politicians and civil society have condoled the death of Azam Khan and

Muhammad Azam Khan on Saturday. I his condolences he prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan Saturday condoled the sudden death of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker



severe pain in chest and expired during treatment process at Intensive Care Unit.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice retired Maqbool Baqir, KP's caretaker government cabinet members and other parties leaders and bureaucrats attended his funeral prayer.

Azam Khan was brought to a local hospital at Peshawar the other day after feeling severe pain in chest and expired during treatment process at Intensive Care Unit. He took oath as the interim chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on January 21 this year, following the dissolution of the KP Assembly in the same month by the then Chief Minister Mahmood Khan.

He was nominated to lead the province by the opposition parties and his name was unanimously approved by the outgoing PTI government as well. Azam Khan was a retired bureaucrat of Pakistan Administrative Officer and served on various key positions. He had served as minister of interior, capital administration and development in the interim cabinet of former caretaker prime minister Nasir-ul-Mulk in 2018.

He was highly qualified and was a Barrister-at-Law from Lincoln's Inn, London. From October 2007 to April 2008, Azam Khan had served as a finance, planning and development minister in KP in the cabinet of CM Shamsul Mulk. He also

prayed for his eternal peace.

President Dr. Arif Alvi expressed deep sorrow over Khan's passing, emphasizing his integrity and commitment. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar termed the KP CM an honest and pious person. He prayed for the deceased's family.

Caretaker Interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi remembered Azam as a 'gentleman' and 'polite' person. In the same way, e caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti prayed for Khan's family. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the demise of Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan. Governor KP went to Parang District Charsadda and attended the funeral prayers of Muhammad Azam Khan.

He also condoled with family members and prayed to rest the departed soul in eternal abode with peace. He also praised services of Muhammad Azam Khan as a Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori showed his profound grief on Khan death and prayed for deceased's elevated ranks. PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi also prayed for bereaved family saying he was 'deeply saddened by the loss'.

Caretaker Minister for Local Bodies and Irrigation Engineer Amer Durrani expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

In a condolence message, the Provincial President of the Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan expressed that he deeply saddened by the death of Caretaker Chief Minister. Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan, Late Azam Khan, Aimal Wali Khan said, was a gentle and hard-working person All leadership of the Awami National Party and party workers shared grief over the sudden death of Muhammad Azam Khan and expressed condolences with his family. Aimal Wali Khan said that we all standby with the bereaved family in this moment of sorrow.

May Allah raise the ranks of late Azam Khan and grant patience to his family to bear this irreparable loss of life, Aimal Wali Khan said. He expressed his heartfelt sorrow over the death of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam.

KP govt announces three-day mourning: Due to the sudden death of caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan, the provincial government has announced a three-day mourning period with deep sorrow and regret.

Mourning was announced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from November 11 to 13, 2023. The national flag of Pakistan will be flown at half-mast on all government offices, buildings of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the said period. All Government offices will remain open on Monday November 13, 2023.

Fifth polio case surfaces
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported that a 31-month-old child had been diagnosed with polio in Karachi, marking the fifth case in Pakistan this year. The health ministry has confirmed that the polio virus was found in a 31-month-old child from UC Gujro in Gadap Town of Karachi East. Minister for Health said that steps are being taken on an emergency basis to eradicate polio.



RIYADH: Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh.

SHC orders removal of encroachments

KARACHI (NNI): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Saturday directed the authorities concerned to remove encroachments from main arteries of the port city. SHC Justice Nadeem Akhtar heard the plea and issued directives to remove encroachments from around the Qayyumabad flyover and other areas in the metropolis. He said excessive encroachments were established around the flyover.

He stated that there are many encroachments around the highways of the city. Even if an operation is conducted, the encroachments are established again after a few days. Unmute

"It is the responsibility of the Commissioner and others to remove the encroachments," he remarked.

"Police check-posts are established where more encroachments are established. All the relevant organisations should adopt zero-tolerance policy on the issue of encroachments," he said.

The SHC judge also questioned the need for court orders to end the encroachments.

105 more arrested for May 9 events

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Police on Saturday arrested 105 more people, out of 850 involved in the incidents of May 9 attacks.

Police official sources told APP that the arrested suspects had been kept in different police stations.

They said that more than 50 of the arrested suspects had been sent to jails, adding the police had already arrested the main accused who set the Jannah House on fire.

The further process is going on, while the interrogation of the remaining persons is in process.

Sources said the police raids were underway in different areas to arrest remaining 745 accused involved in the incidents of arson. They said investigation, operations and AVLs teams had been formed to arrest the activists. The list is made on technical basis.

The Lahore Police sources said around 5,615 alleged rioters were detained across the province, following the violent riots.

Sheikh Rashid says 86 cases registered against him

ISLAMABAD (NNI): A district and sessions court on Saturday granted interim bail till November 25 to former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in a case registered at Kohsar police station relating to May 9 events.

The district and sessions court judge Tahir Abbas Sipra conducted hearing of the plea filed by Awami Muslim League chief seeking interim bail in a case registered against him at Kohsar police station.

Rashid, alongwith his lawyers Sardar Raziq and Sardar Shehbaz appeared before court.

During the proceedings, sessions judge inquired about the well-being of AML head. Rashid's lawyer said his client's name was included in FIR through a supplementary list, his house was raided and vehicles were taken away.

The court asked the senior politician to submit surety bonds of 5000 rupees. Rashid said the people who submitted surety bonds were also taken away (by agencies). The court then issued notice and deferred hearing of the case till November 25.

Later, while talking to

media persons, Rashid said he had secured bail in 20th case in Kohsar police station case. He said many innocent people were in jails who had no guarantors.

He was of the view that without good relations with institutions, any nation could not survive. Rashid said in the age of 73, he had 86 cases against him. "I secured bail in 20th case registered against me, thanks God the judge gave bail to me for only Rs5000 surety bonds. I have heard I have 66 more cases pending against me. I have not 66 guarantors," he said.

Jamal Shah visits National Museum, Library

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah visited the National Museum, National Archeology Library, Pakistan Academy of Letters and Urdu Dictionary Board here on Saturday.

Federal Minister was briefed about National Museum and other institutes by officers concerned during his visit. Syed Jamal Shah inspected artifacts, antiques and archaeological objects placed at the National Museum.

He also visited National Archeological Library and reviewed ancient and historical books. Speaking on the occasion Syed Jamal Shah said regarding expansion of the National Museum, a meeting will soon be arranged with expert architects to restore the museum in its original shape.

He said that the National Museum will be made a world-class museum so that it could attract the attention of international tourists.

Meanwhile, the Minister also visited Academy of

Letters and Urdu Dictionary Board and inspected different sections of the both organizations.

The management of Academy and the Board briefed the Minister about the affairs of the institutes. The Minister also held meeting with Urdu Dictionary Board management. Syed Jamal Shah was briefed about working and issues being faced by the Board.

On the occasion, the Minister assured resolution of all issues of Urdu Dictionary Board.

Pakistan citizens' portal registers over 5.4m complaints

ISLAMABAD (INP): The number of citizens registered on the Pakistan Citizens Portal has increased from 41.67 lakh to 5.4mn in five years.

According to media reports, during this period, 54,04,589 complaints were registered on the portal, of which 27,48,186 were filed against federal ministries and institutions.

Overseas Pakistanis made 2,63,169 complaints, foreigners made 16,932 complaints, the Punjab government received 17,19,137 complaints, KP received

5,47,000 complaints, and the Sindh government received 3,17,296 complaints.

Students filed the highest number of complaints at 8,10,000, followed by businessmen at 6,56,411 and civil service officers and employees at 4,82,000.

Engineers filed 5,05,000 complaints, teachers filed 6,84,000 complaints, social workers filed 3,14,000 complaints, and women filed 3,71,264 complaints.

The complaint redressal rate on the citizens portal was 98.67%.

The report also revealed that the most complaints were received against Sui Northern, Mapco, and BISP, while the most complaints were received against the Pakistani embassy in Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistan Citizens Portal is a one-window solution for citizens to register complaints against government departments and institutions. The portal has been instrumental in resolving citizens' issues and improving the delivery of public services.

Govt to upgrade 45 nursing colleges

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has decided to upgrade all 45 nursing colleges in the province with a cost of Rs.1.5 billion, here on Saturday.

Punjab Health Department official sources told that these colleges would be equipped with the latest medical and civil facilities by up-grading them as per with other hospitals and medical institutions. The Punjab government was taking all the steps for improvement in nursing colleges he said.

Minister for Health Punjab, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram said in a recent statement that adding new furniture, electric devices and all related facilities would be provided at these colleges. Moreover, digital libraries, skilled laboratories at the nursing colleges would also be improved.

He said that the aim and vision was to take a step in the field of nursing education and provide affordable medical facilities to the people saying that by laying the foundation of improving nursing colleges, the Punjab government would fulfill another promise.

Fifth polio case reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Saturday reported the fifth polio case of the current year.

A 31-month-old child has been diagnosed with polio in Karachi's Eastern District, said the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health.

He added after this case, the number of polio cases in Pakistan this year has increased to five. The affected child belongs to Union Council Gujri, from where the fourth case of this year was also reported.

He said that polio is an opportunistic virus as it especially targets children with low immunity, especially in areas where health facilities, nutrition, sanitation systems and vaccination rates are low.

"We are working together with our partners in the fight against polio," he added. He said that the government is ensuring all the necessary measures on an emergency basis to eradicate polio. He said that a high-quality polio campaign will be organized in high-risk areas where the virus is present. He said that mainstream and social media should play an important role in eradicating polio from the country.

PIA fined for inadequate cleanliness

KARACHI (NNI): The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) conducted an inspection of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) transit kitchen at the Karachi airport on Saturday.

The SFA imposed a fine of Rs 200,000 on the kitchen management for the inadequate cleanliness conditions. It also directed the kitchen staff and management to undergo essential training. PFA Director General Agha Fakhar Hussain supervised the inspection.

Hussain revealed that a fine of Rs 200,000 was imposed on the kitchen management for the inadequate cleanliness conditions. He said that individuals associated with food and beverage (F&B) should comply with the regulations of the Sindh Food Authority.

On the other hand, a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated that the raid was conducted by the Sindh Food Authority near the air cargo at the airport. He said that the PIA transit kitchen was located away from the cargo area at the airport.

Robbers loot 12 tola gold

KARACHI (INP): A robbery incident was reported from Karachi, where robbers took away gold worth millions from a flat located in the Napier Road area of the metropolis.

According to the details, the accused broke into the house and looted around gold worth 12 tolas from a flat in Karachi, the robbers also took away the Penny Bank of the children with them.

CM reviews progress on 43 preferential public welfare projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at Planning & Development (P&D) board office on Saturday, reviewed progress being made on 43 public welfare preferential projects through the drone footage. Chairman Planning & Development Board Iftikhar Sahu briefed the CM about physical progress made on the projects.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to the secretaries concerned to complete the ongoing projects within stipulated time period. Progress on Shahdara multi grade flyover Imamia Colony over-head bridge, Akbar Chowk flyover and Ring Road Southern Loop was reviewed during the meeting.

A briefing was given about the construction of dual road from the Wahndo Interchange up to Benazir

Chowk to link Gujranwala with the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway, construction of Abdullahpur flyover at Faisalabad and construction of road from Gajumata up to Kasur Ferozepur Road.

CM expressed his grave concern over sluggishness being shown in the pace of work on the Multan Shujaabad flyover project and directed to speed up pace of work on the project. Progress with regard to upgradation work of other hospitals including new GOR, Services, Ganga Ram, Lady Willingdon, Mayo and General Hospitals was reviewed during the meeting. A briefing was given during the meeting about the upgradation work of Lahore Zoo, Safari Park and Safe City Authority projects of Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Gujranwala. Establishment of a Cadet College Multan, Gujranwala University,

restoration of Fort Kohna Qasim Bagh Multan and establishing a park was also reviewed during the meeting.

The participants were given a briefing about PAFDA (Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority) Laboratory and Bio Gas plants. A fateha was offered for salvation of the soul of Director General Punjab Forensic Science Agency Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late.

The participants paid tributes to the invaluable services of Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late. CM remarked that Doctor Muhammad Ashraf Tahir late was an asset and his services in PFSA will always be remembered. Provincial Minister P&D Bilal Afzal, Chief Secretary, SMBR, ACS (Home), Secretaries of various departments and senior officials attended the meeting.

CTD arrests 5 terrorists in Punjab IBOs

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested five terrorists on Saturday including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander during 179 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in different cities of Punjab.

According to details, the operations were carried out in Pakpattan, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur and Sahiwal. The TTP commander was arrested from Pakpattan, official sources told APP on Saturday. Those arrested were identified as Nadeem (TTP commander), Shahbaz, Khalid, Madani and Salman Saeed.

Sources said explosive materials, two improvised explosive device (IED) bombs, prima cord, five detonators and two hand-

grenades, arms and cash were recovered from the arrested terrorists. The terrorists were planning to attack important installations, said the sources.

The CTD spokesperson said 82 suspects were arrested during 769 combing operations this week, while 31,250 people were questioned.

Lahore police conducted 5,755 IBOs this year: CCPO

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Police conducted 5,755 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) this year, with an ongoing commitment to safeguarding lives and properties of citizens.

This was stated by Lahore Police Chief Bilal Siddique Kamayana in a statement, released here on Saturday.

During these operations, a thorough examination had been conducted, encompassing 153,607 houses, 77,744 tenants and 601,599 individuals, he added.

The CCPO Lahore reported that 258 hotels, 62 guest houses, 116 hostels, and 8,516 shops were scrutinised during the search operations.

Notably, action has been taken against 1,047 individuals under the Tenancy Act, he added and concluded that the protection of the community remains a paramount responsibility for Lahore Police.

LESCO detects 247 power pilferers on 64th day of campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 247 connections from where consumers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts: Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara on the 64th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media here on Saturday that the company had also submitted FIR applications against 242 electricity thieves, out of which 125 FIRs had been registered in respective police stations, while 20 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations. The

LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

On the 64th consecutive day (Nov. 11) of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections 06 were commercial, 02 agricultural, 07 commercial and 238 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 410,236 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 22,245 million.

Apprising the media about some major power pilferers, he explained that LESCO charged Rs 700,000

detection bill against 10,000 units to an electricity pilferer in Civil Lines area; Rs 500,000 fine in the form of detection bill against 7,500 units to a customer stealing electricity in Ferozwala area; Rs 500,000 detection bill against 8,800 units to another power thief in Manawan Lahore; and Rs 200,000 detection bill to a power thief also in Chumian.

During the 64 days of grand anti-theft campaign, the spokesman mentioned, the LESCO detected pilferage on 24,965 power connections and submitted 24,712 FIR applications against electricity thieves in the relevant police stations out of which 23,879 FIRs have been registered, while 12,334 accused have so far been arrested by the police. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 46,969,557 detection units worth Rs 1,978,975,827 to all the power pilferers.

2nd phase of Tablighi Ijima to conclude on Sunday

LAHORE (APP): The second phase of the annual international congregation, Raiwind Tablighi Ijima, would conclude on Sunday, Nov 12, with final prayer, amid tight security arrangements. According to the Ijima administration, the second and final phase of Ijima 2023 had started on Thursday, Nov 9. The districts and areas participating in the second phase included Kohat, Hangu, Karam and Kazai Agency, Tirah, Dara Adam Khel, Sada, Mardan, Malakand, Dargai, Swabi, Ghazi, Tarbela, Gilgit, Besham, Bitgram, Mansehra, Chillas, Abbottabad, Kohistan, Haripur, Torgar, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan, Lodhran, Gujranwala, Gujarat,

Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, six to seven lakh people are participating in the second phase.



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KARACHI: Police personal takes action against illegal Afghan migrants during operation at last late night in provincial capital. —INP Photo



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali distributing degrees amongst students on occasion of 5th Convocation of Abdul Wali Khan University.

Returning of illegal foreigners continued

PESHAWAR (APP): The process of voluntary return and deportation of illegal foreigners continued on Nov. 10 as well and during the evacuation of 3605 foreigners through the Torkham border on Friday, last.

All of them were sent to Afghanistan, an official of the Interior Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said here. He said till Friday,

last 577 families including 1136 men, 810 women and 1453 children were sent to Afghanistan via Torkham border.

He said, a total of 1445 people have been deported from different areas of the country through Torkham border, Interior Department said.

Those deported from Peshawar, Pakistan includ-

ed 288 from Punjab, 81 from Islamabad, 24 from Azad Kashmir and 1,052 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Home Department official disclosed. A total of 200,018 people have entered Afghanistan from the Torkham border under the program so far, he informed.

He said 3056 foreigners were sent to Afghanistan

via Angwar Adda border and a total of 15260 families, 56569 men, 43769 women and 99680 children were sent back through Torkham.

Likewise, a total of 2,000,018 illegal aliens were sent to Afghanistan and a total of 91 foreigners were transferred from Peshawar Transit Center to Torkham border till Friday.

EFP advocates adoption of MNE declaration by enterprises

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Majyd Aziz, former President of the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), highlighted the significance of the Multinational Enterprises (MNE) Declaration in his keynote address during a tripartite meeting organized by EFP in Peshawar. He emphasized that the MNE Declaration provides essential guidelines for enterprises, government bodies, workers, and employer organizations regarding training, employment, working conditions, and labor standards.

Majyd Aziz underscored that the MNE Declaration also presents an opportunity to amplify positive social

and labor impacts, contributing to the achievement of Decent Work. He urged multinational companies in Pakistan to support employer organizations and facilitate labor unions. Additionally, he advocated for the government's ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Harassment and Violence at the Workplace.

Faker Alam, Secretary Labor KP, commended EFP's efforts in raising awareness and promoting the implementation of the Declaration's principles. He acknowledged that the MNE Declaration offers clear guidance on the roles

of the government, workers, and employers in realizing decent work and ensuring the sustainability of enterprises.

Dr. Yousuf Sarwar, Chairman EFP KP, welcoming the participants, stated that the tripartite meeting aimed to create awareness and enhance understanding among stakeholders regarding how businesses can positively contribute to development and adopt responsible business practices.

He expressed appreciation for the support and contribution of the ILO in organizing the program and building the capacity of constituents to promote social dialogue.

Razam Khan, President Pakistan Workers Federation KP, stressed the need for bilateral dialogue, emphasizing that the current economic challenges require joint efforts from workers and employers. He highlighted the inadequacy of the skills development system in the province, which fails to equip the workforce with the necessary skills for both local and international employment.

Muhammad Iqbal, President Muthaida Labor Federation KP, lauded EFP and ILO for organizing the tripartite meeting, emphasizing the importance of the MNE Declaration in achieving decent work rooted in labor standards.

CTD arrests 4 banned organisation facilitators

PESHAWAR (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Department has arrested the accused, allegedly involved in providing financial assistance to the banned organization, and his three facilitators on Saturday.

The CTD spokesperson stated that the arrested individual, identified as Sultan, originated from Afghanistan was allegedly involved in money laundering, and used this money for sabotage.

The CTD officials recovered foreign currency from the possession of the arrested individuals which includes 175,000 Euro, \$15,000 USD, and 44,000 Saudi Riyal.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered against all

the arrested accused.

Earlier in August 2023, the Counter-Terrorism Department foiled a major terrorism bid in Peshawar's Model Town area and killed two terrorists.

The CTD conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Peshawar's Model Town area and killed two terrorists belonging to a banned outfit.

During the operation, six terrorists escaped from the crime scene, an STC spokesperson said.

They recovered four SMGs with ammunition, bandoliers, and various other items from the possession of the dead terrorists, the spokesperson concluded.

Minister innagurates bio-safety, BRM training lab at KMU

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan here Saturday visited Khyber Medical University (KMU) where he inaugurated bio-safety and BRM training lab in its public health reference laboratory.

The Minister said that upgradation of 500 basic health units in two months was underway in the country including Khyber.

The minister said the government was endeavouring to strengthen public sector hospitals with latest equipment to facilitate patients.

For this purpose, upgradation of 500 basic health units was in progress to facilitate patients besides reducing load on big hospitals.

These units would be equipped with all modern facilities including X-Rays, ultrasound machines and others.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan praised health workers services for the nation.

The Minister visited its different sections where he was briefed by the relvent authorities about the lab.

Spl. transmission to be broadcasted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Directorate General of Information and Public Relations on Saturday taken emergency measures for arrangements of three days mourning following the sudden death of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan and the three-day mourning as announced by the provincial government.

At the same time, the regular broadcast was suspended and Natia Kalam was started at Radio Pakhtunkhwa while senior journalists and personalities associated with the caretaker Chief Minister were invited to the studio to highlight various aspects of his life and a series of special features on the life and achievements of Muhammad Azam Khan started.

Similarly, background music in news bulletins and other programs was also immediately stopped. These special broadcasts continued till late in the night.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Information and Public Relations Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah, Director General Information Muhammad Imran, and Station Director Pakhtunkhwa Radio Ghulam Hussain Ghazi have expressed deep sorrow over the sudden death of Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

In their condolence messages, they expressed heartfelt sympathies with all the members of the bereaved family of the Chief Minister and prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased.



PESHAWAR: Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan inaugurating lab in Khyber Medical University Peshawar.

Condolences pour in for Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



PESHAWAR (INP/APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan, passed away on Saturday at a private hospital in Peshawar. According to the hospital spokesperson, Khan was admitted due to a stomach infection, which led to a heart attack.

The Namaz-e-Janaza for

Muhammad Azam Khan will be held at 3:30 pm in the Parang area of Charsadda. The news of Khan's demise has invoked profound grief across the nation.

President Dr. Arif Alvi expressed deep sorrow over Khan's passing, emphasizing his integrity and commitment.

Caretaker Prime Min-

ister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar mourned Khan's loss, highlighting his dedicated service to the people and his exceptional management as the caretaker chief minister.

Numerous government officials and ministers, including Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, also extended con-

dolences to Khan's family, acknowledging his supportive and responsive nature.

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IP) President Aleem Khan expressed his heartfelt condolences upon learning about the passing of the Chief Minister. In a somber statement, he extended his sympathies to the family of the late CM.

He turned to X, formerly known as Twitter, and wrote: "Deeply saddened by the passing of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azam Khan. May his soul find peace, and may the bereaved find strength. Amen."

Governor grieves over demise of KP caretaker CM: The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the demise of Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan.

Governor KP went to Parang District Charsadda and attended the funeral

prayers of Muhammad Azam Khan.

He also condoled with family members and prayed to rest the departed soul in eternal abode with peace. He also praised services of Muhammad Azam Khan as a Chief Minister and Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary expresses grief over Caretaker Chief Minister's demise: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary Saturday expressed grief over the demise of the Caretaker Chief Minister and condoled with the family members.

In his condolence statement issued here, the Chief Secretary expressed his heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family, prayed for the forgiveness and exalted ranks of the deceased, and patience for the bereaved.

Minister LG expresses condolence over death of CM KP: Caretaker Minister for Local Bodies

and Irrigation Engineer Amer Durrani expressed

grief and sorrow over the demise of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Saturday.

I his condolences he prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

ANP condole death of KP Caretaker CM: Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan Saturday condoled the sudden death of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

In a condolence message, the Provincial President of the Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan expressed that he deeply saddened by the death of Caretaker Chief Minister Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan, Late Azam Khan, Aimal Wali Khan said, was a gen-

tle and hardworking person

All leadership of the Awami National Party and party workers shared grief over the sudden death of Muhammad Azam Khan and expressed condolences with his family. Aimal Wali Khan said that we all stand by with the bereaved family in this moment of sorrow.

May Allah raise the ranks of late Azam Khan and grant patience to his family to bear this irreparable loss of life, Aimal Wali Khan said. He expressed his heartfelt sorrow over the death of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam.

Azam Khan's death bereaves Saifullah brothers: Saifullah brothers i.e. Hamayun Saifullah Khan, Anwar Saifullah Khan and Saleem Saifullah have expressed their profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday, Saifullah brothers paid glowing tributes to the services of late caretaker chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and termed his death as irreparable loss to the nation and the country.

They prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

KP govt announces 3-day mourning over Azam Khan's demise: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government here on Saturday announced three days of official mourning over the sudden death of Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan.

The government announced official mourning from November 11-13 in KP, where the national flag would be hoisted half mast, according to an official statement here.

However, all government offices would remain open on November 13.

First three-day international conference over ICSBM-2023 concluded

PESHAWAR (APP): The first International Conference on Sustainable Business Management 2023 (ICSBM-23) organized by Institute of Business and Management Sciences (IBMS), University of Agriculture Peshawar was held with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jahan Bakht in the chair.

Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Management and Computer Sciences Prof. Dr. Daud John was the chief organizer of the conference. Dr. Muhammad Fayaz presided over the conference while Dr. Sabihullah was the focal person and Dr. Sajidur Rahman was the secretary of the conference.

The organizer of the conference Prof. Dr. Daud Jan and co-chair Dr. Muhammad Fayaz thanked the chief guests, guests, participants and sponsors and explained about the conference in detail that the purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers, academicians, practitioners and

business and related fields.

It was to provide a platform for scholars to exchange their research and experiences. The conference was attended in person and online by researchers and academics from several countries including Pakistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, USA, Australia, Romania and Poland, who discussed sustainable business practices, tourism, agricultural value chains and Islamic banking besides promoting international dialogue.

A total of around 50 influential papers were presented by the participants covering diverse topics including Agribusiness Management, Green HRM, Green Marketing, Sustainable Tourism, Islamic Banking and Finance, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Apart from the sessions on research, various industry expert sessions were held during the conference in which delegates from various industries presented

diverse perspectives. In addition, panel discussions by industry experts and academia on local businesses, especially Discussions were held on finding innovative solutions for the challenges faced by small and medium enterprises operating in the areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The chief guest, Secretary Arshad Khan and Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Jahan Bakht termed the conference as useful and expressed hope that the suggestions presented in the conference would be shared with the government so that progress can be made.

He opined that Islam places great emphasis on sustainable business practices, harmonizing economic activities with ethical and environmental considerations. Therefore, businesses should strive for sustainable development and socially responsible business practices, each reducing negative impacts on the planet, promoting ethical behavior, and

contributing to the well-being of communities.

He stressed the importance of incorporating sustainability into business practices. Apart from enhancing corporate reputation, sustainability in business is an ethical imperative, contributing to global environmental and social well-being, he said.

It's a strategic investment that not only protects the company's future, but also promotes a positive impact on the planet we share. Vice Chancellor Dr. Jahan Bakht appreciated the efforts of the faculty of the Institute of Business and Management Sciences and congratulated them for organizing the successful conference.

Finally, chief guest Secretary Arshad Khan along with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jahan Bakht and Chief Organizer Prof. Dr. Daud Jan distributed certificates and shields among the organizing committee and participants of the conference.

Bilawal to visit next week

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto will visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa next week for mobilizing party and workers for the upcoming general elections to be held in February 2024.

During the visit, PPP Chairman will address four workers conventions and two public gatherings in different parts of KP including Abbottabad, Nowshera, Dir and Chitral, said Amjad Khan Afridi, Deputy Information Secretary PPP KP.

Addressing a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club on Saturday, Amjad Afridi said during the visit, PPP Chairman will also take into confidence the party leadership and workers about strategy adopted for upcoming polls.

Amjad Afridi was confident over better position of PPP in elections and expressed the hope that people will support Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto for their pro-people's policies in the past governments.

Dense fog engulfs city suburbs

PESHAWAR (APP): The city and surrounding areas were enveloped in fog, and the children going to school faced difficulties due to the heavy fog.

Traffic flow is also badly affected due to heavy fog. The traffic police also issued an advisory to maintain the fog and avoid over-

taking by keeping their vehicles in lanes.

Besides Peshawar city, Mardan, Nowshera, and Charsadda are covered by heavy fog, creating difficulties for people reaching their respective offices and work.

After the fog, the intensity of the cold has also

increased in Peshawar and in other cities.

Traffic flow on Highway M1 is also affected due to heavy fog. However, the flow of traffic continues with the Motorway Police advisory, and the people's are asked to contact the Motorway Police to deal with any emergency.



PESHAWAR: Vehicles drive on a road during fog after recent winter rain.



In brief

Importance of Iodine salt urged F.P. Report

JAMRUD: The iodine day was being celebrated to let the people know about deficiencies of iodine. Doctors and health experts on the occasion threw light on the importance of usage of iodine and the benefits for the health of children and others. A program was held last day in this regard an awareness was also organized, on Saturday. Talking to participants, District health officer Dr Zafar Ali Khan and lady Dr Anum Afridi told that due to iodine deficiency, the mothers and their children can face problems and other health complications. Experts emphasized that all people, especially women, should always use an iodized salt so that iodine deficiency can be reduced and they and their children can lead a healthy life. The awareness program was attended by DDHO Dr Ayub Afridi, FSMO Dr Muhammad Usman, Coordinator EPI Dr Muhibullah Wazir, DNC Anum Afridi, DIMO Hayat Ahmad and other health officials. It should be noted that more than one-third people in Pakistan suffering from iodine deficiency, which includes rural districts of Upper Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other northern areas including Kaghan and Naran.

Leaders running to obtain tickets F.P. Report

BUNER: The aspirant political workers applied for party tickets for contesting next general election from Buner district while large number Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) activists applied for candidature. According to details, PML-N workers including old leaguers Shah Bakht Rawan Khan, Salar Khan, Subhan Khan, Duraj Khan, and fresh Leaguers Haji Sadiqullah, Dr Sultanul Mulk Khan, Syed Nasar Abbas Bacha, and others. However, none of them was sure party ticket being old is gold and fresh is electable. Meanwhile, ANP formally granted party ticket to Haji Rouf for NA 10. Afsar Khan PK 25, Qaisar Wali Khan PK 26 and Sardar Husain Babak PK 27. They had already started election campaign. The PK 26 and PK 27 workers conventions already convened while the PK 25 convention scheduled on 16th this month. Moreover, Jamaat e Islami had already announced candidates as Bakht Jihan NA 10, Haleem Bacha PK 25, Engineer Nasar Ali PK 26 and Rajwali Khan PK 27. The PTIP had also announced party candidates for NA 10 Sher Akbar Khan and PK 26 Bakhtiar Ali Khan and waiting for entering alliance rest of seats PK 25 and PK 27. The PPP and PTI leadership had also started meetings but yet to decide candidates. The JUI Fazal leadership had also started Meetings but yet to decide candidates. However, rest of the less popular parties including the AWP yet to decide candidates and waiting for seat adjustment.

Drug dealers arrested F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Police arrested two drug dealers and recovered 280 grams of ice and a pistol with cartridges from them during an ongoing campaign against drug dealers in the district on Saturday. According to police, under the supervision of DSP City Adnan Khan, SHO Padang police station Fazal Dayan Khan arrested the suspects during a raid in the Padang area.

Lawyers demand to initiate work on judicial complex

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Lawyers have demanded launching work on the already approved project of establishment of a judicial complex in Naurang town to ensure provision of justice to people on their doorsteps.

The demand was made at a meeting while Iqbal Hussain, Amanullah Jan Khattak, Rizwanullah Wazir, Muhammad Ayaz, Muhammad Younas Khattak, Ikramullah Khan Maidadkhel, Sahibzada Sibghatullah, Noman Khan, Nadim Khattak, Farooq Sabir, Sahibzada Shabeer Ahmad, Waheed Khan, Obaidullah Shah and Rehmatullah Wazir in attendance.

Speakers said that setting up a judicial complex in Naurang tehsil was a long standing demand of the local lawyer community. They thanked the chief justice of Peshawar High

Court and Lakki Marwat district and sessions judge and senior civil judge for their active role in realizing the genuine demand of the legal fraternity.

Sahibzada Sibghatullah said that the approval of the project was a right step towards provision of justice to people on their doorsteps. He said that the government should launch work on the project without any further delay. The lawyers said that the establishment of a judicial complex would help to rid the local residents and members of the legal fraternity from numerous problems.

Meanwhile, Lakki Marwat former tehsil nazim Advocate Faridullah Khan Meenakhel has asked the government to construct a judicial complex building on a military ground in Lakki city.

Talking to journalists, he welcomed the approval of establishing the judicial complex in Naurang and

said that the government should also set up a judicial complex in Ghaznikhel tehsil. In 2007, the government had shifted the courts from Lakki city to the newly established judicial complex at a distance of 14 kilometres near Tajazai", he claimed.

The former Nazim who is a member of district bar association said people from Lakki Marwat city and adjacent rural areas had to face numerous troubles to go to the judicial complex Tajazai on a daily basis in connection with hearing of their cases. He said that the infrastructure for courts was already available in the old kuchery and a new judicial complex could be set up on a vast tract of land of the military ground. He asked the government to build a new judicial complex on the military ground and hand over the existing infrastructure of the judicial complex near Tajazai to the defence ministry.

AWKUM employees sit-in continues

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The protest of All Employees Association of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan has entered to the third consecutive-day as they held protest set-in outside the office of vice-chancellor of AWKUM.

The employees had boycotted from their university duties with the purpose to hold protest set-in outside the VC office. The protesting employees, however, also announced that they would keep continue their protest on the eve of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali's scheduled visit on Saturday (today) to attend the university convocation.

The protesters led by association chairman Muzammil Khan, president Adnan Saeed and general secretary Jawad Sangar and accompanied by scores of

university employees were raising voices for fulfillment of their demands as well as chanted slogans against the vice-chancellor. The speakers said the university's administration, especially vice-chancellor Dr Zahoorul Haq, should stop the exploitation and "financial murder" of employees.

They rejected the "scale cutting" move by the syndicate for 700 university employees and demanded a pay raise for staff members. The speakers resented the decision to transfer 350 employees from the university's main campus to Timergara campus and demanded its immediate withdrawal. They complained about the denial of service structure to employees for the last 15 years.

The speakers claimed that the VC had no authority to call syndicate meetings and take policy decisions as his retirement was

less than a month away. They demanded inquiry by the FIA and anti-corruption establishment into the alleged about Rs.01 billion (98 crores) corruption in the university during the last three years.

The employees who had announced to carry on their protest on the occasion of governor KPK visit to AWKUM, warned that the vice-chancellor Dr. Zahoorul Haq and other relevant officials would be responsible for any untoward incident if they were stopped by force from entering the university premises.

On the other hand, the administration of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan had banned on the entry of protesting employees into the university on occasion of governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's presence in the university convocation.

Muslim nations failed to protect Palestinians

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: The President District Bar Hafizabad Malik Waqas Raza Awan has said that the Palestinians won and the Muslim world lose, more than a month of Israel's cruelties unleashing on the helpless Palestinians have gone past; leaving such an agonizing trail of her unprecedented war crimes against the civil population vis-a-vis complete silence and insensitivity shown by the Muslim World; to their hellish miseries; I had no strength left in myself to say anything on the prevalent scenario but considering the religious norms of brotherhood

He said that he has tried to remuster his wits to express humble feelings (at least) with few words of sympathy with war battered Palestinians. As we know 7 October ushered with an utter catastrophe for proud Israel; when the gallant HAMAS paragons struck their illegitimate land with continuous volleys of missiles fire followed by paralanding at their various strategic locations.

The daring HAMAS shook their entire nation with such a volcanic speed and horror that for days their leadership and traditional belligerents; mainly the USA and few others had remained choked with absolute panic and aching nerves. With Israel's militarism thrown into disarray her counter offensive had to be launched and eventually it was launched with full might and fury to punish GAZA; a narrow sanctuary lacking 2 million Palestinians.

He said that the Israel's AIR dropped tons of incendiary material and lethal weapons to wipe out GAZA STRIP. Consequently the entire residential infrastructure got turned into huge heaps of rubble, the hospitals into mortuaries and schools; juvenile's grave-

yards and number of women and children buried under debris crying for help and rescue.

This dismal situation is still continuing unabated and entire GAZA has been demolished besides a big human slaughter by air bombing and missile strikes. May there be any nation anywhere engaged in hostile operations, the eruption of horrors of war are a usual phenomenon but Israel has set an exclusively different examples of atrociousness by killing thousands of Palestinians, wild brutality against women and children and huge loss to meager household belonging to the exiled populace. However, the most painful and dismaying fact is that despite Israel's ruthless operations continuing limitlessly, the Muslim world has hardly shown any concern over such a human disaster.

Though the GAZA residents by showing highest degree of patience, perseverance and an unprecedented human endurance to bear brunt of Israel's barbarism; have virtually won the war but conversely the unimaginable silence and abnormal mental callosity shown by timid Muslim Rulers has largely doomed the Umma's traditional repute and glory.

DC inspects brick kilns: Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Sundas Irshad visited different bricks kilns in the district to review use of Zigzag technology for avoiding spread smog in the area, on Friday. Assistant Director Environment Protection Hafizabad Naveed Ahmad was also accompanied by her.

During the inspection, DC directed that officers of Environment Protection to ensure use of Zigzag Technology in bricks kilns and strict action would be taken against violators of smart lockdown. Assistant Director informed on the

occasion that officers conducted 224 inspections of different bricks kilns, three cases get registered against owners of bricks kilns whereas 13 bricks kilns playing without zigzag technology sealed as well as Rs. 2686000/- fine charged from owners of bricks kilns on committing violation of SOPs.

Meanwhile, AC Hafizabad Munawar Hussain, AC Pindi Bhattian Rashid Iqbal and Chief Officer Municipal Committee Pindi Bhattian Ikram Ullah Sandhu sealed 31 restaurants to violate smart lockdown in the district. She directed the officers of district administration to ensure hundred percent implement on orders of smart lockdown imposed by the Punjab government in the district Hafizabad.

Addressing a meeting held to review arrangements made by the district administration to ensure smart lockdown, she said that all educational institutions, markets, shopping malls, restaurants, markets, parks, gymnasiums will be remained closed from today (Saturday) in the district.

445 alleged culprits held: In-charge District Citizens Police Lesion Committee and President Awami Mahaz Hafizabad Rana Khalid Mehmood has appreciated performance of district police Hafizabad. While talking to newsmen, he said that district police Hafizabad have arrested 445 accused involved in different crimes including 198 proclaimed offenders during the special crackdown launched district police led by District Police Officer Faisal Gulzar.

Rana Khalid Mehmood said that police have returned booty of their owners. The police also conducted special operation against drugs paddlers and arrested 155 accused which is reflecting commitment of police to ensure protection of people.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George visiting District Jail.

ASJ Khyber grants bail to juvenile in smuggling F.P. Report

KHYBER: Additional Session Judge (ASJ) Khyber Qazi Ataullah granted bail to juvenile allegedly involved in the smuggling of drugs on four personal sureties along Rs4 lac surety bonds.

According to prosecution, police had arrested Shahzad alias Shahzeb on 12 October while recovering here Shahai area of Saidu Sharif Swat, Aimal Wali Khan said that some forces wanted to take the government with the support of the establishment, however, he claimed that ANP would succeed in forming the government in KP with the support of the

The counsel Farooq Rashid and Arshad Iqbal Khattak advocate argued that the petitioner is juvenile of 15 years of age while adding that police had recovered drugs from secret cavities of the vehicle. They added that the petitioner is 15 years 6 months and 27 days of age as per date of birth in school's record.

The petitioner is entitled to concession of bail within the meaning of section 6(4) of the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018, the counsel argued. Deputy Public Prosecutor Zulfikar Ali stressed argued that the juvenility could not be a sole ground for concession of bail. However, court responds that this principal was workable under the previous ordinance i.e. Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000, as it also appears from judgement of august Peshawar High Court.

ASJ Khyber Dr. Qazi Ataullah granted bail to juvenile alleged drug smuggler on four personal sureties along surety bonds of Rs4 lac to satisfaction of court.

E&T Dept kicks off NCP vehicles profiling F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Profiling of Non Custom Paid (NCP) vehicles began in Landi Kotal on Saturday. Muhammad Khalid, district Excise and Taxation office, Khyber said that in the light of the decisions of the Federal and Provincial APEX committees, the profiling of the NCP vehicles in merged districts and Malakand had started that was inevitable to improve law and order situation across the country.

The main purpose of profiling was to collect accurate information pertaining to the vehicles and its owners so that to make it possible to trace the owner and the vehicle in case of any untoward incident, he added. We have profiled 3500 NCP vehicles in Khyber so far however he said that it is impracticable to give an exact figure of the presence of NCP cars in the district.

The district excise and Taxation officer urged the masses and showrooms owners to register their vehicles with them free of cost that not only benefited them but also in the best interest of the country.

ANP to form next govt in KP: Aimal

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA Awami National Party (ANP) provincial president Aimal Wali Khan claimed that the party would form government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with power of the public and urged the masses to support his party in upcoming general elections.

This he claimed while addressing a public gathering here Shahai area of Saidu Sharif Swat, Aimal Wali Khan said that some forces wanted to take the government with the support of the establishment, however, he claimed that ANP would succeed in forming the government in KP with the support of the

masses. Local leaders of ANP Ayub Khan Asharai, Brigadier (r) Salim Khan, Sher Shan and other were also present on the occasion. Criticising former Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Aimal Wali Khan said that it was against the norms of the Pashtun soil to do disloyalty with anyone in the hard time."

Mahmood Khan parted ways with Imran Khan and formed his own political party. His corruption stories are an open secret "", he said adding that neither the new version nor the old version of the PTI was loyal to the nation. He further said that terrorists targeted ANP leadership and their workers Sa reduced their lives for the sake of

Pashtun soil, however, no power on earth could terrorize them to leave the public and the public.

"We were blamed as the agents of Russia, USA and other forces because we asked our will on our own resources. They want to occupy our fertile lands and impose section four which would not be tolerated", he said and added that some religious parties wanted to betray the public on the name of Islam and Sharia, however, he alleged that these people had done nothing for religion and Islam. Earlier local leader of PML-N Iqbal Hussain Advocate announced to parted ways with his party and announced to join ANP.

Father and son die by falling into drain in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A man identified as Israr 44 and his son Imran 22 were killed when they both fell into a drain in Darmal Payeen area of Lower Dir here on Saturday.

The Rescue 1122 medical team reached the spot and provided first aid to both of them and shifted them to the Timergara hospital. Moving scenes were witnessed when the bodies were brought to the graveyard for burial.

Police initiates crackdown against outlaw citizens: Police arrested two alleged culprits and recovered a stolen motor car and four motorcycles. Efforts to arrest six more suspects of the gang intensified, on Saturday.

In this regard, Imran Khan, SHO of Police Station Timergara, while briefing the media, said that the Police of Timergara has intensified the campaign against criminals and thieves, as a result of which they recovered valuables stolen from Timergara a week ago. One motor car and four motorcycles were recovered and two suspects were arrested. After questioning the suspects, it was found that the number of the thief gang is 8 and they belong to Lower Dir. More

sensational revelations are expected from the arrested suspects.

It is expected that the hidden suspects will be arrested soon. SHO Imran Khan said that no one will be allowed to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Timergara. On this occasion, Imran Nazir, the former senior vice president of the Chamber of Commerce Timergara, awarded rewards to SHO Imran Khan and the police party for recovering the stolen motor car and motorcycles, and after the arrest of the two accused, the recovered motor was recovered within a few days. Appreciated the efforts of Timergara Police for recovering the car.

Moreover, a father and son died after falling into the sewer and getting gas filled in Dar Mal Payin of Lower Dir police station Hayasiri. He became unconscious due to gas filling. His 22-year-old son Imran also got down to get his father out. He also fell unconscious due to gas filling. He was transferred to District Head Quarters Hospital where the doctors confirmed his death, while the third unconscious person was rescued by the medical team of the rescue team. There was chaos in the village and they were buried side by side in the

presence of mourners.

Meanwhile, Mian Shakirullah, the zonal manager of Dawood Family Takaful Timergara Lower Dir, achieved the top position in Dawood Family Takaful across the country by doing business worth crores of rupees. Ghazanfar Salam, Area Cell Manager Malik Abrar, Zonal Manager Mian Shakirullah, Group Manager Muhammad Ali, and others participated and cut the cake in celebration of the Dawood Family Takaful Timergara Zone's business of crores of rupees in the year 2023 and getting the top position across the country.

Chief Executive Ghazanfar ul Salam praised the performance of Zonal Manager Mian Shakirullah for doing business worth crores of rupees and getting the top position in Dawood Family Takaful across the country and congratulated him and his entire team and presented them with a shield.

The Chief Executive of Ghazanfarul Salam said on this occasion that Dawood Family Takaful is an interest-free and safe investment, so the account holder became a member of Dawood Family Takaful in order to protect himself. It is a sign of confidence.

5 killed as car plunges into canal in Mailsi

MULTAN (INP): At least five passengers drowned in a tragic accident when a car, en route from Mailsi to Multan for a wedding, submerged into the canal on Saturday.

According to the rescue officials, the overspeeding car went out of control and fell into the Dhamaki canal located near Mailsi city, meanwhile, all the five passengers – aged under 18 – traveling in the car were drowned.

Meanwhile, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mailsi, Rana Nadeem Iqbal, stated that the rescue operation is underway to retrieve the bodies of the drowned people, however, the rescue operation may take more than six hours.

Last month, seven people including a folksinger

Sharafat Ali were 'dead' after the car they were travelling in fell into a canal on Thursday. Rescue sources said seven people were travelling in the ill-fated car when it plunged into a canal near Paka Kanjhara in Mianwali. Singer Sharafat Ali was going to his home after attending a marriage ceremony when the accident took place. After getting the information, rescue teams reached the spot and took out the bodies and vehicle from the canal. The bodies have been shifted to DHQ Hospital.

Negligence can't be tolerated: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan Mansoor Ul Haq Rana presided over a meeting at Police Lines in which SSP Operations Multan Muhammad Imran

and SSP Investigations Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf accompanied him.

SP Sadar Division Shamsuddin Khan, SP City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi, DSPs, SHOs and other officers attended the meeting. CPO reviewed the law and order situation in the city.

CPO said to conduct search operations in their respective areas and gave necessary instructions to the special teams established in this regard. He said that no one should live illegally in the city. CPO said that strict security arrangements should be made in view of the current security situation. Duty should be imposed by establishing vintage point at safe places of all police stations.



Philippines accuses China of actions in South China Sea

MANILA (AFP): The Philippines accused the Chinese coast guard of "dangerous harassment" of Filipino boats in the disputed South China Sea, including firing a water cannon and blocking vessels on a resupply mission.

The incident happened during a Philippine mission to deliver provisions to a tiny garrison on Second Thomas Shoal, which is part of the Spratly Islands and a longstanding flashpoint between the countries. China deploys coast guard and other vessels to patrol the hotly contested region and asserts its claim to almost the entire South China Sea.

Manila said the Chinese coast guard and other vessels "recklessly harassed, blocked, executed dangerous maneuvers" as they tried to "illegally impede or obstruct" mission. A Chinese coast guard vessel fired a water cannon against one of two supply boats, according to the Philippines' National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea.

The supply mission was also the target of "extremely reckless and dangerous harassment at close proximity" by Chinese boats inside the shoal, it said in a statement, adding that the Philippine vessels still managed to deliver their cargo. China, however, said it "took control measures" against two Philippine transport boats and three coast guard vessels it insisted were in Chinese waters.

"The Philippines' actions infringe on China's territorial sovereignty," China Coast Guard spokesperson Gan Yu said. "We urge the Philippines to immediately stop its infringing actions." Second Thomas Shoal is about 200 kilometres (124 miles) from the western Philippine island of Palawan, and more than 1,000 kilometres from China's nearest major landmass, Hainan island.

A handful of Filipino troops are stationed on the crumbling BRP Sierra Madre, which the Philippine Navy grounded on the reef in 1999 to check China's advance in the waters. The troops depend on the resupply missions for their survival. The task force said the Philippine

embassy in Beijing had lodged a protest with the Chinese foreign ministry over the latest incident, which it said had "put the lives of our people at risk". "The systematic and consistent manner in which the People's Republic of China carries out these illegal and irresponsible actions puts into question and significant doubt the sincerity of its calls for peaceful dialogue," the statement said. Incident comes nearly three weeks after two collisions between Chinese and Philippine vessels during another resupply mission to the BRP Sierra Madre, with the countries trading blame.

China's intentions were clearly designed to "stop the resupply missions to the Sierra Madre", said Jay Batongbacal, director of the University of the Philippines' Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea. "The use of water cannon again is an indication of something like renewed aggressive tendencies... it's like they are demonstrating that they are not being deterred by what we've been doing," he told AFP. Analyst Richard Heydarian warned these confrontations were a "ticking time bomb", as both sides test how far the United States, Beijing's rival, is willing to either prevent outright conflict or side with ally Manila.

"I think both sides are really sleepwalking towards a potential armed confrontation," Heydarian told AFP. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has publicly criticised Chinese actions in the South China Sea, and sought stronger security ties with Japan and the United States in the face of Chinese actions in the waters. Beijing has ignored a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that its claims to almost the entire sea have no legal basis. China has instead ramped up patrols of the waters and reefs in the South China Sea over the past decade or so and built artificial islands that it has militarised to reinforce its assertion. The Philippines has outposts on nine reefs and islands in the Spratlys, including Second Thomas Shoal.

Over half of Sudan's population needs humanitarian aid: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Almost seven months of war between Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary group have left a wave of destruction with over half the population in need of humanitarian aid and raised fears of a repeat of the deadly ethnic conflict in Darfur 20 years ago.

"What is happening is verging on pure evil," the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in the African nation said. Sudan has fallen out of the spotlight since it was engulfed in chaos starting in mid-April, when simmering tensions between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and the commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open warfare.

But Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the resident UN humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, told a United Nations news conference that "the situation is horrific and grim" and "frankly, we are running out of words to describe the horror of what is happening." She stressed that "the Sudan crisis has few equals." Fighting is continuing to rage

despite the warring parties signing a statement after peace talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, pledging to protect civilians and provide unimpeded humanitarian access to the 25 million people who require assistance, she said. The warring generals made a commitment to establish a Humanitarian Forum, with UN participation, Nkweta-Salami said. And after its launch on Monday, the UN hopes that their commitments in Jeddah will be implemented.

She said the decimated health sector — with more than 70% of health facilities in conflict areas out of service — was extremely worrying giving outbreaks of cholera, dengue, malaria and measles; reports of escalating violence against civilians; and fighting spreading to Sudan's breadbasket. "What we see is rising hunger," the humanitarian coordinator said, and high levels of malnutrition among children.

The UN is targeting about 12 million people for aid — about half those in need. But its appeal for \$2.6 billion for the 2023 humanitarian response in Sudan is just

over a third funded, and Nkweta-Salami urged donors to provide additional money. She stressed that access to things like hotspots along with protection of civilians are key challenges. Nkweta-Salami was asked about her comment that "what is happening is verging on pure evil," and whether she was worried that ethnic-based violence in Sudan's vast western Darfur region would lead to a repetition of the conflict there in 2003.

It began when rebels from Darfur's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched an insurgency, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum. The government responded with a scorched-earth campaign of aerial bombings and unleashed militias known as the Janjaweed, who are accused of mass killings and rapes. Some 300,000 people died in the Darfur conflict. 2.7 million were driven from their homes, and Darfur became synonymous with genocide and war crimes, particularly by the Janjaweed.

Erdogan calling for new constitution

ANKARA (Reuters): Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan waded into a brewing judicial crisis, calling for a new constitution to resolve an unprecedented clash between two of the country's top courts, as opponents marched in Ankara. The comments stoked a debate over the role of law that erupted when the appeals Court of Cassation made a criminal complaint against judges of the Constitutional Court, which ruled last month that jailed parliamentarian Can Atalay should be released.

In a twist - which critics said highlighted the diminished state of Turkey's legal system - the top appeals court said the Constitutional Court's ruling was unconstitutional. Legal experts say the next steps in resolving the unprecedented standoff between the two courts are difficult to predict. "Unfortunately, the Constitutional Court has made many mistakes in a row at this point, which seriously saddens us," Erdogan told reporters on a flight back from Uzbekistan, according to a text published by his office.

Turkey's bar association and the main opposition party CHP have denounced the appeals court move as an "attempted coup" and hundreds of members demonstrated, many of them lawyers in legal robes, chanting "justice" on the capital's streets. They marched more than 10 km from Ankara courthouse to Ahlatlibel district, where the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation are located side by side.

Main opposition leader Ozgur Ozel said at the march that the latest judicial crisis was "an attempt by Erdogan to overhaul the constitutional order". "The president, who takes his power from the constitution, supports Court of Cassation's actions ignoring the constitution," Ozel said, urging Erdogan to protect the constitution.

In a rare move, the Court of Cassation issued a statement on the conflict, accusing the Constitutional Court dragging legal system into chaos with its rulings on individual applications. "The Court of Cassation is ready to provide necessary support for works on legal and constitutional (amendments) in order to eliminate the problems arisen by the implementation of individual applications," it said.

In comments made later at a ceremony in Ankara, Erdogan took a more moderate tone on the crisis, saying he was not siding with a party in the dispute and assuming the role of the referee. Erdogan also said the dispute between the two top courts showed the need for a new constitution, reflecting his longstanding position that parliament should take up the matter next year. The latest crisis showed that Erdogan wants "more control over Turkey's judicial system," according to Gareth Jenkins, an Istanbul-based political analyst.



GAZA: An internally displaced woman cooking while camping at Al-Shifa Hospital, where thousands of displaced Palestinians have been sheltering.

Putin and top military leaders visit military headquarters

MOSCOW (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Southern Military District headquarters in Rostov-on-Don as he assessed the state of his country's forces in Ukraine as the war drags on toward winter. It was his second public visit to the headquarters in less than a month.

Video shared by a Russian state news agency showed Putin being greeted by Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff shortly after arriving at the southern military headquarters which is less than 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Ukraine's southeastern border.

Almost 21 months of war have significantly eroded both Russia's and Ukraine's military resources. As winter comes, the fighting is likely to further settle into attritional warfare and analysts expect little change to the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line. Shortly after Putin's visit to the military headquarters, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia was pressing ahead with its goals in Ukraine.

"In the absence of conditions for a political-diplomatic settlement, we are continuing the special military operation," Peskov said. Commenting on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's promise of new gains by Kyiv's forces, Peskov said, "President Zelenskyy has been frantically promising military successes to his donors, who are worried."

"They should realize that they won't score a battlefield victory," Peskov said. "The sooner they come to realize that, the earlier conditions for a settlement could emerge." At the southern military headquarters, Putin was "introduced to new types of military equipment" and was informed about the progress of the war, Peskov said, according to Russian state news agency Tass. Putin was shown an all-terrain vehicle made by China — the Desertcross 1000-3 — according to video shared by the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. The vehicle was painted the color of sand and an information board nearby said it was designed for reconnaissance, raid and search and rescue operations, as well as for transporting materiel along bad roads.

Putin made the visit on the way back from a trip to Kazakhstan, where he aimed to cement ties with Russia's ex-Soviet neighbor and major economic partner in the midst of tensions with the West over Ukraine. Around the time that Putin was visiting Rostov-on-Don, Russia launched a drone attack on Ukraine. The Ukrainian Air Force said it intercepted five drones and one missile launched at the Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Kyiv regions of Ukraine. Another drone and missile were not intercepted. Zelenskyy's office said two people have been killed in the south of the country over the past day after Russian shelling.

Ukraine's military intelligence said it had damaged a number of Russian Serna landing craft in Crimea which are designed to carry out assault landings and transport cargo. Ukraine's Security Service also said that a man who guided a column of 128 Russian military vehicles from the northern region of Sumy to the outskirts of Kyiv in the beginning of the Russian invasion in 2022 was sentenced to 15 years in prison for treason. According to the security service, the man continued to cooperate with Russia's Federal Security Service until he was arrested as an informant in August 2022. It said his job was to show Russian troops the shortest way to reach Kyiv in the days after the invasion.

In Russia, the Russian news outlet Baza and military blogger Semyon Pegov, who runs the popular WarGonzo channel, reported on Telegram that Russian FSB Lt. Col. Sergei Shatyi was killed by unidentified assailants who fired at his vehicle in the village of Ulitsa in the Bryansk region on the border with Ukraine. At the same time, the Russian Volunteer Corps, a group of Russian citizens who fight alongside Ukrainian forces, posted pictures on their Telegram channel of what they said was a successful ambush in the Bryansk region. Neither of the reports could be verified by The Associated Press and Russia's FSB did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Taiwan, facing Chinese pressure, to stress importance of peace at summit

TAIPEI (Reuters): Taiwan will stress the importance of peace in the region at next week's APEC summit, President Tsai Ing-wen said, one of the few international bodies both Taiwan and China are members of and where their officials meet.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in San Francisco for the 30th APEC summit, the first hosted by the United States since 2011. Chinese-claimed and democratically ruled Taiwan, which takes part in APEC as "Chinese Taipei" and does not send its president to summits, has faced increased military pressure from Beijing including two rounds of major war games over the past year and a half.

Tsai told reporters at the presidential office that the first message she wanted her representative to APEC, chip giant TSMC founder Morris Chang, to send at the summit was that Taiwan was dedicated to promoting regional peace and prosperity. "At a time when the world is facing various challenges, we must work together to reduce conflicts in the region and jointly create a peaceful and stable environment for regional economic development," she said.

"Taiwan is a reliable, safe, and trustworthy partner in the international community," Tsai added. Chang, speaking after Tsai, said he believed no APEC member would oppose peace, prosperity and development.

Neither the president nor Chang, representing Tsai for the sixth time at

an APEC summit, took questions. APEC has traditionally been one of the few forums where China and Taiwan talk, even if just in passing for pleasantries. China has not formally confirmed President Xi Jinping's attendance at this year's summit.

Chang, 92, had a brief chat with Xi at last year's APEC summit in Bangkok, a rare high-level interaction. China cut off a formal talks mechanism with Taiwan after Tsai first won office in 2016, believing her to be a separatist. Tsai says only Taiwan's people can decide the island's future and strongly rejects China's sovereignty claims. While Chang is now retired from TSMC, he remains influential as the elder statesman of Taiwan's chip industry.

A turning point in Myanmar as army suffers big losses

YANGON (BBC): The military-installed president of Myanmar has warned that the country is in danger of breaking apart if the government cannot control fighting which has broken out in Shan State. Former General Myint Swe, who was appointed after a coup in 2021, was speaking at an emergency meeting held by the ruling military council to address a series of co-ordinated attacks by anti-military insurgents which have inflicted serious losses on the armed forces.

Three ethnic insurgent armies in Shan State, supported by other armed groups opposing the government, have overrun dozens of military posts, and captured border crossings and the roads carrying most of the overland trade with China. It is the most serious setback suffered by the junta since it seized power in February 2021. After two-and-a-half years of battling the armed uprising it provoked with its disastrous coup, the military is looking weak, and possibly beatable.

The government has responded with airstrikes and artillery bombardments, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes. But it has been unable to bring in reinforcements or recover the ground it has lost. Among hundreds of troops killed is believed to be the commander of government forces in northern Shan State, Brigadier General Aung Kyaw Lwin, the most senior officer killed in combat since the coup. What makes this attack even more significant is that it marks the first time that the well-armed insurgents operating in Shan State have explicitly aligned themselves and their military operations with the wider campaign to overthrow the junta and restore democratic rule.

However, there are other factors at play. These three insurgent groups have long-held ambitions to expand the territory they hold. And crucially China, which normally acts as a restraining influence on all the groups along its border with Myanmar, has not prevented this operation from going ahead. That is probably because of its frustration over the military government's inaction over the scam centres which have proliferated in Shan State. Thousands of Chinese citizens and other foreigners have been forced to work in these scam centres. The insurgents say one of their aims is to close them down.

Back in 2021, when peaceful protests against the coup were violently crushed by the military and police, opposition activists decided they had no choice but to call for a nationwide armed uprising against the junta. Many fled to areas controlled by ethnic insurgents along Myanmar's borders with Thailand, China and India, where they hoped to get access to the training and weapons most of them lacked.

Some well-established ethnic armies, like the Karen, the Kachin, the Karenni and Chin, decided to ally themselves with the National Unity Government (NUG), which was set up by the elected administration that was deposed by the coup. Others did not, notably the various groups in Shan State, a huge, lawless region bordering Thailand and China.

Perhaps best known as one of the world's biggest producers of illicit narcotics, Shan State has also recently begun hosting a booming business in casinos and scam centres. It has been blighted by conflict and poverty since Myanmar's independence in

1948, fragmented into the fiefdoms of different warlords, drug bosses or ethnic rebels who have been fighting each other and the army. Two rival insurgent forces claim to represent the Shan, the largest ethnic group, but in recent years four smaller ethnic groups have built up powerful armies.

The strongest of all of them are the Wa, with sophisticated modern weapons and around 20,000 troops backed by China. Then there are the Kokang, an ethnically Chinese group with a long tradition of insurgency; the Palaung, or Ta'ang, people of remote hilltop villages whose army has grown rapidly since its formation in 2009; and the Rakhine, who are actually from Rakhine State on the other side of Myanmar. But they have a large migrant population in the east of the country which helped establish the Arakan Army, now one of the best-equipped forces in Myanmar. The Wa agreed a ceasefire with the Myanmar military back in 1989, and have generally avoided armed clashes. They say they are neutral in the conflict between the junta and the opposition. But they are presumed to be the source of many of the weapons heading to the anti-military resistance groups in the rest of the country.

The other three ethnic armies - the Kokang MNDAA, the Ta'ang TNLA and the Arakan Army - have formed themselves into what they call the Brotherhood Alliance. They have all clashed repeatedly with the military since the coup, but always over their own territorial interests, not in support of the NUG. These three insurgent groups have discreetly given sanctuary, military training and some weapons to dissidents from other parts of Myanmar. But, situated as they are on the Chinese border, they have also

had to consider China's concerns, which are to keep the border stable and trade flowing. China has been giving diplomatic support to the junta and kept its distance from the NUG.

In June this year, under pressure from China, the Brotherhood Alliance agreed to join peace talks with the military, although these quickly broke down. But they still appeared to be staying out of the wider civil war. Operation 1027 - so-called because it was launched on 27 October - has changed that. They have made dramatic progress. Entire army units have surrendered without a fight. The alliance say they have taken more than 100 military posts, and four towns, including the border crossing at Chinshwehaw, and Hsenwi, which straddles the road to Muse, the main gateway to China.

They have blown up bridges to prevent military reinforcements from being brought in, and have surrounded the town of Laukaing, where many scam centres are run by families allied to the junta. Thousands of foreign nationals are believed to be trapped in Laukaing, where there is growing chaos as people queue for the limited food left in the town. China has warned all its citizens to evacuate via the nearest border crossing.

The Brotherhood Alliance say their ultimate goal now, like that of the NUG, is to overthrow the military government. The NUG, whose volunteer fighters have been waging a desperately unequal armed struggle against the full might of the army and air force, has applauded the alliance's success, and talked about a new momentum in their struggle. Pro-NUG People's Defence Forces, which are not as well-armed or experienced as the Shan insurgents, have launched

their own attacks in areas near Shan State to take advantage of the military's apparent weakness, and have for the first time captured a district capital from government forces.

The Brotherhood Alliance timed their attack carefully, right after an incident in Laukaing which snapped China's patience with the junta. For the past year the Chinese government has been pressing the military government to do more to shut down the scam centres, which are largely run by Chinese syndicates. They have become an embarrassment to Beijing after widespread publicity about the brutal treatment of the trafficking victims trapped in them.

Chinese pressure persuaded many of the Shan groups, like the Wa, to hand people suspected of involvement in the scams to the police in China. More than 4,000 were sent over the border between August and October. But the families in Laukaing balked at shutting down a business which had been generating billions of dollars a year for them. Sources from the area have told the BBC that there was then an attempt to free some of the thousands of people held in Laukaing on 20 October, which went wrong.

Guards working for the scam centres are believed to have killed a number of those attempting to escape. That resulted in a strongly worded letter of protest being sent by the municipal government in the adjacent Chinese province demanding that those responsible be brought to justice. The Brotherhood Alliance saw their opportunity and attacked, promising they would shut down the scam centres to assuage China. China has publicly called for a ceasefire, but alliance spokesmen say they have

received no direct request from the Chinese government to stop fighting.

But their longer term aim is also to gain as much ground as they can, in anticipation of a potential collapse of the military government. This would put them in the strongest possible position for the negotiations, promised by the NUG if the junta is overthrown, on a new federal structure for Myanmar. The TNLA has long wanted to expand the area it controls beyond the small Ta'ang self-administered zone allotted to them in the constitution.

The MNDAA wants to recover the control of Laukaing and the adjacent border which it lost in a military operation in 2009, one led by none other than Myanmar's military chief General Min Aung Hlaing. And everyone is watching the Arakan Army. It has so far only been supporting the fighting in Shan State. If it chooses to attack the military in Rakhine State, where it has most of its forces and already controls many towns and villages, the junta would find itself dangerously overstretched. As a TNLA spokesman told the BBC, his group no longer sees any value in negotiating with the military government because it lacks legitimacy.

Any deal they strike would be invalidated by a future elected government. The Ta'ang, the Kokang and the Wa share the goal of winning constitutional recognition of statehood for their people within a new federal system. In joining the fight these groups may help bring an end to military rule in Myanmar. But their aspirations, which are bound to conflict with the interests of other groups in Shan State, are a portent of the many challenges which will confront those trying to map out a democratic future for Myanmar.

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Judge and justice of own choice

SUPREME Court's Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi who was due to submit his reply to the show cause notice issued to him by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on complaints registered against him, came up with objections on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and two other members of the top Judicial body. According to him, their participation in the proceedings resulting in a show cause notice being issued to him taints those proceedings, inter alia, with bias and makes all orders passed in such proceedings as being without lawful authority and of no legal effect. The judge objected that CJP Isa and Justice Afghan being the chairman and member of the inquiry commission, respectively, investigating the audio leaks case against him, cannot participate in the Supreme Judicial Council's proceedings in the follow-up of his case. Meanwhile, the inquiry commission proceedings are sub judice. Justice Naqvi also urged the two judges to recuse themselves from hearing the complaints against him in the council. He also barred Justice Sardar Tariq Masood from hearing those complaints as a member of SJC after having expressed an opinion against him.

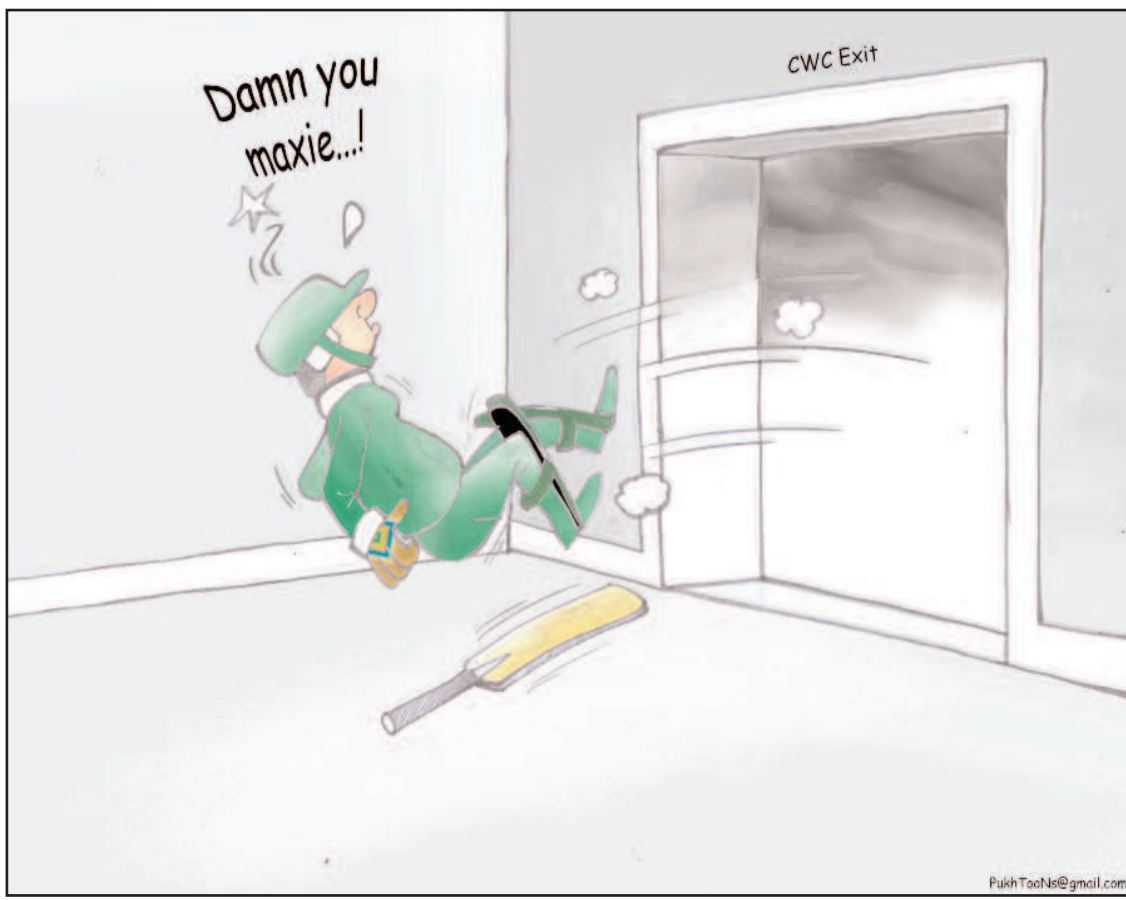
The persistent political unrest and dogfight between the parties, not only eroded people's trust in the public institutions but this curse seriously polarized and corrupted our national institutions, and undermined institutional discipline and professional ethics. The institutional politics not only disturbed the working environment of the national institutions but prompted intra-institutional grouping and rivalries among the government servants and senior executives. Over the decades, the Pakistani judiciary fell victim to multiple institutional biases including nepotism, corruption and no accountability of adjudicators and the lower staff that turned the justice delivery into a lucrative business causing serious social and legal issues for the society, system as well as the government. Although, there had been rumours in public regarding the trading of justice, the availability of paid witnesses and frontmen of the adjudicators who help facilitate the criminals in bartering bail/pardon in reward of money/ plots or luxuries vehicles for the adjudicators and their family members. However, the former Army Chief General Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa categorically accused the senior judges in his recent interview of shedding off merit and transparency in their under-trial cases in the fulfilment of mere desires of their family members, spouses, and children through the announcement of biased verdicts and serving of tainted justice.

Unfortunately, Justice Naqvi also faces similar charges of corruption, abuse of power and professional misconduct on the part of the senior judge. Previously, the PDM coalition government constituted an inquiry commission comprising three Supreme Court judges including the current Chief Justice Qazi Fiaz Isa, Justice Tariq Afghan and Justice Aamer Farooq to confirm the validity of the allegations against Justice Naqvi, about whom he objected recently. The honourable judge used his right of appeal and free trial at the early stage of his case making first rebuttal to his opponents and paving the way for the constitution of a friendly forum to decide his guilt or otherwise. Apparently, it was a lack of trust or a sense of guilt that prompted the senior judge on a pre-emptive strategy, otherwise, It would be better if the honourable judge presented evidence supporting his innocence instead of maligning others so the process of justice could be accomplished and an example of high professional morals be set in this country.

Realistically, our judiciary failed to set high morals and professional standards as an institution, while the top judges always sought their personal agendas, PR and monetary incentives in the past that pushed this important institution into acute degradation in its domain. Interestingly, everyone in this country intends to implement strict laws for others and desire stern justice for his adversary but unfortunately, no one desires the same definition and the same implementation of the law for himself and his loved one. Each individual needs an investigator, judge and jury of his own choice that declares him honest and pure, otherwise justice has no means for him. Hence, no rule of law exists, the lawlessness, nepotism and corruption flourish in all nooks and corners of this nation.

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Health institutions must demand an end to Israel's atrocities in Gaza

Meena Hasan

EVERY morning for over three weeks, since the attacks on Gaza started, I have been waking up with a deep sense of dread about what I will see on my phone screen. This past summer, I was a public health student in the occupied West Bank on a Harvard University-sponsored programme. My classmates, many of them Palestinians from Gaza, had set up a WhatsApp group for us to arrange transport to the university or make plans for after-class meet ups.

Now, that WhatsApp group serves a much different purpose. Every night my former classmates share updates about their situation. "They're bombing our neighbourhood, our home was destroyed." "We're okay but the lack of food and water is a real problem." "They flattened the bakery." "The hospitals have no fuel to keep operating." Their messages fill me with intense, at times contradictory feelings. Every morning, I feel relieved to see their names on my phone - to confirm that they are still alive. But I also despair at reading about the new calamities they suffered while I slept. Reading these messages describing Gaza's desperate situation also deepen my disappointment in and frustration towards medical and public health institutions in the United States. The programme I attended in the West Bank this summer was aimed at exposing students to the social and structural factors that ultimately determine Palestinian health. During the course, we learned how the health of Palestinians is deeply intertwined and impacted by the illegal military occupation of their lands. Water, food security, access to green spaces, employment, education, violence, housing, healthcare quality - all of these and more are impacted by the Israeli occupation and contribute to significant disparities in health outcomes for the Palestinian people. The World Health Organization has also said social determinants of health like these account for up to 55 percent of the health outcomes for populations. Contributing factors from non-health sectors can exceed those from within the health sector in terms of their impact on

health outcomes.

During my studies at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, I came to realise how fundamental understanding - and addressing - these issues is to our discipline. As a physician, I know that when these external factors

Doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers, and medical students, have been killed and maimed. As someone educated in public health and working as a physician, I know well that the death and destruction we are witnessing in Gaza today will cause further

In Gaza today, every single socioeconomic and structural determinant of health including water, food, sanitation, access to medical care, and housing is being intentionally undermined by Israel. Yet most medical and public health institutions do not seem to have much to say about the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe. In Gaza, healthcare settings are being targeted in violation of international law.

are not addressed, I am stifled in my capacity to care for my patients to help them get healthier, no matter how extensively trained I am in medicine.

This is why as I receive message after message from my friends in Gaza about the siege, about the lack of electricity, water, fuel, and medical supplies, about the many attacks on health facilities and medical personnel, I cannot help but be disheartened by the deafening silence of our public health institutions on the issue.

In Gaza today, every single socioeconomic and structural determinant of health including water, food, sanitation, access to medical care, and housing is being intentionally undermined by Israel. Yet most medical and public health institutions do not seem to have much to say about the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

In Gaza, healthcare settings are being targeted in violation of international law. Healthcare staff, emergency medical responders, in fact, the entire healthcare system of the strip is under total siege. Doctors are performing surgeries by mobile phone light. Hospitals are running out of burn dressings. Medical providers don't have what they need to provide even the most basic level of care.

health challenges tomorrow. Lack of sanitation will lead to the rapid spread of many infectious diseases. Many will develop respiratory conditions from explosive pollution and white phosphorus fumes. Some of those who survive the war will suffer from severe psychological trauma, and countless other medical problems, for many years to come.

To be clear, the crisis within Palestinian healthcare did not start with this latest escalation. When I visited a community centre in a West Bank refugee camp this past summer, I saw many patients with chronic respiratory issues, linked to the frequent tear gas used by the Israeli military in their community. Palestinians, like many Indigenous people, also already face higher rates of chronic diseases including diabetes and respiratory conditions than non-indigenous populations. After Israel's war on Gaza, management of these existing diseases will be much more difficult for many Palestinians. In Gaza and the occupied West Bank, a public health catastrophe of unprecedented proportions is happening right now. And yet, our medical and public health institutions are remaining silent.

If these institutions, including medical schools

training the next generation of health professionals, continue to advocate for and teach the importance of social justice, appropriate crisis response, and addressing the social determinants of health, then they must speak up against the genocide unfolding before our eyes in Gaza. They must condemn the attacks on healthcare workers and infrastructure in Gaza and demand an end to the collective punishment of a besieged population. To be silent now when advocacy and public opinion can sway the course of this disaster is a dereliction of our duty to uphold public health and medical principles, particularly in a health crisis.

Those of us speaking out have been met with efforts to silence, suppress, bully and accusations of anti-semitism. Students at Harvard and universities across the US are fearful for their jobs and personal safety merely for speaking out against the unfolding atrocities in Gaza. Rather than creating a hostile atmosphere where health practitioners feel afraid to call out Israel's collective punishment of the people of Gaza, our institutions should support us in upholding our commitment to the common good. Medical professionals and public health leaders have a responsibility to advocate for the health of all and address the systems and structures that cause unjust health inequities between people. We cannot stay silent while a genocidal campaign and an illegal blockade of resources continue in Gaza, knowing that this will undermine the health of the Palestinian people for generations to come. We cannot stow away in the ivory towers of academia or hide behind the bureaucracy of our public health institutions. We need to collectively take a stand for the people of Palestine and demand their right to health. It is hypocritical of people with medical and public health training to ignore what is happening.

Now is the time for our medical and public health institutions to be firm and advocate to stop civilian casualties and end the blockade on Gaza. Support students and faculty who are doing the same. This is part of our duty, our ethos, and our jobs.

Gaza war exposes Western media's selective storytelling

Jyotsna Mohan

IN an Orwellian take, history is not just notoriously compromised, its very foundation is rooted out to be casually replaced by a narrative that has no beginning, only an end. Repeated enough times, the lie becomes the truth. Something distressingly similar is unfolding around the tragedy in Gaza where a section of the western media continues to tell a dystopian version of events unfolding in real time.

A month after the hostage crisis, Western television networks still berate Palestinian guests, for their own oppression and for a collective western guilt unless, they come across a Bassem Youssef, the Egyptian comedian. But on most days' conversations in studios are a pendulum that swings back to its starting point. It is the hill on which the media's conscience has died for what is glossed over is the death toll in Gaza, the 10,000 and counting includes 3000 children born into a land where innocence is lost before even the joy of a first toy. The cardinal rule of journalism is that there are two sides to a story. In a news cycle, news is gathered, disseminated, and put out for consumption. The process is no different than brushing teeth before bedtime. Through its one-sided coverage several global media houses have gone straight to bed, its thoughts whitewashed.

The story they choose to tell is as far removed from the ground as the US is to outlawing guns or controlling racism. Says Palestine's permanent observer to the UN Riyad Mansour, "History for some media and politicians starts when Israelis are killed." Celebrated Israeli writer Yuval Noah Harari writes in the 'Sapiens' that humans have been living in dual realities - physical and imagined - since the cognitive revolution. "Unlike lying, an imagined reality is something that everyone believes in, and as long as this communal belief persists, the imagined reality exerts force in the world." Ironically, nowhere is this imagined reality more forceful than in the defence of Israel's actions by some sections of American and European media. The world 'evolution' as it was once envisaged has gone through its own fiction, in modern civilisation people are more unequal than they are equal.

Is it the colour of skin, is it their displacement or is it the social construct where people who survive in the world's largest open-air prison cannot have the same voice as those who control their land, air, and water? Burying the voice of those already silenced is the first fail of journalism in what is turning out to be a moment of reckoning for global media. In 2018 one of America's most respected newspapers headlined that dozens of Palestinians 'died' in protests as the US prepared to open its embassy in Jerusalem. In October this year there was a similar tilt in a British headline which reported that 500 people 'died' in Gaza after Israel's retaliatory air strikes while more than 700 people were 'killed' in Israel since the Hamas attack. The media's

confirmation bias is an overreach especially in conflict reporting where instead of inciting emotions, its job is also to dial down the warmongering, both in thoughts and language. The objectifying of people by the media where one race is dying but another is the only one being killed is the othering that syncs historically with the apartheid in South Africa and the British subjugation of its colonies. Strangely no questions are being asked on the existence of the medieval system of the ruler and the subjugated, anti-Semitism is also at play on the other side of the divide, it however remains unchallenged that while Hamas killed, IDF continues to kill, many times over.

Guilty until proven innocent, judge and jury sitting in some television studios or writing the front pages have given their verdict. It is indisputable that for every rightful coverage of the Israelis hostages there is an equal lack of coverage of the victims in Gaza who have lived a lifetime in the same month. It is here that injured girls ask are they being buried and doctors in hospitals realise that the next patient is their own daughter. Russia-Ukraine war made Kiev the global underdog and Zelenskyy a Time magazine cover. The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called it war crimes for "cutting off men, women, children of water, electricity ... acts of pure terror." Leyen has not spoken recently nor has the media asked. Culture's impact on political dynamics as well as journalism is by no means meagre. Does the understanding of sociocultural boundaries allow for the slant in coverage? Is that why Zelensky is a poster boy for the west while the sovereignty of countries like Afghanistan and Iraq can easily be violated to protect American interests? Predictably among the biggest supporters of the Israeli assault on Gaza are sections of the Indian media which have long gone to the dark side. Its narrative is broadly and unapologetically ideological but in its coverage of the Israel war, it is like the puppy wagging its tail while the big boys go out to play.

Hope though comes from the very place where the sun is no longer shining, Gaza. It is here that journalism is being tested, it is also here that above and beyond the call of duty is being redefined. A reporter lost his wife, son and daughter in an Israeli air strike but was at work 24 hours later, a news channel engineer lost 19 family members and there is more to come. Fighting the social media warfare of fake information photo-journalist Motaz Azaiza's daily posts on Instagram are searing. "I don't feel like I am going to make it to the end, so please forgive me," he says. Another journalist who lost his colleague half an hour before his live report ripped his press jacket and helmet on air, "we are only waiting to die." It is to these brave journalists that their western counterparts in news studios are doing the gravest injustice. Truth can never be selective.

Gulf News

Resolving Hong Kong conundrum key to US-China APEC summit

Frank Ching

AFTER months of intense diplomacy, the White House press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre, announced Oct. 31 that US President Joe Biden will meet with Xi Jinping in November when the Chinese leader is expected to visit San Francisco to take part in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The following day in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said, somewhat tentatively, that the two countries had "agreed to work together for a meeting between the two heads of state," adding that, as Foreign Minister Wang Yi had said, "the road to San Francisco cannot rely on autonomous driving," meaning that there was still work to be done. Neither spokesperson mentioned Hong Kong, although a Biden-Xi summit was inconceivable without an understanding on the treat-

ment to be accorded by Washington to the city's chief executive, John Lee, who as leader of an APEC member was entitled to attend the San Francisco meeting but who, as someone sanctioned by Washington, was barred from entering the United States, this year's host.

"With a part of his own country excluded, how could Xi come to the United States?" a leading American Sinologist asked rhetorically, alluding to Washington's desire to bar Lee but welcome Xi. Arguably, what Lee did after China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong in 2020 when he was the city's secretary for security - which the United States interpreted as "undermining Hong Kong's autonomy" - was to carry out orders from Beijing that ultimately emanated from Xi. So, ironically, the United States penalized an official who followed orders while wooing the

boss who issued those orders.

The United States was eager for Xi, the Chinese leader, to attend the Nov. 15-17 APEC leaders meeting to enable a Biden-Xi summit on its sidelines. Earlier hopes of a Biden-Xi meeting in New Delhi during the Group of 20 summit in September vanished after Xi failed to show up. The conundrum posed by Hong Kong and whether its leader should be invited to San Francisco was evident to all parties for many months. Under APEC's rules and conventions, the rotating host would invite all other member economies to attend meetings during the year, including the leaders to attend APEC's annual summit.

Within the United States Congress, however, there were those who felt that since Lee had been sanctioned, he was barred from

entering the country and hence should not be issued an invitation, while both China and Hong Kong insisted on Lee's right to attend. How could this conundrum be resolved? Without a resolution satisfactory to all three parties, there could be no United States-China summit meeting in San Francisco.

Last February, then deputy secretary Wendy Sherman of the State Department informed Congress in writing that the United States intended to invite Lee. However, no action was taken for months. Within Hong Kong, the media was alert to the possibility that Chief Executive Lee, a sanctioned individual, might not be issued a visa to attend the San Francisco meeting.

On May 30, at a news conference, Lee was asked if he would attend the APEC meeting if

Washington did not lift the sanctions on him. The Hong Kong leader responded: "According to APEC rules and conventions, the organizer has the responsibility to invite members to attend. Hong Kong, China, has been a member of APEC and has been taking part in APEC conferences in accordance with APEC rules and conventions. It is up to the organizer to act in accordance with these conventions." In June, four US legislators - two Republicans and two Democrats - wrote a letter urging the State Department to bar the Hong Kong leader, calling him a "human rights abuser."

Then, on June 13, the State Department, in an about-turn, informed Congress that the Sherman assertion that the United States intended to invite Lee was "incorrect" and had been "inadvertently transmitted to Congress." Instead, the department

said, no decision had been made. In the following months, nothing was said by the State Department or the White House regarding Hong Kong's participation in APEC, but the impression grew that Chief Executive Lee would be barred while a lesser Hong Kong official might be acceptable.

For Hong Kong, the compromise means that there is no precedent for excluding its leader from future summits of APEC or other international bodies of which the city is a member. For the rest of the world, it means that the leaders of China and the United States will get to discuss tough issues, some of which could lead to war. Already, preliminary talks on arms control and non-proliferation are being held. Outcomes are not assured but talking is much more likely to result in better understanding than not talking.

The Japan Times

What to know ahead of third Republican Presidential debate

FORMER President Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican Party's 2024 presidential nomination, will be a no-show at the third candidates debate Wednesday night in Florida, opting instead to host an event nearby. But five other conservative presidential hopefuls will be looking for breakthroughs.

Wednesday's debate will be broadcast live from the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County from 8 to 10 p.m. Eastern time on NBC News and Rumble, a livestreaming platform. Since the first Republican debate in Milwaukee more than two months ago, former Vice President Mike Pence has left the race and former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota have been swept aside, having raised too little money to qualify for Wednesday night's forum.

Those still in contention - and willing to show up to the debate - are Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, biotech businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and US Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina. Here's what to know about the candidates' positions on key issues that are likely to come up.

There are two competing approaches to foreign policy to look for tonight: hawkish neo-conservatism from Haley and isolationism - Trump's brand of diplomacy that Ramaswamy and DeSantis seem to be mimicking. Haley sees military aid to Israel and Ukraine as crucial to preserving Western interests abroad.

Gabriel Levin

Scott and Christie agree that helping Israel and Ukraine in their war efforts is crucial. Ramaswamy, on the other hand, wants out of what he calls "no-win wars" and recently said the US's job is not "to be the global police." To Ramaswamy, successful foreign policy means cutting off many US allies from support.

DeSantis has similarly argued that helping Ukraine's counteroffensive is not a priority, echoing Trump's controversial "America first" stance. Super political action committees for Haley and DeSantis have repeatedly aired campaign ads accusing each other of being too easy on China. Those ads leveled claims that fact-checkers have called into doubt, including that Haley allowed a Chinese corporation to "get dangerously close" to a US Army base and another that "DeSantis voted to fast-track" Obama-era trade deals with China. Expect Haley and DeSantis to defend themselves and spar over their views on China and more.

Progressives made inroads in state-level elections Tuesday in winning back abortion rights, which the US Supreme Court returned to the states' purview when it struck down Roe v. Wade in June 2022. Some states have greatly restricted abortion rights since then. The Republican candidates differ in their views on abortion. Haley, DeSantis and Scott would sign a nationwide ban on abortions after 15 weeks. They haven't said whether they would allow exceptions in instances of rape or incest or when a pregnancy could be fatal. Ramaswamy and Christie,

while both personally against abortions, have said that they would not support a federal ban, citing the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution, which some legal scholars say gives decision-making authority over abortion bans to the states. Ramaswamy has advocated for six-week abortion bans at the state level but said he wouldn't use executive authority to impose them. Both Ramaswamy and Christie support exceptions in instances of rape or incest or when a pregnancy could be fatal.

As governor of Florida, DeSantis helped outlaw mifepristone, a hormone-blocking drug that is used in medication abortions. Haley has said the legality of mifepristone should be decided by elected officials at the state level. Ramaswamy, Christie and Scott haven't elaborated their positions on mifepristone.

Ramaswamy, himself the child of immigrants, has perhaps the harshest policies on immigration. He has said that he would deport every undocumented immigrant and deploy the military at the southern US border to halt any more mass crossings. Haley has said she would make it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to find jobs and that immigration officials should carry out deportations. DeSantis has said he would deport undocumented immigrants, particularly those who overstay their visas or are found guilty of crimes. In Florida, he clamped down on undocumented immigration. Scott has supported bringing back Title 42, which forces out migrants without any legal proceedings, but hasn't said whether he would deport undocumented

immigrants.

Of all the contenders, Ramaswamy has been the least critical of Trump. As Haley and DeSantis vie for second place, expect them to make their cases for why Republican voters should want them over Trump. DeSantis hasn't said whether he thinks human activity is the main cause of climate change. Haley, Christie and Scott, however, have. Ramaswamy has said that human activity causing climate change is probable but has never expressed certainty. Ramaswamy and Scott have publicly doubted that climate change is making natural disasters more lethal, with Ramaswamy having said at the first Republican debate that "the climate change agenda is a hoax." All the candidates who will take the stage at tonight's debate have said that the market is better suited than the government to handle climate change. DeSantis, Haley, Ramaswamy and Scott are opposed to rebate programs for drivers of clean-energy vehicles. Christie hasn't given his position on tax credits yet.

If the impacts of climate change come up, expect Ramaswamy to be the most vocal denier as in previous debates. All the candidates who will appear at tonight's debate are against restricting access to firearms for those who might pose threats to themselves or others. They also oppose expanding background checks, except for Ramaswamy, who hasn't yet made his opinions on that known. Of all the topics that might come up tonight, what to do - or not to do - about gun violence will likely be among the least contentious for the candidates, who broadly see eye to eye on the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

VOA

Stalemate in Ukraine is hesitant West's fault

Boris Bondarev

assistance to Ukraine.

Unsurprisingly, the Ukraine debacle is leading more people to call for both sides to negotiate a peace agreement. The fact that Putin has repeatedly shown he will neither negotiate nor respect international agreements does not give these people pause for thought. Some experts even suggest giving Ukraine some kind of security guarantee - without admission to NATO - in exchange for territorial concessions to Russia in the hope of ending the war. What kind of guarantees can these be? Without recalling the notorious Budapest Memorandum, we must honestly state that the only way to stop Putin's aggression against the remnants of Ukraine has to be an unequivocal commitment from NATO countries to enter the war against the aggressor. Only the prospect of encountering US troops on the battlefield, which US President Joe Biden has ruled out, could have a sobering effect on Putin, whose worldview is inspired by

country from Ukraine. It is quite capable of eliminating Hamas with its own forces, as long as there is no threat of a full-scale invasion by the surrounding Arab states. Since Hamas is unlikely to escalate the situation to a nuclear conflict, the West sees it as safe enough to send aircraft carriers to support Israel. It is more than likely that Russia will be emboldened further as a result of calls for Ukraine to make peace. Washington has shown it is unwilling to make room for others in its strategic interests. Seeing this, countries that would have relied on the United States for protection against a Russian invasion will realize that in such an event, Washington would rebuke Moscow with little but stern warnings and more financial sanctions.

It is hard to imagine Biden sending troops to Estonia, for example, in the event of a Russian invasion. That would involve direct military confrontation with a nuclear power. NATO is turning into a paper tiger by the day - and the whole world can see it. This increases the likelihood that there will soon be

And then began the fanfare around all kinds of arms and equipment being sent to Kyiv. HIMARS systems were described as a sort of miracle weapon, and then so were German-made Leopard tanks. More recently, hopes have been pinned on ATACMS missiles and, finally, on F-16 airplanes. Apparently, the plan is that these weapons systems alone will drive Russian troops out of Ukraine. But no single weapon can win a war. At least not when they are supplied in such small numbers and so slowly. What does win wars is the ability to use all available forces and means at once in the best possible way. Any military textbook will tell you this. The failure of Ukraine's counteroffensive was the obvious outcome of NATO's half-hearted policy of supporting Kyiv, which is based on the two paradoxical assumptions that the Russian army is weak on the battlefield, but the West still has reasons to fear escalation. It is this fear that paralyzes any effective assistance to Ukraine. Unsurprisingly, the Ukraine debacle is leading more people to call for both sides to negotiate a peace agreement.

the weakness of the West. And even then, it is no longer a sure thing.

However, it is not very clear why such guarantees cannot be given right now. But the only thing that Western strategists are not afraid of is demonstrating their fear of any possible slightest serious escalation of the war.

Any outcome of the war without a return to the status quo, at least as of Feb. 23, 2022, would mean defeat for Ukraine. For Russia, retaining the captured territories would be a tangible victory. Thus, the signing of any peace agreement will consolidate Putin's victory over not only Ukraine, but over the entire West, which loudly promised to help Kyiv resist aggression in every possible way. Thus, Putin will turn into a man who inflicted a shameful defeat on the United States and all of NATO. This will not go unnoticed in a world where many openly hope for such an outcome.

Ukraine's surrender would also mean NATO's surrender to a country whose economic resources are no match for the combined power of the West. But the amount of resources you have is not so important as whether you are willing to devote them to your goal. In addition, NATO's failure to ensure adequate production of weapons and ammunition has led to available stocks becoming exhausted. How did NATO plan to fight off Russian aggression without the means to produce everything necessary?

Recently, the renewed tensions in the Middle East have shifted international focus away from Ukraine. It should be noted that Israel is a very different

more actors willing to test NATO's strength. One of Putin's conditions for a ceasefire, even a temporary one, would be a commitment from the West to lift all or at least part of the sanctions on Moscow. This would leave the US and EU in an awkward position if their unwillingness to do this jeopardizes a peace agreement when Moscow says they are open to one. It hardly needs to be said that lifting sanctions on Russia after signing documents recognizing the defeat of Ukraine will finally undermine the credibility of the West in the eyes of the world community.

In 2022, history offered the West an opportunity to win World War III on foreign territory, thus preventing the war from spreading around the world. The West's leaders apparently decided to refrain from this. The result will be the end of the era of the liberal world order built on the founding of the United Nations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together with the departure of this order, the quiet, safe life enjoyed by the US and Europe will be gone. They only have themselves to blame - for their fear and unwillingness to stand up for that very peaceful life. The West doesn't want to fight - so the war will come to them. As Winston Churchill said, appeasing an aggressor means being "defeated without starting a war." Again, as he said, appeasement has thrown the equilibrium of Europe into disarray, leaving Western democracies "wanting" in the face of aggression. Once again, history is teaching us that nobody learns from it.

The Moscow Times

Will Russia send women into combat in Ukraine?

Jennifer G. Mathers

WHO fights for Russia in its war in Ukraine? Until now, the answer has been clear: men. Women are scarcely found among the Russian soldiers who have invaded the country, occupied its territory, killed and been killed, and committed some of the most horrifying war crimes that we have seen in the recent past.

But there are some signs that this could be changing. In October 2023, the Borz Battalion of Redut, a mercenary group under the control of Russia's Defense Ministry, posted an advertisement on Russian social media seeking women for combat roles in Ukraine. This follows reports in July 2023 that the Defense Ministry was recruiting women to serve in support roles such as doctors and cooks. In March 2023, inmates from Russian women's prisons were being recruited to serve in Ukraine, perhaps in combat.

Recruiting new soldiers into a state's military forces seems straightforward: attract (or compel) enough citizens with the right skills and abilities (or the capacity to acquire them) and let training and discipline do the rest. But this apparently simple process is complicated by the ideas states, governments and societies have about what makes an ideal soldier. This is because soldiers are not simply individuals who are authorized to use violence to defend the state within its borders and project the state's power beyond them. Soldiers also represent the state,

both literally and symbolically. From the beginning of his first presidency, Vladimir Putin has made it his mission to build Russia into a strong state and reclaim its status as a great power after the turbulent 1990s. Crucially, Putin's definition of a strong state is one with masculine traits such as toughness, ruthlessness and, above all, the ability and willingness to use force to achieve its objectives.

The chief instruments of Putin's strong state are the Armed Forces, together with the other security forces, or "power ministries." All are male-dominated, both in their composition and in their leadership. There is one woman Deputy Defense Minister, Tatiana Shevstova. But her remit is finance and economics stemming from her professional background in the Federal Tax Service. Russia's security services do not have a good track record of enabling women to rise through their ranks to leadership positions. Instead, women in Putin's Russia are called upon to be loyal wives and mothers, providing emotional and practical support for their male relatives who are called to fight. The absence of women from masculine spaces like the Armed Forces is entirely consistent with the state's efforts such as the passage of anti-gay legislation, decriminalizing domestic violence, and a senior official's description of feminists as extremists to transform Russia into a bastion of traditional social values.

It is not surprising, then, that up

to now the Russian Defense Ministry has shown little interest in recruiting women into the Armed Forces or retaining those who have joined. Although there was a rapid expansion in the number of women enlisting during the 1990s and early 2000s, this was by accident rather than design. The introduction of voluntary military service in the late 1980s and early 1990s coincided with an economic downturn that particularly affected women, many of whom saw joining the ranks as an employment opportunity. This was especially true for the wives and daughters of career military men who were stationed in remote areas with few local civilian jobs. But no real efforts were made to change policies and open career paths for these women. The flow of women into Russia's Armed Forces slowed considerably. These dismissive attitudes toward women's roles and the masculine identity of the Armed Forces explain why so little attention has been paid to targeting women for military recruitment, despite the difficulties that the Defense Ministry has faced in maintaining the numbers of soldiers it needs for the war in Ukraine.

On the contrary, military recruitment campaigns have relied heavily on the idea that service is a distinctively masculine calling. Although the "partial" mobilization of September 2022 included a small number of women with medical training, the overwhelming emphasis was on rounding up men,

even if recruiters had to resort to including men who were medically unfit to make up the numbers. Considering the centrality of traditional gender roles in Putin's Russia, could this call for women to join Redut for combat service in Ukraine be a sign of a significant shift in attitudes toward gender equality?

There are only limited details available about Redut's recruitment effort. But they do refer to recruiting women for two specific roles: sniper and drone operator. Both are interesting choices that would do little to challenge dominant perceptions of gender roles in Russia. There is an impeccable precedent for women snipers. During World War II, more than 2,000 women served in that role, and were among the most successful in the Soviet army. Letting women become snipers was justified with the claim that it required stereotypically feminine traits, such as patience and attention to detail. It is also a role that involves killing the enemy at a distance rather than through hand-to-hand combat.

But if Moscow does shift gears into a larger-scale mobilization of women into the military, it would need to be accompanied by a clear narrative to justify why. During World War II, that narrative was one of national emergency and existential threat. Putting large numbers of Russia's women into combat 80 years later would raise serious questions about the state of Putin's "special military operation" and his commitment to traditional social values.

Forgettable King's Speech lacking in UK domestic policy

Andrew Hammond

KING Charles this week gave the UK's first King's Speech in Parliament for more than seven decades. However, the address, which is traditionally written for the monarch by the government of the day, will not go down in the history books for its content. The speech was long on words, with it possibly being the longest such address by a monarch since 2005. So, all the more shame that it was rather short on new ideas, especially for domestic policy, with the emphasis appearing to be more on a series of short-term measures designed to try to win headlines.

Even senior Conservatives criticized the lack of ambition. Former Cabinet minister Greg Clark, now the chair of the House of Commons Science Select Committee, condemned the "disappointing" failure to include an artificial intelligence bill that would help regulate the sector following last week's big summit on the topic. Moreover, ex-Prime Minister Theresa May warned 10 Downing Street's current incumbent Rishi Sunak that "what we need to do now is press the accelerator on the transition to a green economy, not try to draw back. I fear that ... the King's Speech ... is not sufficiently strong in ambition from the government to make sure that they are making that transition quickly enough to ensure that we reach net zero in 2050."

The Conservative Party has now been in office for the best part of a decade and a half. Five prime ministers in and the party seems intellectually exhausted, with little that is gen-

uinely novel announced on Tuesday. There are now growing calls for the UK, which is nearly four years into a maximum five-year Parliament, to hold a general election. However, with the Conservatives trailing badly in the opinion polls, Sunak may well resist calling a ballot until at least the second half of 2024 to see if something turns up that might reverse his troubled political fortunes.

The King's Speech signals not only the state opening of Parliament, but also a new UK lawmaking cycle, potentially the last full one for Sunak as PM. While Tuesday's provisions were mainly domestically focused, some will have implications for key international audiences, cementing the details of prior government announcements - some dating back years. One example is a new trade bill focused on the UK's pending membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, a pact of 11 countries spanning Asia-Pacific and the Americas (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam). The bill will ensure the UK can meet international commitments under the partnership when the nation formally accedes, probably next year.

This legislation is the latest move in the UK's pivot toward the Asia-Pacific following Brexit. While, at present, the deal does not nearly get close to replacing the UK's lost trade from the 27 EU states of recent years, given the existing economic patterns

it does nonetheless deepen the country's access to some of the world's most dynamic economies. The group will account for the majority of worldwide growth between now and 2050 and will account for some 15 percent of global gross domestic product once the UK accedes. With the COP28 climate summit in Dubai fast approaching, another bill with potentially key international consequences is the new Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill. For about two decades, the UK has led the world on climate change issues, with a valuable bipartisan consensus around the energy transition and tackling global warming seeing the nation cut emissions further and faster than any other major economy. However, that precious political consensus - and the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by no later than 2050 - is threatened by Sunak's proposed licensing of new oil and gas fields in the North Sea. The prime minister claims this will boost British energy security by reducing the country's dependence on higher-emission imports from overseas, including Russia.

Laudable as this goal may be in the wake of the Ukraine war, critics such as the independent Committee on Climate Change assert that the global warming emergency means that the UK must go further to deliver net zero. This call is echoed by respected international bodies such as the International Energy Agency, which has called on as many advanced nations as possible, including the UK, to deliver on net zero five

years earlier than planned, by 2045, thus providing developing countries with a bigger window to make their transition. Meanwhile, in light of the current crisis in the Middle East, another bill of interest to international audiences is the legislation on the economic activities of public bodies overseas. This aims to stop British public bodies from imposing their own views on international relations by preventing boycott, divestment or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries.

The government is concerned that some bodies that use public funds, such as councils, universities and cultural institutions, are imposing their own politically motivated campaigns. This is especially in relation to Israel, on which the government perceives that such boycotts may legitimize antisemitism. The proposed legislation will prevent public institutions from carrying out intended boycotts, divestments and sanctions relating to foreign countries or those linked to them, the sale of goods and services from foreign countries, and UK firms that trade with such countries, where such an approach is not in line with UK government sanctions. The measures will cover purchasing, procurement and investment decisions that undermine cohesion and integration. Taken overall, Tuesday's address has international implications, but it lacked the domestic ambition needed to navigate the UK on key issues like climate change. It is becoming ever clearer that a new government will be needed to deliver on that important, multigenerational project.



Fixing economy key priority of govt: Punjab Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab's Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad said that fixing the economic problems is the top priority of the government and all possible measures were being taken to revive the economy.

He said this while addressing as chief guest at a Business Networking Lunch organized by the former MNA Kanwar Qutbuddin Khan in honour of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said a press release issued here.

Kanwar Dilshad said that the business community is the key stakeholder in the country's economic development and the government is determined to provide them maximum facilitation in business development.

He assured that he would play a role in taking up the key issues of the business community at relevant forums for their early redressal so that they can promote businesses with ease.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Pakistan is a country of a very young population and we need to develop a strong economy to give them a better future.

He said that the business community has a lot of hopes for the Special Investment Facilitation Council and we are confident that it would steer the economy out of the current economic crisis.

Bakhtawari said that the government is planning to impose a fixed tax on retailers and realtors and emphasized that this should be done in consultation with

the stakeholders to avoid any unnecessary problems in the business sector.

He assured that the business community would fully support the government in its endeavours for the revival of the economy.

Former MNA and renowned businessman Kanwar Qutbuddin Khan said that the real estate sector has the potential to steer the economy out of the current crisis as the growth of over 50 allied industries is linked with this industry.

He said that the government should focus on creating a conducive environment for the real estate and construction industry to attract more investment, promote business activities, create new jobs, and revive the overall economy.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI said that Pakistan has great

potential to increase exports by focusing on new markets including Africa, Central Asia and the ASEAN region, and stressed that the TDAP should take business delegations from the private sector to explore these markets for export promotion.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan highlighted the importance of connecting Pakistan through direct air links with potential markets for improving the country's trade and exports.

He said that PIA should be privatized and the private sector should be encouraged to launch new airlines that would strengthen Pakistan's direct air links with all major markets and contribute significantly to reviving the economy.



MULTAN: Vendors selling fish as its demand increased despite high prices of white meat for winter at fish market.

Gold prices reflect minor reduction

ISLAMABAD (INP): As of Saturday, the price for 24-karat gold per tola reached Rs213,000.

Even for those looking to purchase smaller quantities, the rates remain quite appealing. Presently, 10 grams of 24-karat gold are priced at Rs182,613.

This notable shift in gold prices can be attributed to a substantial drop in the value of the dollar, underscoring the connection between currency values and the price of gold.

Internationally, gold prices have seen a decline, with the present rate resting at \$1,937 per ounce.

It's essential to keep in mind that gold rates in Pakistan can fluctuate multiple times throughout the day in response to global market dynamics.

These rates are sourced from reliable outlets, primarily located in Karachi and Multan.

For the most precise and up-to-date gold rates specific to your local market, we recommend consulting your nearby gold dealers and jewellers.

40m tonnes of autumn grain purchased

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): China is stepping up the purchase of autumn grain, with companies in the country's major grain-producing areas purchasing over 40 million tonnes of grain so far, data from the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration showed.

The administration said that purchasing activities in the market had been brisk, with grain prices remaining relatively stable.

Local governments should provide better services for farmers and toughen their crackdown on all types of irregularities to maintain market order and safeguard the rights and interests of farmers, it said.

It also called for efforts to closely monitor the prices of major autumn grain products, such as rice, corn and soybeans, and provide region-specific countermeasures against adverse weather.

Gas theft crackdown:

SNGPL disconnected 66 connections

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 66 connections while 178 under billing cases processed; Rs 2.3243 million fine imposed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas and another 3 on use of compressor and 79 under billing cases have been processed. The team also imposed fine of Rs 0.285 million against gas theft and under billing cases. In Bahawalpur the company disconnected one connection on the use of compressor.

The regional team in Multan disconnected 3 connections on illegal use of gas, 54 under billing cases have been processed. The team imposed fine of Rs 0.097 million against gas pilfers.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 30 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.9123 million against gas theft and under billing cases. In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected 6 gas connections on illegal use while another five Under billing cases have been processed and fine imposed 0.50 million against gas theft. In Mardan 6 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas,

30 under billing cases have been processed while 0.45 million amount booked against under billing cases. The regional team in Islamabad disconnected 5 connections on illegal use of gas.

In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on illegal use of gas and 1 on compressor. In Faisalabad 10 under billing cases processed and 4 connections were disconnected on illegal use and amount of Rs 0.03 booked against gas pilfers.

The team disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas in Sialkot. In Gujarat 1 connection was disconnected on illegal use of gas and fine of Rs0.05 million against gas pilfers.

UAW workers at GM's Flint plant narrowly vote

NEW YORK (Reuters): United Auto Workers (UAW) union members at General Motors' (GM.N) Flint assembly plant in Michigan have narrowly voted against a proposed contract with the US automaker, the local chapter said.

The vote signals that approval of the deal, which is set to raise costs significantly for GM, is not guaranteed.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, the UAW Local 598 said 51.8% of votes cast were against the proposed deal.

GM said it would not comment during the ratification process.

Shares of the company, which has 4,746 workers at the Flint plant, fell about 1.2% in morning trade to hit a more than three-year low of \$26.30.

Workers at the company's other plants are expected to vote on the agreement in the coming weeks.

Of the total votes cast at the company's various facilities so far, about 58% of workers voted in favor

of the deal, according to a UAW vote tracker.

Workers are yet to vote at some of GM's major plants including the Arlington assembly plant in Texas and Fort Wayne truck plant in Indiana, which produce some of the company's most profitable vehicles.

Union workers are voting on contracts from each of Chrysler-owner Stellantis, General Motors and Ford Motor, after the first coordinated strike against Detroit's Big Three automakers.

The vote at the Flint assembly plant, which manufactures the Silverado heavy duty pickup truck, comes after the Detroit Three automakers and the UAW reached tentative deals over the last few weeks to end a costly strike following marathon negotiations.

The UAW's new agreement, which covers 46,000 workers overall at GM, grants a 25% increase in base wage through April 2028 and will cumulatively raise the top wage by 33% compounded with

estimated cost-of-living adjustments to over \$42 an hour.

"The chances of GM putting more than another 15 cents on the table are low," said Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business professor.

The historic deal with the Detroit Three has prompted rival automakers with a non-unionized workforce to offer hikes.

Japan's Honda Motor (7267.T) said on Friday it was implementing an 11% pay increase for production workers at its US facilities from January.

Subaru Corp (7270.T) of Indiana Automotive also said it planned to provide its US associates a "pre-holiday announcement" as part of its biannual process.

Separately, the UAW said Volvo Group (VOLVb.ST)-owned Mack Trucks has informed the union that the Oct. 1 offer to striking workers was its "last, best and final".

Voting on the offer has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, the union said.

IMPACT digital market initiative launched as summit concluded

RIYADH (APP): The Digital Government Authority (DGA) has launched the IMPACT digital market initiative for members of the Digital Cooperation Organization and African Union countries, totaling 54 countries.

The initiative aims to contribute to creating value for individuals, communities, and business sectors, and to work on bridging the digital gap towards a comprehensive and sustainable digital economy for all.

The initiative was

launched at the conclusion of the Saudi-African Summit, held in Riyadh earlier Friday.

Governor of the DGA, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Suwaiyan said the initiative aims to build the digital infrastructure to achieve a positive impact in terms of increasing productivity, enhancing efficiency and providing a better experience for service beneficiaries.

This reflects the determination to enhance integration and joint work in

accordance with the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Al-Suwaiyan said.

He added that the IMPACT Initiative aims to increase the contribution of the digital economy and facilitate access to digital services in various sectors, including education, health,

justice, and security. Moreover, it seeks to increase the contribution of the private sector and facilitate business practices.

The DGA and the Digital Cooperation Organization will work along with the governmental entities in the beneficiary countries to utilize this initiative, Al-Suwaiyan said.

He added that Several Saudi companies are participating in the initiative namely: Elm, Thiqah, Tahakom, Tabadul, Lean, and Tetco.

Stocks diverge after Powell says rate hike possible

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Wall Street closed higher but European stock markets nudged down Friday as investors digested warnings by central bank chiefs that the battle against inflation was not over.

US stocks ended the day with the Dow up 1.2 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq up 2.1 percent after falling the previous day on the back of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell saying that the US central bank "will not hesitate" to raise interest

rates again if necessary.

But European markets were sluggish and ended in the red after European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde forecast a "resurgence" of inflation after it slowed sharply last month.

Speaking at a Financial Times event, Lagarde also said that the ECB will not start cutting rates for at least "the next couple of quarters."

Data showing the UK economy stalled in the third

quarter also weighed on London's FTSE 100 index, which ended off 1.3 percent while Frankfurt and Paris lost almost one percent.

Both the Fed and ECB paused their rate-hike campaigns at their last meetings as consumer price rises have slowed, but they have suggested they would stay higher for longer as inflation remains above their two-percent targets.

Equities had been rallying since last week after Fed officials hinted that

their long-running tightening cycle may be at an end.

But Powell told an International Monetary Fund conference Thursday that progress toward reaching two-percent inflation was "not assured."

"If it becomes appropriate to tighten policy further, we will not hesitate to do so," he said.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note eased on Friday after US government bond yields rose a day earlier.

Global cultural exchange, opportunities bring companies to import expo

COPENHAGEN (Xinhua/APP): At the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, enthusiasm from international companies such as Grundfos, a Denmark-based international pump manufacturer, was typical and emblematic of those wishing to extend their reach into the Chinese market.

Peter Vestergren Aakesen, a senior director at Grundfos, who attended last year's expo for the first time, said he was touched by the simple and ubiquitous global exchanges at the expo and was surprised by the continued "spillover

effect" of opportunities from last year, which has been beneficial to foreign companies in China like Grundfos.

A year later, Aakesen had a more personal experience of China's prosperity and vitality.

In August 2022, he traveled about 9,000 km from Denmark to China to relocate his family to Shanghai, a decision he described as "like an adventure."

As a senior products director for the commercial buildings service division at Grundfos, Aakesen has envolved himself in the development of the green building market in China.

"Energy-saving renovation of existing old buildings is an important part of carbon reduction in buildings, and how to make Grundfos solutions provide better support is the first

thing we think about when we develop new products, on the premise that we must fully understand the Chinese market and customers' needs," said Aakesen.

For this reason, Aakesen is nearly evangelical about the opportunities that the expo provides, describing it as a topic that he enjoys bringing up, "whether in official meetings with the Danish headquarters or when returning to Denmark to visit friends and relatives."

"I have sent out invitations to colleagues around the world, especially the product development team that I am responsible for, and I suggested that it would be a good opportunity for them to come to the site of the CIIE, to meet face-to-face with Chinese customers and listen to their needs and feedback," said Aakesen, commenting on his promotion for the CIIE that ran from Nov. 5 to 10.

Court Notice

In the Court of Brekhna Hameed, Civil Judge-VI Swabi, Ifthikhar Ahmad VS. Raheem Said, Case number: 207/1, Institution date: 20-04-2022, Hearing date: 02-12-2023, Subject: Proclamation Notice to: (2) Farooq Said, (3) Muhammad Taib Sons Sher Said R/o Bamkhel (5/2) Izhar Son Habib-ul-Haq First Wife R/o Mohallah Jafar Khel, near Abd-ul-Rab Bacha mosque, Bamkhel, Defendant. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court on 02-12-2023 personally, through counsel or attorney to avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Court Notice

In the Court of Aqsa Saeed A.D.J-V Kohat, Appeal No. MCA-23/14 Date of hearing: 15-11-2023, Titled:- Zubair Mehmood (etc) Vs Shabir Ahmed (etc) Notice against:- (6) Sajjad (7) Imran Sons (9) Laila Daughter of Muhammad Ashiq (12) Shamim (13) Shaheen (14) Nazreen (15) Rozina Daughters of Muhammad Ali (Late) R/o Mohallah Wazan Awan Colony Shimla Pahari Tehsil and District Kohat (Respondents) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted an Appeal against you Respondents in which date of hearing 15-11-2023 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Respondents is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 15-11-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law. Order issued on 31-10-2023 (Court of ADJ-V Kohat).

Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar, Case No. 206/1, Institution, 5/7/2023, Date of hearing: 16/11/2023, Mst. Norzabia VS. Mohamad Hayat etc. Notice to No. 20/3, Jamshed Anwar. 20/4, Javed Anwar sons of Roshan Taj residents of Totalai Khadukhel district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 16/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Moody's turns negative on US credit rating, draws Washington ire

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON (Reuters): Moody's lowered its outlook on the US credit rating to "negative" from "stable" citing large fiscal deficits and a decline in debt affordability, a move that drew immediate criticism from President Joe Biden's administration.

The move follows a rating downgrade of the sovereign by another ratings agency, Fitch, this year, which came after months of political brinkmanship around the US debt ceiling.

Federal spending and political polarization have been a rising concern for investors, contributing to a selloff that took US government bond prices to their lowest levels in 16 years.

est costs take up a larger share of the budget, the debt burden will continue to grow."

The ratings agency said in a statement that "continued political polarization" in Congress raises the risk that lawmakers will not be able to reach consensus on a fiscal plan to slow the decline in debt affordability."

"Any type of significant policy response that we might be able to see to this declining fiscal strength probably wouldn't happen until 2025 because of the reality of the political calendar next year," William Foster, a senior vice president at Moody's, told Reuters in an interview.

Republicans, who control the US House of Representatives, expect to release a stopgap spending measure on Saturday aimed at averting a partial government shutdown by keeping federal agencies open when current funding expires next Friday.

Moody's is the last of the three major rating agencies to maintain a top rating for the US government. Fitch changed its rating from triple-A to AA+ in August, joining S&P which has had an AA+ rating since 2011.

While it changed its outlook, indicating a downgrade is possible over the medium term, Moody's affirmed its long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at 'Aaa' citing US credit and economic strengths.

Immediately after the Moody's release, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said the change was "yet another consequence of congressional Republican extremism and dysfunction."

"While the statement by Moody's maintains the United States' Aaa rating, we disagree with the shift to a negative outlook. The American economy remains strong, and Treasury securities are the world's preeminent safe

and liquid asset," Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in a statement.

Adeyemo said the Biden administration had demonstrated its commitment to fiscal sustainability, including through over \$1 trillion in deficit reduction measures included in a June agreement struck with Congress on raising the US debt limit, and Biden's proposal to reduce the deficit by nearly \$2.5 trillion over the next decade.

Treasury yields have soared this year on expectations the Federal Reserve will keep monetary policy tight, as well as on US-focused fiscal concerns.

The sharp rise in Treasury yields "has increased pre-existing pressure on US debt affordability," Moody's said.

A Moody's downgrade could exacerbate fiscal concerns, but investors have said they are skeptical it would have a material impact on the US bond

market, seen as a safe haven because of its depth and liquidity.

However, "it is a reminder that the clock is ticking and the markets are moving closer and closer to understanding that we could go into another period of drama that could lead ultimately to the government shutting down," said Quincy Krosby, chief global strategist at LPL Financial.

Moody's decision also comes as Biden, who is seeking reelection in 2024, has seen his support fall sharply in the polls. A New York Times/Siena poll released on Sunday showed him trailing former President Donald Trump, the leading Republican candidate, in five of six battleground states: Nevada, Georgia, Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Biden was ahead of Trump in those six states will help determine who wins the presidential election.



In brief

PU alumnus wins silver medal

LAHORE (APP): A Punjab University alumnus from the Institute of Business and Information Technology (IBIT), while representing the country at the International Financial Security Olympiad 2023, held in Sochi, Russia, won a silver medal in the event, PU official sources told APP on Saturday. Ms. Amna Mansoor was the only delegate from Pakistan to secure a remarkable achievement. She won the Olympiad. Several people from other countries participated in the event. PU VC Dr. Khalid Mahmood has congratulated Amna Mansoor to earn fame for the PU and Pakistan.

Quaid-e-Azam XI triumphs in basketball match

KARACHI (APP): In Allama Iqbal Cup Girls Basketball exhibition match, organized by the Karachi Basketball Association at the International Abdul Nasir Basketball Court Arambagh, saw Quaid-e-Azam XI triumph over Shaheed Millat XI by a score of 25-20 on Allama Iqbal Day. A s s i s t a n t Commissioner Aram Bagh Nida Suman presented prizes at the event. Various dignitaries including the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) President and several others were in attendance. Nida Suman received the Allama Iqbal Performance Award for her contributions to sports and humanity. Notably, players from both teams showcased their skills with notable point scorers from Quaid-e-Azam XI being Nabiba Hussain, Aruba Aniq, and Faiza Mahboob, while Yasra Khokhar, Amara Hafeez, and Falag Irfan stood out for the runner-up team. The match was overseen by KBBA officials and marked with a cake-cutting ceremony to honor Allama Iqbal Day, courtesy of Fresco Sweets.

MCC backs umpires in Mathews 'time-out' furore

K O L K A T A (Agencies): The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game's laws, said on Saturday that the umpires had made the correct call in declaring that Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews had "timed out" in his side's World Cup clash against Bangladesh. Mathews became the first player in international cricket to be dismissed for a time ruling after he failed to make himself ready within the stipulated two minutes to face Bangladesh captain and bowler Shakib Al Hasan, whose appeal led to Mathews' exit. The chin strap of Mathews' helmet broke before he could take guard, and by the time a replacement helmet arrived from the Sri Lankan dressing room, the batter was judged to have overrun his time allowance. Mathews subsequently called Bangladesh "disgraceful" and said the umpires lacked common sense while dealing with the "equipment malfunction" in the Monday match in Delhi. The MCC said Mathews should have drawn the umpires' attention to his broken helmet instead of waiting for a new helmet to arrive. "It appears that Mathews did not consult with the umpires, which a player would be expected to do when seeking new equipment," the MCC said in a statement. "Had he explained to the umpires what had happened and asked for time to get it sorted out, they might have allowed him to change the helmet, perhaps calling time and thus removing any possibility of being timed out."



PUNE: Mitchell Marsh struck a few lusty blows down the ground.

PCB directs PSL franchises to end contracts with surrogate companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has asked the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to direct Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchises and other cricket-related organizations to immediately discontinue all kinds of contracts and business with the surrogate companies illegally operating in Pakistan.

In a letter, the ministry said that some surrogate companies were illegally engaged in sponsoring and advertising contracts with a number of media outlets and sports enterprises in Pakistan.

"A number of PSL franchises, including Multan Sultans, Lahore Qalandars, Karachi Kings, and many internet and mobile companies, are promoting the business of

surrogate companies by displaying their logos, etc., on their social media handles, i.e., Twitter [now called X] and Facebook, etc., within the jurisdictions of Pakistan," the ministry said.

The companies that are engaged in betting include dafaNews, 1XBAT, MCW Sports, Wolf777News, BJ Sports, and MELBAT.

Earlier on September 25, the ministry also issued a statement, advising all the stakeholders to avoid doing business with surrogate companies and immediately terminate their existing agreements with them.

It was noted that some betting outfits have entered the Pakistani market with slightly amended titles; such a phenomenon is labeled as surrogacy, and such firms are called

surrogates of the mother enterprises. They are engaged in sponsorship and advertising contracts with a number of media outlets and sports enterprises.

The ministry also asked the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to block all such websites and applications containing illegal betting by the aforesaid surrogate companies, as well as the social media handles of other individuals or organizations containing or displaying the logos of these surrogate companies.

Similarly, it requested all ministries, departments, and organizations not to engage in any kind of contract or cooperation with these companies, especially on print, electronic, and social media.

Dravid hails 'captain fantastic' Rohit in India's World Cup odyssey

BENGALURU (AFP): Rohit Sharma was hailed on Saturday as a "fantastic" captain for leading India to a perfect eight wins from eight matches and a place in the World Cup semi-finals.

India play their last league match against the Netherlands in Bengaluru on Sunday before they move on to the semi-finals. The hosts have remained unbeaten with impressive wins over arch-rivals Pakistan, defending champions England and most recently South Africa.

The 36-year-old Rohit, who may be in his last World Cup alongside 35-year-old Virat Kohli, has scored 442 runs including one century at a strike-rate of 122.77. "Rohit has certainly been a leader without a doubt," coach Rahul Dravid said on Saturday.

"He's led by example both on and off the field. There have been some games where it could have

been tricky for us, but the fact that he's been able to get us to those kinds of starts has literally cracked open the game."

Dravid added: "He's been fantastic in his batting, the leadership that he's shown and taking on the game, in leading from the front." Rohit's 131 against Afghanistan led the way and he followed it up with an 86 in the crushing win over Pakistan. The captain's 87 remained key in a low-scoring game against England.

Rohit took over the captaincy from Kohli, who was removed from the job in 2021 without a world title under his leadership belt. India have travelled an exhausting 12,000km (7,500 miles) on their World Cup journey and Dravid said the team has played good cricket across all venues.

"Represented India fantastically"

"We've travelled the length and breadth of this

country and played in eight venues. This is our ninth," said Dravid. "I think what this team has done really well is it has represented India fantastically. It's played a really good brand of cricket."

"We know we have nine boxes to tick, and we've ticked eight." The cricket-mad nation of 1.4 billion people has been rooting for the hosts to end their world title drought stretching back to the 2013 Champions Trophy. India last won the World Cup at home in 2011.

The Netherlands have made an impact in the 10-team tournament after they stunned a high-flying South Africa. They also beat Bangladesh. "I think the performances of teams like the Netherlands certainly go a long way in boosting the morale of a lot of the other associate nations. They can certainly compete, they've got some very good players," said Dravid.

Kane scores brace as Bayern go top

BERLIN (AFP): Harry Kane scored two first-half goals as Bayern Munich beat promoted Heidenheim 4-2 on Saturday, sending the Bavarians to the top of the table.

Heidenheim replied with two goals in three second-half minutes to equalise and Bayern needed late goals from Raphael Guerreiro and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting to secure victory. Bayern finish Saturday atop the table but Bayer Leverkusen -- who have won 15 and drawn one of their 16 matches in all competitions this season -- can return to the top with a win on Sunday over Union Berlin.

"It was a changing match," said Thomas Mueller. "At one point we had it in our grip, then we didn't, then we did again. "What was nice is that we could react, that we could switch to a higher gear."

"It brought us to the top of the table and I hope that Leverkusen drop points sometime." Kane now has 17 goals in 11 league games since joining the German champions from boyhood club Tottenham in the summer. "I'm enjoying it," said Kane after the match.

Kane wasted no time in getting on the scoresheet, collecting the ball with his back to goal and scoring on the turn for the opener after 14 minutes. Kane doubled up shortly before half-time, heading in unmarked from a corner. With Bayern cruising, manager Thomas Tuchel made three changes shortly after half-time and within ten minutes the visitors were level.

Tim Kleindienst and Jan-Niklas Beste scored in a three-minute period, the latter after a mistake from Kim Min-Jae, bringing the score to 2-2 with 20 minutes remaining. With Bayern wobbling, former Dortmund defender Guerreiro struck his first goal for the German champions, before Choupo-Moting scored with five minutes remaining to seal the win.

Borussia Dortmund lost 2-1 at Stuttgart, the returning Serhou Guirassy giving the home side victory with a late penalty, his 15th goal of the season to stay hot on Kane's heels.

World Cup 2023

Marsh hits unbeaten 177 as Australia beat Bangladesh

PUNE (Agencies): Mitchell Marsh smashed a brutal unbeaten 177 as Australia beat Bangladesh by eight wickets in their final World Cup group game.

Marsh struck nine sixes in his 132-ball knock as Australia reached their target of 307 with 32 balls to spare in Pune on Saturday.

Opener David Warner scored 53 and Steve Smith added 63 not out as both shared century stands with Marsh. Bangladesh earlier posted 306-8 with Towhid Hridoy top-scoring with 74.

It was a frustrating innings for Bangladesh who squandered promising positions on a good batting surface, with all top seven batters passing 20 - but Hridoy the only one to capitalise. They were set for a strong finish at 239-4 but Australia's bowlers closed out the innings expertly, with just 65 runs and four wickets coming from the final 10 overs.

In contrast, Australia batted with discipline to time their chase perfectly, setting a new highest World Cup run chase for the second game in succession after Glenn Maxwell's heroics against Afghanistan.

Travis Head was bowled for 10 by Taskin Ahmed in the third over but Warner continued his fine form

with his fourth 50-plus score in the tournament as he anchored the innings around Marsh's aggression.

Australia had already qualified for the semi-finals, where they will face South Africa, before this match. Their fixture against the Proteas looks set to be an intriguing battle with both teams taking confidence from winning their final group stage matches.

Australia end group stage with fine all-round effort

Pat Cummins' side advance to the last four having won seven successive games and will be buoyed by their all-round efforts against Bangladesh.

Warner has been in stellar form but there have been question marks around Australia's middle order, and they will take confidence from putting that right as they head into the knockouts.

Marsh had struggled at number three since Head's return to the top of the order, but returned to his destructive best against a struggling Bangladesh without their injured talismanic captain Shakib Al Hasan.

He reached his century from 87 balls, his second of the tournament so far, while the unflappable Smith

found fluency in his usual unorthodox style to play a supporting role in the chase.

Marnus Labuschagne was not required with the bat but may find his place under jeopardy from Maxwell, who was rested after his record-breaking efforts against Afghanistan and will add even further strength to Australia's line-up.

Fast bowler Mitchell Starc was also rested but Sean Abbott stepped in admirably with 2-61, bowling excellently at the death after an expensive start, while leg-spinner Adam Zampa continued his magnificent tournament with 2-32 to reclaim his place at the top of the wicket-taking charts.

At times, Bangladesh's batters looked like taking the game away with a big first-innings total but Australia's bowlers struck at key moments with Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das making 36, while Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 45 and Mahmudullah was brilliantly run out by Labuschagne for 32.

Bangladesh fought admirably against a superior side but defeat marked the end of a disappointing campaign that included just two wins from their nine games.

Pakistan Women A sweep series against Thailand Women Emerging

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Women A defeated Thailand Women (Emerging) by six wickets in the second T20 of the two-match series, played at Gaddafi Stadium, here on Saturday.

Omaima Sohail was impressive with bat and ball to take the team to a clean-sweep against Thailand Women Emerging.

The visitors chose to bat first after winning the toss and scored 86-5 in 20 overs. Opening batter Nannapat Khoncharoenkai scored a half-century (57, 52b, 6x4s) and was the lone fighter for her team,

as none of the other Thailand batters could manage to enter double figures. She was highest scorer in the game from either side.

Off-spinner Omaima was the best bowler for Pakistan, taking a wicket at the expense of 11 runs. Skipper Rameen Shamim and left-arm spinner Saima Malik also got a wicket each.

Pakistan Women A, had a faltering start to the chase after they lost their first three batters for the score of just one. Omaima rebuilt and carried the innings, scoring

an unbeaten run-a-ball 45 including five boundaries, to take her team over the line.

She was supported by Kaynat Hafeez (19, 36, 2x4s) and Sidra Nawaz (16 not out, 16b, 2x4s).

Right-arm pacer Phannita Maya was the pick of the bowlers for the visiting side, taking two wickets for just six runs. Her fellow right-arm pacer Kunyakorn Buntahansen also grabbed one wicket.

Omaima was named player of the match for the second consecutive game, owing to her fine all-round display.

FIFA World Cup Qualifier

Pakistan Football Team reaches Saudi Arabia

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan football team has reached Saudi Arabia to participate in FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier Round 2.

Pakistan and hosts Saudi Arabia are scheduled to play at the Prince Abdullah Bin Jalavi Stadium in Isha city on Thursday, with both teams in Group G alongside Jordan and Tajikistan, Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) sources told APP Saturday.

The national team got training under the supervi-

sion of head coach Stephen Constantine before leaving for Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Goalkeeper Yusuf Butt, Salman ul Haq and Hasan

Ali, Defender Abdullah Iqbal, Haseeb Khan, Mamoon Musa Khan, Mohibullah, Muhammad Sohail, Muhammad Saddam, Junaid Shah, Rao Umar Hayat and Muhammad Hamza Munir, Midfielders Rahus Nabi, Alamgir Ghazi, Rajab Ali, Ali Uzair, Imran Kayani and Haroon Hamid, forward Shaiq Dost, Otis

Khan, Faridullah, Abdul Samad Arshad, Muhammad Waleed Khan and Adeel Younis are included.

Team Officials Stephen Constantine (Head Coach), Rogerio Ramos (Goalkeeper Coach), Claudio Altieri (Performance Coach), Muhammad Ali Khan (Manager), Azam Khan (Doctor), Muhammad Abdullah (Physio), Haider Ali (Media) and Abdul Qayyum. (Masir) are also part of the squad.

James scores 32 points as Lakers rally to beat Suns



LOS ANGELES (AFP): LeBron James shook off an early injury scare to score 32 points and key the Los Angeles Lakers' 122-119 comeback win over the Phoenix Suns on Friday in his first taste of the NBA's new in-season tournament.

After a knock to his lower left leg had him hobbling briefly in the first quarter, the 38-year-old

superstar settled in and produced another age-defying performance, helping the Lakers snap a three-game losing streak.

He connected on 11 of 17 shots from the field, including three of four from three-point range. He added 11 rebounds and six assists.

James was delighted not only with a first road win

of the young season but with a victory in the Lakers' first game in the new in-season tournament - a Cup-style competition that commissioner Adam Silver hopes will fire players' competitive instincts and give added interest to early season games with the promise of a trophy and prize money.

"It feels great because

it's an in-season tournament win and we'll take that," James told broadcaster ESPN after the game. "We'll take that for sure. Y'all heard there's 500,000 (dollars) on the line, so we're going for that. We're going for that."

Kevin Durant scored 38 points to lead the Suns, who led by as many as 14 on the way to a 63-55 half-time lead.

Austin Reaves' layup with 9:45 left to play gave the Lakers their first lead since the first quarter. It was part of a 14-0 Lakers run, and Los Angeles were able to make the lead stand up.

"I think we just finally got sick of being out-rebounded," James said of the Lakers' improvement on the boards late in the contest. "We kept bodies in front of bodies."

"We finally started hitting our three pointers and that definitely helped us get back into game," added James, whose Lakers made

12 three-pointers -- nine of them in the second half.

While James wasn't shy about targeting the in-season tournament, Boston star Jayson Tatum was more pleased to see the Celtics end a two-game skid with a 121-107 victory over Brooklyn.

Jaylen Brown scored 28 points and Tatum added 23 in a relatively comfortable victory.

Stung by back-to-back defeats, the Celtics came out strong and led by as many as 17 in a first half in which they made 12 three-pointers.

"Yeah, it would be nice to win (the in-season tournament), but more importantly it was just good to get back in the winning column."

"We lost two in a row, so it was important to come back home and get a win."

Eight teams will advance from group play to knockout rounds, all culminating with a title match on December 9 in Las Vegas.

All the games in the tournament, except for the final, count in the regular-season standings.

Doncic dominates

The Dallas Mavericks improved to 1-1 in tournament play, and 7-2 for the season, with a 144-126 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers, fueled by 44 points from Luka Doncic and 27 from Kyrie Irving.

The Mavericks exploded for 47 points in the second quarter to take control on the way to a 144-126 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Doncic -- who now has five 40-point games against the Clippers -- was devastatingly efficient, connecting on 17-of-21 shots from the field.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 26 points. James Harden scored all 14 of his points in the first quarter and the Clippers lost their fourth straight -- their third with Harden in the lineup after his trade from Philadelphia.

In other games, sensational San Antonio rookie Victor Wembanyama scored 29 points with nine rebounds, four assists and four blocked shots but came up short in a duel of French big men as his Spurs fell to Rudy Gobert's Minnesota Timberwolves 117-110.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 29 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for Minnesota, who won their fifth straight. Anthony Edwards added 28 points and Gobert had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid scored 33 points and Tyrese Maxey added 29 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers back from a 16-point deficit to a 114-106 victory over the Pistons in Detroit. Embiid added 16 rebounds for the Sixers, who shook off a slow start to win their seventh straight game -- and hand the Pistons a seventh straight defeat.



In brief

IRSA releases 106,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 106,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 63,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1514.08 feet and was 114.08 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,600 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1192.60 feet, which was 142.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,800 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 71,400, 46,800, 33,700 and 7,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

RPO reviewed traffic arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khurram Ali visited Traffic Headquarters to review traffic arrangements put in place here on Saturday. Expressing his appreciation for the efforts aimed at raising awareness about traffic laws, RPO also recognized the role played in controlling traffic road accidents and saving lives. He emphasized the pivotal role of all officers and Jawans as the real face of Punjab Police, working tirelessly to ensure smooth traffic flow in all weather conditions. He underscored the importance of respecting seniors, helping subordinates, practicing self-accountability, and maintaining good intentions. Stressing the need for complete faith in Allah Almighty, he believed that this mindset would positively impact performance. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of displaying good manners during duty, rejecting all forms of discrimination and prejudice. Earlier, the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan provided a detailed overview, highlighting key areas such as the Ghulam Asghar Shaheed Driving School and other essential branches, including the Police Welfare Center. While, RPO Syed Khurram Ali commended the initiatives to facilitate the provision of driving licenses in line with modern requirements.

Police arrested accused involved in murder case

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Islamabad Capital Police Shahzad Town police station and Homicide unit police teams have arrested an accused involved in a murder case and recovered murder tool and motorbike used in crime from his possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, on Oct 08, 2023, the Shahzad Town police station received an application from a citizen who stated that an accused namely Nusrat Ullah came to my house and opened gun fire on my mother and sister, from which my mother succumbed to her injuries and died on the spot while my sister suffer serious injuries. Upon receiving the application, the Shahzad Town police team registered an FIR no. 753/23. Following this incident, a special investigation team was constituted. The police team utilized all available resources and used technical and scientific methods and arrested the accused namely Nusrat Ullah and recovered murder tool pistol and motorbike used in crime from his possession, while further investigation is underway.

Aneeq sets to reveal Hajj Policy 2024 by Wednesday



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, called upon the business community to refrain from disseminating negative information about the current economic state, whether in public discourse or through media channels.

Addressing a dinner reception, organized by the Pakistan Business Group Organization (PBGO) Punjab Chapter the other day, he emphasized the need for a positive approach and concrete actions, urging them to inspire hope among the public, motivating them to harness their full potential to address prevailing challenges and elevate Pakistan's economy to international standards.

Minister Aneeq clarified that commerce, industry, or finance did not fall within his purview, however, regarding the Ministry of Religious Affairs, indicated his intention to announce the Hajj Policy by the upcoming Wednesday. He emphasized the consistent adherence to the Hajj Policy since 2004, underscoring the importance of respecting and implementing the directives of the Saudi government both in letter and spirit.

Highlighting a notable accomplishment of his government, Minister Aneeq disclosed that the forthcoming Hajj pilgrimage would incur a reduced cost, now standing at less than Rs. 1,075,000, compared to the previous pilgrimage which incurred expenses of Rs. 1,175,000.

He additionally guaranteed that pilgrims would experience maximum convenience and comfort during this Hajj season, with a range of facilities,

including an affordable internet data package with a private network SIM available throughout their 45-day stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The ministry was introducing a short-term Hajj programme spanning approximately 20 days, recognizing the constraints faced by some pilgrims who are unable to stay for more than 40 days due to personal and professional commitments, he added.

Minister Aneeq shared uplifting news for prospective pilgrims paying their Hajj dues in dollars, stating that they would be exempt from the ballooning process. This exemption, he highlighted, aimed to streamline the Hajj process effectively.

He emphasized that every pilgrim would receive a suitcase equipped with a QR code, ensuring the secure tracking of both their luggage and themselves throughout the entire Hajj operation. In conclusion, he outlined the ministry's initiative to maintain discipline among female pilgrims by providing a scarf (Hijab) adorned with the national flag on their back. Meanwhile, Chairman of Alfursan Group of Companies, S.M. Zunnurain, emphasized the need for the government to develop a comprehensive 10-year business policy. He said this strategic initiative could facilitate the evolution of small and midsize enterprises into the corporate sector, enhancing their competitiveness within the region.

He highlighted that such a long-term business policy holds the potential to stimulate economic activities and contribute to the overall financial stability of the country. He expressed concern over the inconsistency in

policies that occurs with changes in government, stating that this approach frustrates the business community and introduces obstacles to the smooth operation of businesses.

By advocating for a stable and enduring business framework, Zunnurain envisioned a landscape where businesses could thrive, promoting sustained economic growth and fostering a conducive environment for both businesses and investors.

Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zafar Bakhtawari endorsed the proposal for a comprehensive long-term economic policy. He emphasized the imperative for political parties to unite and collaborate on a 'Charter of Economy,' highlighting its potential to serve the broader national interest.

He underscored that a sustained national economic policy would instill confidence not only in local but also in foreign investors. Recognizing the vast potential across various economic sectors, he emphasized the necessity for unity, urging the removal of differences stemming from sectarianism, politics, and linguistics to fully realize these opportunities.

In condemning the ongoing atrocities in Palestine and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Bakhtawari acknowledged the economic challenges faced by Pakistan. He recognized that the nation's current economic condition hindered the ability to take practical steps to alleviate the plight of oppressed Muslims in these regions.

President of the Korangi Association of Trade & Industry, Faraz-ur-Rehman, explaining the vision of the Pakistan Business Group Organization, committed to consolidating the entire trader community on a unified platform to navigate Pakistan through its current economic challenges. In elucidating his mission, he underscored the significance of integrating young entrepreneurs across diverse economic sectors, foreseeing substantial achievements not only in local markets but also on the global stage.

He emphasized the imperative to nurture and promote young business leaders, harnessing their untapped potential to transform Pakistan's economy into a success story.

Mushaal meets Chief Advisor to His Excellency Pope Francis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick had a comprehensive meeting with Chief Advisor Adel to His Excellency Pope Francis head of the Catholic Church, the bishop of Rome and sovereign of the Vatican City State.

They discussed matters of mutual interest including Interfaith, working towards co-existence, eliminating the possibility of discord, violent or non-violent, said in a press release issued here on Saturday.

Both the dignitaries agreed that the teachings of all religions are based on peace, love, and harmony and a true follower of any religion can never think of provoking hatred against other faiths.

They reaffirmed their commitment that through broader dialogue and effective communication, each side will be able to understand the other dispassionately and curb those prejudices that give rise to hatred and conflict in religion.

The Chief Advisor to



His Excellency Pope Francis Head of the Vatican invited Mushaal to visit the Vatican City and send the message of peace and interfaith harmony to the world as a Muslim woman of the 21st century.

Mushaal said that it is a need of the time to develop and identify mystical interpretations around the true moderate and tolerant message of Islam to the world and become an enabler towards meaningful Interfaith dialogues.

The guiding idea is not to tamper with the basic tenets of Islam or any faith but to present them in a

form wrapped with the message of love, tolerance and moderation, as the Sufis did in order to avoid a clash of civilizations and resolve global conflicts.

Both agreed that religious leaders, as spiritual guides and moral authorities, have a profound influence on their followers.

Their collective voice can be utilised as a powerful force for the peaceful settlement of issues concerning humanity, especially the conflicts of the Palestine-Israel and Kashmiri as human lives are priceless regardless of caste, colour, creed, religion, and nationality.

Gwadar's most-awaited road widening project finally commenced

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) initiated construction activities to enhance and expand the Makkai Masjid-Mullah Fazil Chowk section of Syed Zahoor Hashmi Road, commonly known as Airport Road.

This marks a pivotal step towards advancing the city's connectivity and underscores the commitment to bolstering its overall development.

Based on the directive issued by Dawood Khan Khilji, GDA Director General, the initiative aims to address a long-standing demand from the local community for better connectivity, according to a

report carried out by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

The stakeholders and public circles in Gwadar not only expressed satisfaction with the initiation of the work on the city's crucial business highway but also stressed the urgent implementation of the long-delayed project.

They voiced confidence in wholeheartedly supporting the construction and development of this significant project. "Due to illegal occupation and unauthorized encroachments, the construction work on Maki Masjid to Mala Fazil Chowk was stalled for many years," reads GDA's statement.

However, the government has already arranged

a handsome amount as compensation for the legitimate owners if their shops or properties are disturbed during the expansion of the road.

"These compensations, benchmarked against market values, represent the most competitive rates in the entire region," according to GDA.

The improvement and widening of the road will facilitate convenient access to key business hubs in the city, such as Mullah Fazil Chowk and Shahi Bazaar. With the upgradation of the road, Mullah Fazil Chowk will also get sewerage and drainage lines, which is an environmental issue for the city of Gwadar.

Awareness drive to curb dengue launched

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a decisive move to combat the looming dengue threat, Islamabad's Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Usman Ashraf convened a review meeting, bringing together District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates, and other stakeholders to curb dengue spread.

The meeting highlighted the urgent need for intensified preventive measures, encompassing improved sanitation, waste management, and public awareness campaigns, the ICT

spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said on Saturday. Ashraf emphasized that while dengue might not be a fatal disease, vigilance and proactive measures were paramount to safeguard

public health. He directed the authorities to enhance sanitation efforts in various city areas, ensuring prompt waste removal and preventing water accumulation in potential mosquito breeding grounds such as workshops, tire shops, and other neglected spaces.

Recognizing the effectiveness of fogging campaigns, the Additional Deputy Commissioner commended the ongoing fogging efforts in Islamabad, which have contributed to a significant reduction in dengue cases. He reiterated the administration's commitment to utilizing all available resources to control the spread of this deadly virus.

With a particular focus on Islamabad's rural areas, Ashraf underscored the

importance of prioritizing these communities, ensuring that every possible step is taken to protect the lives of Islamabad's citizens. He also emphasized that the administration's primary objective is to safeguard public health and prevent the spread of dengue.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of urgency and a collective commitment to combating dengue. The authorities pledged to work in tandem, implementing effective preventive measures and disseminating crucial information to the public by fostering a collaborative approach and prioritizing the well-being of Islamabad's residents, the administration aims to effectively mitigate the dengue threat.

Foolproof security being ensured at High Security zone

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is ceaselessly dedicated to preserving law and order within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

He said that, to fortify the security of the superior courts and judges' enclave situated in high-security zone, personnel stationed at the security diligently executing their responsibilities, meticulously verifying the particulars of individuals accessing the high security zone and meticulously documenting vehicle information.

The high security zone encompasses pivotal government and private establishments, diplomatic missions, and other vital assets, necessitating an unwavering focus on their safeguarding.

Government personnel entering the high security zone are now mandated to display their departmental

identification cards. Additionally, individuals with private business within the high security zone are urged to carry their requisite documentation and extend their full cooperation to on-duty personnel.

Senior officers have directed the personnel on duty to uphold the highest standards of diligence and professionalism, cultivating a positive rapport with citizens. A fervent appeal is made to the citizens to promptly report any perceived suspicious activity or individuals to the helpline "Pukar-15."

Capital Police initiates crackdown against professional beggars: Islamabad capital police have initiated a massive crackdown against professional beggars and their handlers in the city to curb this menace, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, ordered

the all zonal DPO's to take action against professional beggars and their handlers in their respective areas adding that cases should be registered against them.

He reiterated that the parents who send their children with these criminals will also face action according to the law, adding that criminals in the guise of begging were found involved in different criminal activities.

During the ongoing crackdown against professional beggars and their handlers, the Islamabad Capital Police teams arrested 27 professional beggars and registered 07 cases against them under the beggar act during the ongoing week.

Citizens are also urged to discourage these professional beggars and give their charity to the needy people and are also requested to inform police about any suspicious activity through Pucar-15 and join hands with police to curb this menace from the city.

ANF arrests five drug peddlers

KARACHI (NNI): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 115 kilograms of drugs during six different operations and arrested five accused involved in drug smuggling.

According to ANF spokesperson, over 4 kg of ice was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner (Japanese) at Jinnah International Airport who was leaving for Bangladesh. In another action, 3.6 kg of hashish was recovered from the accused resident of Bajaur in Bahria Town Karachi.

During the operation in Chaghi, 100 kg of opium was recovered from the vehicle while 5 kg heroin found hidden in a car near Sibbi Road Quetta and a resident of Naseerabad was arrested during the operation. During the operation in Hayatabad, Peshawar, 2 kg of heroin was recovered from the accused resident of Khyber who admitted to smuggle drugs from Bara to Punjab.

At Bacha Khan International Airport, Sharjah bound passenger was arrested and 3 capsules were recovered from the stomach of the accused who is a resident of Bannu. Hashish was recovered from 1 capsule while ecstasy pills were recovered from 2 capsules. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation has been started.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Saturday issued a power suspension programme for Sunday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 am to 01:00 pm, Attack Circle, Behlot, Wahadat Colony, Kala Khan, Dhirak Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM, GSO Circle, Grand Hyatt, Orchard Scheme, Committee Chowk, City, Gwalmandi, VIP, Kashmir Road, AFIC, Mohanpura, Iqbal Road Feeders.

Sindh Pavilion: A vibrant tapestry of rich culture at Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD (APP): The vibrant colors and rich traditions of Sindh province came alive as the Sindh pavilion, adorned with intricate designs and traditional architecture, served as a portal into the heart of this culturally diverse region that was showcased at the Lok Mela, Pakistan's annual folk festival, held at Shakarparian in Islamabad.

The visitors to the pavilion from diverse cultures, regions, and nationalities were greeted by a dazzling array of handicrafts, each piece a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of Sindh artisans. Nadia, Gul Khatoon, and Badshahzadi showcased their exquisite ralli, or appliqué work, while Anila Channa and Ghulam Muhammad demonstrated their mastery of khes and lungi weaving. Rahiba's delicate date palm leaf work, Fageer Muhammad's pottery, and Sabreen Solangi's Moenjodaro

replicas captivated onlookers. Shahzad Khan's intricate Farasi weaving and Fida Hussain and Ghulam Nabi's Ajrak block printing further enriched the pavilion's offerings.

Among the artisans, Khan Chand stood out for his exquisite Sindh juttis (shoes). With over four decades of experience, Khan Chand has perfected his craft, creating shoes that are not only beautiful but also renowned for their durability. His mastery of pure leather, cotton, and silk threads has earned him a reputation as a master craftsman.

The pavilion also showcased the talents of Sindh's artists, musicians, and folk dance groups. Ajmal Bhel enthralled audiences with his Jhoomra dance, while Sain Dad's matka playing resonated through the pavilion. Sattar Jogi's melodious murl and been playing, Ghulam Arshad's banjo riffs, Sajjan Jogi's

harmonium melodies, Ashiq's shehnai solos, and Akbar Khamiso Khan's alghoza rhythms captivated the senses. The pavilion also hosted a cultural evening featuring renowned singers Farah Lashari and Ejaz Ali.

The Sindh pavilion offered more than just handicrafts and performances; it provided a glimpse into the province's culinary heritage. Visitors could savor the sweet indulgence of Larkana mawa (khoya) and add a tangy zest to their meals with Shikarpuri achar (pickle). A book stall arranged by the Sindh cultural department further enriched the pavilion's cultural offerings.

The pavilion held a cultural evening late Friday at Lok Virsa Open Air Theatre which featured eminent artists from Sindh province. The 11-day Lok Mela will continue till November 12, 2023.

AIOU strives for education of out-of-school: VC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is providing educational opportunities to the remotest areas of the country, especially the most backward areas of Balochistan, said Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood

in his message on the inaugural session of the Model Study Center in Dalbandin. "We are on a mission to bring every out of school child of Balochistan into the educational network" he remarked.

It is pertinent to mention here that former Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain inaugurated this center

online in the main campus Islamabad on August 2, 2023 and a ceremony was held yesterday to make it functional formally.

This ceremony was presided over by Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, while former Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani was the chief guest of the event. Students, tutors, social personalities and academicians participated in the event.

Dr. Malik Tauqir said that regional network is being extended to include out-of-school children in educational network as per the vision of VC AIOU,

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. He said that this study center in Dalbandin will provide education facilities to the people of the area at their doorsteps, children from Iran and Afghanistan will also benefit from this center.

Ejaz Khan Sanjrani praised the efforts of Allama Iqbal Open University for the promotion of education and announced that he will provide free land to the AIOU in Dalbandin for the construction of a model study center.

The study center has been activated in a school, the construction of its building will be started after getting land from Ejaz Khan Sanjrani.

Criticism raised

KABUL (TOLONews): The joint Afghanistan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce criticizes the continued imposition of restrictions on Afghan transit goods from Pakistan. In the last two months, traders have lost more than twenty million dollars. "The conditions they have imposed are against the international agreement and WTO agreements, therefore we cannot bring our property under the same conditions as they have imposed," said Khanjan Alokozai, a member of ACCI.

Mass detention to be stopped

KABUL (Ariana News): The neighbor government must immediately halt the continued detentions, deportations and widespread harassment of Afghan refugees, Amnesty International said. More than 170,000 Afghans, many of whom have lived in neighbor country for decades, have had to leave the country since 17 September when the government announced that all 'unregistered foreign nationals' had to leave neighbor country by 1 November.

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

Mullah Baradar signs several MOUs with Iran



KABUL (TOLONews): Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the deputy PM for economic affairs, who returned to Kabul on Friday, announced the signing of several memorandums of understanding with government officials and the private sector of Iran. Baradar told reporters at the Kabul International Airport that the signing of

these memorandums is a great achievement for the two countries, which can provide better business opportunities between Tehran and Kabul. "We signed several memorandums of understanding with government officials and the private sector, which, if Allah willing, will be a great achievement for Iran and

Afghanistan," said Baradar. Baradar said that in the meeting with Iranian officials, there was also a discussion on creating a suitable route for the export of Afghan goods to Iran and other countries in the region. Meanwhile, the acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, said that in their

meetings with Iranian authorities, there has been a discussion on creating facilities for businessmen and solving challenges in the country's ports. Azizi said that starting tomorrow, merchants will be able to transfer their goods to Iran and other countries in the region through Chahbahar. "It was promised that we could start importing and exporting through Chahbahar port from tomorrow," said Nooruddin Azizi. The memorandums signed between the officials of Tehran and Kabul include the meetings of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, the meeting of the Joint Committee on International Road Transport Cooperation, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Afghanistan and Iran Aviation Administration, the Cooperation Document between Isfahan Iron and Steel Company and the Islamic Emirate, and the Cooperation Document between Free Zones.

'Nearly 300,000 Afghan immigrants deported'

KABUL (TOLONews): Following the Islamic Emirate officials' reactions to the expulsion of the immigrants from Pakistan, Mohammad Arsalah Kharoti, deputy of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), called Pakistan's decision to deport Afghan immigrants from this country "rushed." In an interview with TOLONews, Kharoti added that Pakistan should treat Afghan immigrants responsibly and allow them to return to the country of their own volition. "They have made a hasty decision regarding immigrants. They violated the rights of immigrants, which are in accordance with international laws," the Deputy of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation told TOLONews. Kharoti noted that in the



past two weeks, nearly 300,000 Afghan immigrants have entered the country from neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. "Nearly 300,000 Afghan refugees returned to Kabul from the crossings of Torkham, Spin Boldak, Nimroz, Islam Qala and a number of them via the airport in the past two weeks," he further stated. According to the Deputy of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, the aid of the international community and international organizations is not enough for newly returning immigrants, who said that more assistance should be provided to the returnees. "As much as the people should have had access to facilities and services, and their problems should have received attention, neither

their challenges nor their needs have received attention," Mohammad Arsalah Kharoti told TOLONews. This comes as the Balochistan caretaker information minister, Jan Achakzai claimed that their government would start the same campaign against those living without legal documents in the country in line with the "state's decision." "And no one should be mistaken. This is the decision of a 'sovereign state' to repatriate all illegal immigrants. So any political government comes to power after the elections, this process will continue. The new government will be bound to follow this policy," he said as quoted by Pakistani media.

University students apply new storage method to agri sector

KABUL (TOLONews): Students at Kabul University said that they have built storage facilities, similar to cold storage, which can keep agricultural products for more than a month without electricity. These students said that reservoirs store the collected products by using water in agricultural fields. "Cold storage has been built in many provinces, but we cannot call it cold storage. They have only one fan and convert the air inside the room. The main

cold storage lowers the temperature and does not require energy and electricity and can keep vegetables and fruits fresh," said Sayed Elham, a student. "It is an initiative of our professors and students that we have applied here. It is a storage facility used for farmers and small farmers who can store their agricultural products for more than a month before transporting them to the market here," said Ahmad Masoud Azizi, a student. "Farmers in different

parts of the country have complained about the lack of cold storage and said that due to the lack of storage for products, they are forced to sell it at a low price in the market," said Bismillah, a farmer. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock said that the ministry cooperates in all sectors, especially in supporting the innovation of students in the agricultural sector and providing a work environment for graduates in the field of

agriculture. "We provide job opportunities for students studying in agriculture. And that they have the innovation to promote and introduce it to the people," said Musbahuddin Mustaeen, a spokesman for the ministry. According to the ministry statistics, the construction of large cold storage facilities for farmers is underway in various provinces, especially in 14 provinces of the country, and they will be completed soon.

Afghan girls reiterate call to reopen schools



KABUL (TOLONews): Coinciding with World Science Day, girls who are students above the sixth grade want to reopen schools once again. They say that education is one of their fundamental rights and the Islamic Emirate should open the gates of schools to girls as soon as possible. "Eight hundred days is not a small number. A day for a girl to study is like a year, but it's been 800 days since you deprived Afghan girls of education," said Asma, a student.

Among the girls deprived of education, Shabnam, 18, is a young girl who dreams of becoming a doctor. "Today is the World's Science Day, and the largest part of the Afghan society, which are women, are deprived of their most basic right. My request to the caretaker government is to open the gates of schools to all Afghan girls as soon as possible," Shabnam, a student, told TOLONews. On November 10th, World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year in different

countries of the world. A number of university teachers consider Afghanistan to be one of the countries where the education process has always been accompanied by challenges. They say that the Islamic Emirate should put opening the gates of schools and universities on their agenda. "Keeping a large part of the society, i.e. women and girls, from education is actually avoiding a religious order on the one hand and on the other hand, depriving this large and influential section of society from the blessing of literacy, which is actually a divine order," said Hekmatullah Mirzada, a university scholar. Meanwhile, Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, says that the caretaker government is trying to make Afghanistan progress in various sciences. "We want Afghanistan to be equal in sciences and reach the same stages that the countries of the world have reached, we are trying to progress in various sciences," Zabihullah Mujahid said. Earlier, Roza Otunbayeva, the head of UNAMA, at the Women in Islam conference in Jeddah, criticized what she called the violation of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Gallup: Women's life satisfaction hits global low in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): the Gallup Institute published the results of a recent survey about the situation of women in Afghanistan. The survey carried out in July showed that just 11% of Afghan women are happy with their freedom and social standing. This level of satisfaction is the lowest among all the countries where Gallup has conducted surveys so far. In this survey, 17% of women in Afghanistan reported being treated "respectfully," while 83% complained of disrespectful behaviour. The survey also shows that women in Afghanistan generally lead difficult lives. Gallup has stated that comparing the 2023 survey with the one from 2022 regarding the lives of women in Afghanistan reveals a significant decline in the quality of life, especially in terms of social freedoms. In 2022, 29% of Afghan women expressed satisfaction with their lives, while this figure has dropped to less than half in the current year. The report states: "Just 11% of Afghan women interviewed in July said they are satisfied with the freedom they have to choose what they do with their lives, which is a new record low, not just for Afghanistan but for any country or population that Gallup has ever polled." Gallup Institute has con-



ducted surveys worldwide on various topics since 2005 and has closely monitored women's satisfaction with freedom and social life in Afghanistan since 2021. According to Gallup's findings, in 2021, men and women in Afghanistan were equally in agreement that the treatment of women in the country was not respectful. However, in 2023, women's dissatisfaction has sharply increased, and slightly more men than women believe that women are treated with respect. Since the Taliban assumed control of Afghanistan, they have implemented a series of restrictions that have severely curtailed women's rights. These restrictions encompass access to educa-

tion, employment opportunities, and the freedom to travel. The Taliban's rule in Afghanistan has led to significant challenges for women, as they face limited opportunities for education, employment, and the ability to move freely. These restrictions have had a profound impact on the lives and aspirations of Afghan women. Aisha Ahmadi is one of the residents of Kabul city who, after the rise of the Islamic Emirate, was deprived of going to university. In a conversation with a journalist, she stated, "The status of women in society has no value, and the conditions have become such that they have neither freedom at home nor in society." According to Aisha, being confined to the corners of her house makes her feel that she is not treated respectfully at home and in society, and all these hardships have made life very difficult for her. She emphasizes that the increasing restrictions on education, work, participation, and even freedom of movement have limited women's hopes for the future. The Gallup Institute, a research organization, surveyed Afghanistan in 2021 to measure women's satisfaction with freedom and social life. This institution is based in Washington and has been conducting research and surveys in various fields worldwide since 2005.

Some Kabul residents cannot afford to buy wood and coal

KABUL (Pajhwok): Some residents in capital Kabul have complained that due to financial constraints they were unable to purchase firewood and coal as the temperature has already dropped on the eve of harsh winter. Firewood and coal sellers in the Chahar Rahi Shaheed locality of Kabul said due to economic problems public strength to purchase these items had dropped by 50 percent. Abdul Hakim, one of the wood sellers, said last year by this time he sold more than 10 tonnes of sale daily but now he sold more than one and a half tonne of firewood and coal. Abdul Hakim said last year the price of 560 kilograms of Arch wood was 2,700 afis to 8,000 afis, 560 kilogram of Baloot wood cost 7,000 afis to 8,000 afis. He added today one tonne of unrefined coal rate declined from 9,000 afis to 7,500, a 49 kilogram bag of Baloot coal from 1,200 afis 1,000 afis and one tonne of Bora Arah from 9,000 fs to 7,000 afis. "The price of coal had declined because government reduced duty on coal and its export to Pakistan had declined but the Bora Arah price declined because of reduction in its demand, people are unable to purchase it thus shopkeepers had reduced its rate," he said.

When asked about the firewood rate, the said government had banned deforestation and the transport routes are also blocked therefore the price of wood had jumped. Jamshid, one of the firewood sellers in the Chaman Babrak locality of Taimani, acknowledged that the price of wood had jumped. "There are no customers, few people whose relatives are in the foreign country get remittances and then they could purchase wood but most of the people are poor and unable to purchase wood," he said. He said 560 kilograms of baloot wood was last year sold at 8,000 afis but this year sold at 9,000 afis. **Residents' concerns:** Suhailla, the resident of Chahar Rahi Shaheed, said: "I come here to buy woods, I have arranged the money with difficulty." Rohullah, the resident Qala-i-Zaman Khan said he was unable to purchase woods due to economic constraints so far.

Afghan traders in Russia deliver 40 tons of aid to Afghanistan



KABUL (Ariana News): The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) has announced the donation of

40 tons of food and non-food items by Afghan businessmen based in Russia for returning refugees from Pakistan.

The ministry said in a post on X that the aid was handed over at the Kabul Airport in the presence of some officials, including the

ministry's acting minister. The aid includes 5,000 kilograms of formula, 10,000 kilograms of sugar, 2,181 packages of oil, 1,000 woolen blankets, 1,000 quilts, 756 types of cotton socks, 120 packs of socks made of camel wool, 132 types of wool socks, 350 bed sheets, and 1,000 types of children's jackets. Meanwhile, Russian embassy in Kabul also said in a post on X, "approximately 40 tons of humanitarian aid from the Government of the Russian Federation and the Afghanistan Trade Center in Moscow, headed by Mr. Mohammad Nader Shah, was delivered to Kabul on two special flights arranged by the Ministry of Defense of Russia."

Acting energy minister leaves Kabul for Iran

KABUL (Ariana News): left Kabul on Saturday for Iran, the ministry said on X. During this visit, the acting energy minister will discuss the renewal of the electricity contract, the electricity tariff and other related issues, the ministry said.



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‘Stop bombing Gaza’: Thousands join pro-Palestine London march

LONDON: Hundreds of thousands of people have marched in central London chanting “Stop bombing Gaza” and “Ceasefire now” in the largest Palestine solidarity demonstration held in the country so far. Police estimate that around 300,000 demonstrators joined the march on Saturday, which fell on the same day as the annual Remembrance Day commemorations – marking the end of World War I and honouring those killed in military action.

Ahead of the event, British prime minister Rishi Sunak had called its timing “disrespectful”. “These are huge numbers, and it’s unprecedented,” said Al Jazeera’s Paul Brennan, reporting from the march. “It’s a message to the British government as well, who tried to have this march banned by the police.”

The “National March for Palestine” on Saturday was the latest in a series of rallies in the British capital to show support for the Palestinians since Israel launched an air and ground offensive on the Gaza Strip following Palestinian group Hamas’s attacks on southern Israel on October 7. The Hamas assault killed about 1,200 Israelis, and saw more than 240 taken captive. Israel’s attacks, which it has said are aimed at wiping out the Palestinian group that rules Gaza, have killed more than 11,000 people in 34 days, including more than 4,500 children.

Former British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn and member of Parliament for Islington also took part in the rally and demanded a ceasefire. The UK government’s ministers had called for Saturday’s march to be cancelled because it falls on Remembrance Day. On Wednesday, British Prime Rishi Sunak told reporters that he would hold the Metropolitan police commissioner accountable for safety since the police official defied demands to ban the pro-Palestine protests.

Police said at least 82 people were arrested in central London on Saturday “to prevent a breach of the peace”. They were members of a group of counter-protesters who opposed the pro-Palestinian rally under way in the city. A few hours before the protest began on Saturday, a mile (1.6km) away from the start of the march, about 1,000 people lined the streets to watch the remembrance events at the Cenotaph war memorial.

Among the crowd, some right-wing counterprotesters opposed to the pro-Palestinian march chanted messages including, “We want our country back.” Fights broke out near the Cenotaph between police and right-wing protesters. Police used batons to stop the demonstrators, and ceremonies at the memorial were not interrupted. Clashes also took place in other parts of the city, including

Chinatown and near the Houses of Parliament.

Following the confrontation near the Cenotaph, police said the counter-protesters were not a single group and officers were tracking them as they moved away into other parts of London. “Groups of several hundreds [of counter-protesters] arrived, and seemed intent on confrontation, and intent on violence,” the Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner, Matt Twist, said in a statement.

“We’ve had arrests for possession of a knife, possession of a baton, possession of class A drugs, and assault on an emergency worker,” Twist added. The commissioner confirmed the pro-Palestine march was the “largest we’ve seen so far” and that it went on without incidents. “The scenes of disorder we witnessed by the far-right at the Cenotaph are a direct result of the Home Secretary’s words. The police’s job has been made much harder,” the mayor of London Sadiq Khan said in a post on X.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman recently called pro-Palestinian demonstrations “hate marches” and said the police “play favourites” and take a soft stance towards rallies in support of Gaza. “The Met have my full support to take action against anyone found spreading hate and breaking the law,” Khan’s post added. — Al Jazeera



LONDON: Police officers detain a man in street close to ‘National March For Palestine.’

2nd phase of Tablighi Ijtima to conclude today

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The second phase of the annual international congregation, Raiwind Tablighi Ijtima, would conclude on Sunday, Nov 12, with final prayer, amid tight security arrangements.

According to the Ijtima administration, the second and final phase of Ijtima 2023 had started on Thursday, Nov 9. The districts and areas participating in the second phase included Kohat, Hangu, Karam and Kazai Agency, Tirah, Dara Adam Khel, Sada, Mardan, Malakand, Dargai, Swabi, Ghazi, Tabela, Gilgit, Besham, Bitgram, Mansehra, Chillas, Abbottabad, Kohistan, Haripur, Torgar, B a h a w a l n a g a r, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan, Lodhran, Gujranwala, Gujarat, Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, Sialkot, Narowal and Mandi Bahauddin. Around six to seven lakh people are participating in the second phase.

The arrival of delegates from abroad has already completed; however a large number of people around Lahore and suburbs is likely to attend final prayers on early hours of Sunday. Around more than 600,000 people so far have reached the venue. The data of citizens, residing in nearby houses, hotels, guesthouses, bus stops and railway stations, has been collected through geo-fencing, biometric verification and Hotel Eye app.

The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue-1122) had provided an emergency medical cover to the participants in the Raiwind Ijtima. District Emergency Officer (DEO) Shahid Waheed told APP that eight emergency vehicles and 17 motorbike-ambulances have been deployed with staff to provide emergency services to the participants in the second session of the annual Raiwind congregation.

Pak total debt decreases by Rs 1675b

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan’s total debt value has significantly decreased by Rs 1675 billion during one month due to the improvement in the value of the rupee.

According to experts, the overall debt of Pakistan has decreased in the last 12 years, which is the result of the caretaker government’s economic strategy, especially administrative measures to prevent dollar smuggling and black marketing.

The total debt quarterly data from the State Bank of Pakistan shows that compared to August 2023, there was a significant decrease in the total debt of the government by Rs 1675 billion during September 2023. By the end of August, the total debt value was a record Rs 63,966 billion, which reached the level of Rs 62,291 billion at the end of September.

In a period of one month, the value of the total loans has decreased by 2.6% due to the stabilization of the value of the rupee. According to the data released by the State Bank, the value of loans in August was estimated at 305,62 rupees to the dollar, while the average value of the dollar in September was 287.78 rupees, which reduced the value of total loans.

President urged to play his constitutional role

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday said President Dr Arif Alvi should play his constitutional role instead of giving the statements that showed his biasness for a specific political party.

Speaking in a Current Affairs programme of a private television channel, he said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a registered political party with a large number of spokespersons who were using every resource to speak for themselves. The President should not make such statements that showed his “biasness” towards a certain political party, the minister added.

As regards the letter wrote by the President to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar about absence of level-playing field, he said how many times President Arif

Alvi conveyed his concerns to former PM Imran Khan over the human rights violations during the four-year tenure of the PTI’s government.

He recalled that the journalists were abducted and attacked, opposition leaders arrested under false cases and media gags were imposed during the PTI’s government tenure. The minister said the National Assembly was dissolved illegally for the first time in the history to prevent the no-confidence motion against former prime minister Imran Khan.

He said the President had a role of the symbol of federation in the constitutional framework and he should fulfill his responsibilities in accordance with the constitution. According to the constitution, the President was the supreme commander of the armed forces, he said, adding why President Arif

Alvi did not take any action when the sensitive installations were attacked on May 9. “How many letters, the President wrote in this regard,” Solangi questioned.

To a query, he asked PTI leader Omar Ayub to refrain from lecturing him on his constitutional duties. He said if any party or individual had any complaint regarding level-playing field in the elections, they could reach out to the courts and the Election Commission that were functioning independently in the country. To another query, the minister said the caretaker government would address all the complaints within its jurisdiction and in accordance with the Constitution and law. The Election Commission was responsible for conducting transparent, free, fair, and impartial elections in the country, he remarked.

Dar attributes surge in terrorism to Kabul deal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The 2018 agreement between the PTI-led government and Kabul, which involved the release of militants, has resulted in an increase in terrorist attacks in Pakistan, a private media outlet has reported citing Senator Ishaq Dar.

Dar has called for an in-camera briefing in the Senate to understand the surge in terrorism and questioned the reasons behind the reversal of the policy in Kabul, leading to the release of numerous hardened terrorists. Dar, a leader of the PML-N, recalled that the public became aware of this agreement only after seeing images of Pakistani officials negotiating in Kabul. He stressed that the situation did not end there, as a substantial number of hard-

ened terrorists were released under the agreement.

The former finance minister called for clarification on the nature of this understanding, noting that the shift in the anti-terrorism policy occurred after the installation of the Taliban government. Expressing regret, Dar highlighted their engagement and the subsequent release of terrorists from Pakistani prisons, contributing to a continuous upsurge in terrorist activities across the country, posing a threat to the safety of the populace.

Referring to the recent Mianwali incident, Dar advocated for a pragmatic approach to address the highly sensitive challenge, emphasising that the previous PML-N government effectively managed such situations through initiatives like Zarb-e-Azb and

Operation Raddul Ffassad.

Dar pointed out that there was a time when the international community doubted Pakistan’s ability to combat terrorism, especially in the northern regions, even during General Musharraf’s military regime. However, he noted that in September 2013, a decision was made to launch operations against terrorism, with the PML-N government implementing a well-defined program to address economic issues, extremism, and the power crisis.

Dar urged the caretaker government to promptly provide an in-camera briefing on terrorism and requested data illustrating the significant decline in terrorist incidents from 2013 to 2018, followed by the policy change and subsequent engagement with terrorists.

Bilawal flays Israeli attacks on Gaza hospitals

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has vehemently denounced the Israeli military’s airstrikes on hospitals in Gaza, terming these as extreme acts of terrorism. He observed the recent assaults in Gaza have seen multiple hospitals, including Al-Shifa, Al-Awda, Al-Quds, and Indonesian Hospital, being deliberately targeted by Israeli forces, showcasing a grave disregard for humanitarian sanctuaries.

He asserted these strikes have resulted in devastating consequences, with innocent children and the elderly,

already under medical care, becoming unintended victims of Israel’s aggression. “This deliberate targeting of civilian healthcare facilities amplifies the urgency for the international community to intervene and work towards a resolution to the escalating crisis,” he remarked. The former foreign minister continued the actions of the Israeli military, which are causing harm to civilians, particularly children, the elderly, and women, seem aimed at instilling fear and inducing mass evacuations from Gaza.

Bilawal further added tragically, the situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, with a distressing sta-

tistic illustrating the severity of the conflict: every 10 minutes, a child falls victim to Israeli aggression. Additionally, the refusal of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to consider a ceasefire exacerbates the already dire circumstances on the ground, he added.

PPP chairman observed that there remains hope pinned on the outcome of the summit convened in Saudi Arabia, aiming to seek an end to the ongoing war in Gaza. The international community anticipates decisive actions to address the crisis and alleviate the suffering of civilians in the war-torn region, he concluded.

Illegal immigrants from Pakistan returning to homes

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Illegal immigrants, mostly Afghans, returning to their home country as 214,398 immigrants have repatriated till Saturday. Friday 3,605 illegal immigrants returned to their homes. Afghan nationals’ 577 families, including 1175 men, 848 women and 1582 children travelled to Afghanistan in 312 vehicles.

Undocumented Afghan immigrants returning in droves to their home country daily, authorities said. Illegal immigrants returning via Chaman and Torkham border crossings to Afghanistan and a large number of returning refugees included women and children are present at border.

The immigrants being provided free transport service from Landi Kotal holding camp up to the Torkham

border that connects Pakistan and Afghanistan. Authorities said that voluntary repatriation is being encouraged. Pakistan on Wednesday extended the stay of registered Afghan refugees in the country for six months. The sources said that the decision to extend the term of registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan was approved by the caretaker federal cabinet through a circulation summary.

PTI leader Asad Umar quits politics

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar announced on Saturday that he is quitting politics altogether. Umar, who had served as the PTI’s secretary general and planning minister in the Imran Khan government, said that he disagreed with the party’s current policy of confrontation with state institutions.

In a statement on Twitter, Umar said that the PTI’s policy of confrontation had led to “severe conflict” with state institutions, and that this was not in the best interests of the country. He added that he was resigning from the basic membership of the PTI as well. Umar’s resignation comes as a major blow to the PTI, which has been struggling to regain its footing since Khan was ousted from power in April. Umar was one of the most senior and respected leaders in the party, and his departure is likely to raise questions about the PTI’s future direction.

Umar’s resignation is also a significant development in Pakistani politics as a whole. Umar was widely seen as a potential successor to Khan as leader of the PTI, and his decision to quit politics altogether could lead to a period of instability within the party. It is also unclear what impact Umar’s resignation will have on the broader political landscape in Pakistan.

Pak-China joint Naval drills held

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Opening Ceremony of Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) bilateral exercise Sea Guardian-2023 was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. Commander Qingdao Naval Base, Rear Admiral Liang Yang graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Commander Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was also present at the occasion.

In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi welcomed the officers and personnel of PLA (N) Flotilla, underscoring the close and strategic ties between the two countries in general and Navies in particular. The admiral emphasized on the importance of immaculate & sound planning during the exercise and hoped that this exercise will further enhance strategic cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

During his speech, Commander Qingdao Naval Base Rear Admiral Liang Yang thanked Pakistan Navy for hosting Exercise Sea Guardian and hoped to have a mutually benefiting and professionally rewarding experience from the joint exercise. Earlier, Chinese Flotilla comprising of naval ships, Submarine and Submarine Rescue Ship along with PLA (Navy) Marines Corps Detachment, arrived Karachi to participate in the exercise.

PML-N to form govt in Punjab and Centre: Sana

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Rana Sanaullah Khan has said that if free and fair elections are held in the country, the PML-N will secure the public mandate and make strong governments in centre and Punjab.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said the PML-N steered the country out of crises in 1990 and in 2013 under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, and now the party Qauid had arrived with a more aggressive approach to tackle challenges like inflation, electricity tariff hike and revival of economy, etc. He termed the PML-N rally in Lahore on October 21, held for welcoming party Qauid Mian Nawaz Sharif, the largest public gathering in the present political history of the country, in which huge number of people participated to welcome their leader.

The former interior minister said the country’s journey towards prosperity had

been halted by imposing a selected favourite, and people had to face severe economic hardships. He said a failed project in the form of Imran Khan had been launched which later harmed the country’s economy and stability. He mentioned that the PML-N had started its election campaign properly and Mian Nawaz Sharif was scheduled to visit other provinces. He said plan had been finalised under which he would visit Balochistan in the next week. Various political delegations have also held meetings with party president Mian Shehbaz Sharif to form a comprehensive political strategy in the upcoming elections.

The PML-N delegation had also visited Sindh and held negotiations with the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leaders, he said. “We rid the country of menace of terrorism and overcame shortage of electricity in 2013, when people had started saying that issues like terrorism and electricity shortage could never be resolved in

Pakistan,” he recalled. Only the PML-N has the ability to overcome challenges and put the country back on track to development like the other countries. He said that Pakistan was created in the name of islam, and everyone would have to play his role for its protection and stability, adding that the PML-N was working sincerely for overcoming the country’s challenges with the help of its expertise in the filed of economy.

In reply a question, he said committees had been formed to address the objections of the dissenting party leaders and bring them back in party folds. He said the PML-N had always given preference to the loyal party activists over electables. To another question about provision of all facilities to PTI Chairman Imran Khan in jail, he said the PML-N had never raised any objection on it, though he was being given 4-5 star hotel luxuries in jail. He said his party would not object even if he was provided more facilities according to the law of the land.



KARACHI: A group photo of Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi and Chinese Commander Rear Admiral Liang Yang with Pakistan and Chinese Naval Official at the opening ceremony of Exercise Sea Guardian 2023.

ECP says free and fair elections to be ensured

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), without quoting the name of President Arif Alvi, said efforts were under way by a high official to make the electoral process doubtful. Reacting to the letter of Dr Arif Alvi that he sent to interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Wednesday last, the ECP spokesperson in a statement said a high official was trying to make the transparency of the election process doubtful.

He said this was not an appropriate approach as the ECP would ensure free and fair elections in the country. President Arif Alvi sent a letter to the caretaker PM, raising the PTI’s concerns regarding the “erosion of fundamental rights and a level playing field for all political parties” in the run-up to the upcoming general elections.

A statement issued by the President’s Office on Wednesday said it was of the “utmost importance”

that the caretaker government made efforts as a “neutral entity to provide a level playing field for all political parties”. He also forwarded a letter sent to him by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan to the premier. Alvi termed “reassuring” the premier’s recent remarks assuring that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections. Democracy was the only viable way forward for the state and people of Pakistan, he said, adding its essence lay in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through free media.

He said “there was a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders had right to contest and it was up to people to decide. In his letter, President Alvi said he was constitutionally “duty-bound, along with the prime minister and all institutions, to protect the rights of the citizens”. The president

highlighted Article 4 (right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with law), 17 (freedom of association) and 19 (freedom of speech) of the Constitution as he urged PM Kakar, as the head of the government, to “kindly look into these issues”.

The PTI is not the only party complaining about a level playing field leading up to the polls. The rivalry between the PML-N and the PPP has gained momentum as the latter has alleged that the PML-N has a hidden alliance with the current caretaker government. The PPP also recently announced that it was open to forming an electoral alliance with the PTI to counter former ally PML-N.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has amended the rules for the appointment of District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs), making it mandatory to investigate the service records of government officers appointed for election duty.