

Cop shot dead in Tank F.P. Report

TANK: A police constable was shot dead by an unknown assailant in Wazirabad area of Tank district on Tuesday. Police said constable Sharifuddin was in the city area of Tank when an unknown motorcyclist fired at him in Wazirabad, killing him on the spot. Police said the assailant managed to flee the scene after killing the constable.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (retd) Syed Arshad Hussain called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq.

Court rejects NAB plea for Imran Khan's remand

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Tuesday rejected the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) plea seeking physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the £190 million settlement case.

The hearing was held at the Adiala Jail, where the former prime minister is currently incarcerated in the cipher case. The PTI chief was arrested on Sunday in the Toshakhana and the Al-Qadir Trust cases after an accountability court in Islamabad issued his arrest warrants.

During the hearing, the NAB officials sought the PTI chief's physical remand for interrogation. However, accountability court judge Muhammad Bashir turned down the request while announcing the reserved verdict on the anti-graft watchdog's request.

After the hearing, Imran's sister Aleema Khan said — while talking to media outside the jail — that "those who conspired against PTI chairman are outside the country". "Jail trial is a joke, as no one has access to it," she said, adding that everyone linked to the settlement should be tried to find out where did £190 million came from. The PTI chief has been indicted by the special court and is currently incarcerated in Adiala jail in the cipher case.

The PTI chairman is facing charges of corruption of billions of rupees in a case involving a property tycoon. Imran — along with his wife Bushra Bibi and other PTI leaders — is facing a NAB inquiry related to a settlement between the PTI government and the property tycoon, which reportedly caused a loss of £190 million to the national exchequer. As per the charges, Imran and other accused allegedly adjusted Rs50 billion — £190 million at the time — sent by Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the Pakistani government as part of the agreement with the property tycoon.

They are also accused of getting undue benefit in the form of over 458 kanals of land at Mouza Bakrala, Sohawa, to establish Al Qadir University. During the PTI government, the NCA seized assets worth 190 million pounds from the property tycoon in Britain.

The agency said the assets would be passed to the government of Pakistan and the settlement with the Pakistani property tycoon was "a civil matter, and does not represent a finding of guilt". Subsequently, then-prime minister Imran got approval for the settlement with the UK crime agency from his cabinet on December 3, 2019, without disclosing the details of the confidential agreement.

It was decided that the money would be submitted to the Supreme Court on behalf of the tycoon. Subsequently, the Al-Qadir Trust was established in Islamabad a few weeks after the PTI-led government approved the agreement with the property tycoon. Zulfi Bukhari, Babar Awan, Bushra Bibi, and her close friend Farah Khan were appointed as members of the trust.

Lives of 36 babies in Gaza hospital at risk

GAZA/JERUSALEM: The lives of 36 babies at Gaza's Al Shifa Hospital were hanging in the balance on Tuesday, according to medical staff there who said there was no clear mechanism to move them despite an Israeli effort to supply incubators for an evacuation.

Three of the original 39 premature babies have already died since Gaza's biggest hospital ran out of fuel at the weekend to power generators that had kept their incubators going. The Gaza Strip has been under a total Israeli blockade since Hamas launched an attack on Israel on Oct. 7. An Israeli ground incursion since then has brought fighting to streets around the hospital in the center of Gaza City in the north of the strip.

The 36 babies, who weigh less than 1.5 kg (3.3 pounds) and with some as small as 700 to 800 grams, were now lying side-by-side on ordinary beds, exposing them to infection and without any individual adjustments to humidity levels and temperatures, staff said. "Luckily they are still 36, we didn't lose any of them overnight," Dr. Ahmed El Mokhatallali, a surgeon, told Reuters by telephone from Al Shifa. "But still the risks are really high ... We have still the risk of losing them."

Israel's military said earlier on Tuesday it was coordinating the transfer of incubators into the Gaza Strip in a step to allow the evacuation of the babies. It posted on social media an image of a soldier unloading incubators from a van. The military also posted a video showing Shani Sasson, a spokesperson from an Israeli Defense Ministry liaison office that deals with Palestinian civilian affairs, standing in front of incubators and saying a formal offer of help had been made.

"Extensive efforts are underway to ensure that these incubators right here behind me can reach the babies in Gaza without delay," she said in the video. An Israeli official involved in those efforts, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said three available incubators had been provided by Israeli hospitals. "The intention is to enable the safe evacuation of newborn babies. To our understanding, Shifa does not have the necessary transport incubators for that," the official said, adding the incubators were on standby outside Gaza for any agreed handover.

Images published by the military showed standard transport incubators, said Arthur Edelman, a professor of paediatrics and neonatology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "They are battery-operated,

which would allow for a couple of hours of running time. They also have the option of plugging into an ambulance power source," he said.

The military did not say what steps it would take to make an evacuation possible, amid intense air strikes and ongoing fighting in the vicinity of Al Shifa hospital.

A spokesman for Gaza's health ministry, which is under Hamas control, said there was no objection to evacuating the babies but said there was no mechanism to do this.

Many of Gaza's hospitals, like Al Shifa, have also shut down because of a lack of fuel and supplies, or are already crammed full of patients and those wounded in the fighting. "We have no objection to have the babies moved to any hospital, in Egypt, the West Bank or even to the occupation (Israeli) hospitals. What we care most is about the wellbeing and the lives of those babies," Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qidra said, speaking by telephone from the hospital. "So far there is no clear mechanism." Israel says the hospital is not under siege and says its forces offers exit routes to those inside. Medical staff and officials in the hospital say those trying to leave have come under fire. Reuters could not independently verify the accounts.

Al Shifa's Mokhatallali said he was aware of efforts to rescue the babies but did not know the details. "Someone asked us to get the names of the babies and how many there are. But no actual steps on the ground. So we don't know how serious these efforts are to evacuate these babies," he said. The Israeli military posted an audio recording of what it said was a conversation between a senior officer from Israel's Coordination and Liaison Administration and the director-general of Al Shifa Hospital, speaking in Arabic, subtitled in English.

In it, the official talks about depositing an incubator at the hospital gate, without giving details of how or when that would happen. The director-general says that would help, adding that four respirators for children are also needed. The official says he will see what he can do to help. The director-general responds that all the wards and staff inside the hospital need help. Israel has vowed to wipe out Hamas after the group's fighters rampaged through southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking around 240 hostage, according to Israeli numbers. Its counteroffensive has killed more than 11,000 people in Gaza so far. — Arab News

PPP ready to play on all kinds of pitch: Bilawal

F.P. Report

MITHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that his party after coming into power will connect Thar-Karachi through railway track, will fight poverty and unemployment. Masses are still in the grip of tsunami of inflation, he added.

While addressing a press conference in Mithi on Tuesday, he said the PPP had never enjoyed a level playing field and a particular "pitch" was being prepared currently but his party was still ready to play on every kind of pitch. Bilawal Bhutto said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Muhammad Nawaz Sharif instead of attempts to make inroads in Sindh and Balochistan should stay in Punjab and focus on resolving the issues of people of province there.

He said that the PML-N should do politics on its own and should not ask any "institution" to do that on the party's behalf. Would those who couldn't win by-elections in Punjab give a surprise to the PPP," he questioned. The PPP chairman said that the caretaker setup was responsible for organising general elections

and continuing with the policies set by the previous coalition. "We were pushed into one crisis after another during the past five years, he remarked.

He called for a maximum number of PPP candidates in the upcoming elections, because, he added, it was a people-friendly party. Thar had witnessed a 50 per cent decrease in child mortality due to the steps taken by the PPP government, Bilawal noted. The decision to be part of the government along with the PDM was taken in national, not political, interest, he recalled and said that they would try to form a government after elections.

Bilawal Bhutto claimed that his party was way ahead of both the PML-N and the PTI in performance. The PPP could deliver, he told reporters and added the PPP would fulfill the promise of Roti, Kapra and Makan [Food, Clothing and Shelter] — the famous slogan that enabled Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to win the 1970 general elections, the first in Pakistan's history. He said the Centre had stopped releasing the funds [under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award] and other heads, hindering the development projects and rehabilitation of flood

affecteds in the province.

Citing the example of social welfare initiatives, especially designed for the people of Thar, including the stipend for children — from their birth till the age of three, the PPP chairman said that the Sindh government was supposed to provide the money in collaboration with the Centre. The PPP had remained a victim of character assassination meant to portray a picture that it could not deliver and was weak in carrying out development works, Bilawal said while listing the projects initiated in Thar and other parts of Sindh.

Meanwhile, the former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has expressed his gratitude to the people of Thar for holding a grand rally for Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He paid tribute to the office bearers and Jiyalas of the Pakistan Peoples Party.

In a statement issued from Media Office Islamabad, President Zardari said that the people of Thar have made their decision known by welcoming Chairman Bilawal with such zeal. He said that the people of Thar have not forgotten their sister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

IHC stays trial court proceedings against Imran

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday halted proceedings against PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the cipher case, stressing the need for the court to be informed about the "circumstances" that prompted the trial to be conducted in jail.

The IHC division bench, comprising Justice Mian-gul Hassan Aur-angzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, announced the verdict while hearing the former prime minister's intra-court appeal against a single-member bench's decision that had approved Imran's jail trial.

The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic document that the Federal Investigation Agency's charge sheet alleges was never returned by Imran.

The PTI has long held that the document contained a threat from the United States to oust Imran as prime minister. The former premier and his aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is also behind bars, were indicted in the case on Oct 23. They have pleaded not guilty. The IHC has endorsed Imran's indictment, disposing of his plea against the same, but had also instructed the special court judge to ensure a "fair trial". At the commencement of the hearing today, PTI chief Imran Khan's lawyer, Salman Akram Raja, and the Attorney General Mansoor Awan were present in the court.

Justice Aurangzeb clarified that allowing certain family members of the petitioner did not make it into an open court hearing. The attorney general informed the court that the federal cabinet had approved the proceedings in the cipher case at the trial court, and a copy of the relevant notification would be presented.

Justice Aurangzeb expressed that the court will scrutinise the notification, questioning the "extraordinary circumstances" that led to the trial being conducted in its current manner. "We want to know the actual events; you have to inform us," the judge remarked. Furthermore, the court sought clarification on the reasons behind the federal cabinet's approval of the jail trial. "The most important question lies in determining the status of court proceedings preceding the cabinet's approval," Justice Aurangzeb asked.

The judge also referred to the former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi's jail trial, saying "it was conducted at Tihar Jail where media was not allowed. Similar to that scenario involving a former premier, this case also involves the ex-PM." After the arguments, the court sought a reply from the attorney general and adjourned the hearing.

Ex-MNA Ali Wazir arrested again

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Former Member of National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir was arrested again on Tuesday in hate speech case. Darabani Police of Dera Ismail Khan arrested the former MNA near Zanda in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Ali Wazir was arrested for speaking against the institution and disrupting the peace and harmony in the society, police said. Earlier, the former MNA was released from Adiala jail after securing bail in the sedition and terror cases.

As many as four FIRs were earlier lodged against Ali Wazir in two police stations of Islamabad. Two FIRs were registered in the Tarnol police station and one FIR was registered in the Bara Kahu police station. Moreover, a case against the former MNA was registered by the FIA. All the surety bonds were submitted in court and Ali Wazir was freed from the Adiala jail after completion of the legal process.

PM, KP CM discuss election, law and order

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interim Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, retired Justice Arshad Hussain called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Tuesday and discussed the upcoming general election and administrative matters of the province.

The prime minister emphasized the constitutional role of the interim chief minister in assisting the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold polls in a free and fair manner across the province. He felicitated the chief minister on the assumption of his office and expressed best wishes for his assignment. The meeting also discussed the law and order situation in the province and the control of smuggling.

PM for visa ease, improved banking channels to boost Pak-Uzbek trade: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar underscored that easy visa procedures, improved banking channels and reciprocal warehousing facilities would further boost trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Dr Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakomovich along with a delegation, expressed the hope that the business community of both countries could easily achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$ 1 billion in a short time. The Uzbek deputy prime minister, along with a seven-member delegation, is on an official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the Uzbek deputy prime minister and his delegation to Pakistan and recalled his recent meeting with President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit held in Tashkent from November 8-9. He expressed satisfaction at the pace of bilateral engagements between the two countries, especially in the areas of trade, defence and connectivity.

He also appreciated the holding of the First Trilateral Meeting of the Commerce Ministers of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad. The three sides also established a trilateral working group to discuss customs, logistics, trade promotion, tariffs, TIR procedures, etc.

Showing satisfaction at the outcome of the trilateral meeting, the prime minister hoped that the trilateral mechanism would boost trade relations between the three countries. Prime Minister Kakar underlined the need to continue momentum of people-to-people exchanges. Deputy Prime Minister Khodjaev thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

He briefed the prime minister about fruitful meetings with the business community of Pakistan, including the banking and logistics sectors. He expressed the hope that both sides would continue active engagement for the timely completion of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway

Project.

The Uzbekistan delegation included Minister of Transport Ilkhom Makhkamov Rustamovich, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Foreign Minister Bobur Usmanov, Deputy Chairman of State Security Service Maj. General Farukh Mukhtarov and Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Islamabad Oybek Arif Usmanov. The Pakistan delegation included Minister of Commerce Gohar Ijaz as well as secretaries of commerce and Board of Investment, and other senior officials.

PM urges overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar urged the overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and assured that the government would provide all possible support and facilities to them.

He said protecting the rights of overseas Pakistanis were among the top priorities of the government. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the overseas Pakistanis led by Nouman Mustafa that called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister observed that transfer of remittances of the Pakistanis residing abroad through legal and safe manner was very important for the country's progress and urged them to send their amounts through the Roshan Digital Pakistan Account. He further said that the Roshan Digital Pakistan Account was the safest means for transfer of remittances and its utilization could help in improving the national economy. Protection of their investments and properties were the responsibility of the government and no leniency would be tolerated in that regard, he added.

PM, heritage minister discuss promotion of art & culture: Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed matters related to his ministry, the PM Office said. Various steps to promote art and culture in the country also came under discussion.

PM for promoting HE in accordance with contemporary, economic requirements: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar underlined the need of bringing the higher education in the country in conformity with the contemporary and economic needs. He further stressed for introduction of scholarships in technical and scientific subjects in accordance with the global requirements.

The prime minister was chairing a meeting regarding the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi, Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, secretary education and other senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



QUETTA: PML-N leaders welcome party chief Mian Nawaz Sharif upon arrival at local hotel.

Nawaz reaches Quetta, looks to forge alliances

F.P. Report

QUETTA: As the parties go into electioneering mode, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif landed in Quetta on Tuesday.

During his Quetta visit, Nawaz — accompanied by party President Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz — is expected to woo the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) to form an electoral alliance ahead of the February eight polls, sources said. The parties, in case they reach an understanding, would then jointly contest the general elections in the province and will decide upon the chief minister "with a consen-

sus".

BAP's Jam Kamal is likely to jump ship and join Nawaz on condition that he be made the chief minister, whereas the JUI-F has also put forward the name of Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri conditioning their support if he is made the province's chief executive, the sources added. The Nawaz-led PML-N delegation met with various stakeholders — including a BAP delegation comprising Nawabzada Khalid Magsi, Manzoor Kakar, and others.

The meeting was also attended by Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) President Khalid Magsi, National Party's Abdul Malik Baloch, and JUI-F's provincial leadership. Among others who are expected to meet

Nawaz include Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Balochistan Assembly Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, and others.

It should be noted that the PML-N and BAP have had a bitter past, as the party was founded in 2018 by political dissidents from Nawaz's party as well as those from the PML-Q. Notable political entities are expected to join the ranks of the PML-N with the party looking into possible seat adjustment with the BAP.

The development comes as earlier this month the PML-N and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) announced their electoral alliance to jointly contest the upcoming general elections in Sindh.

Khadija's remand extended

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday extended the judicial remand of PTI activist Khadija Shah, and others in the Jinnah House attack case. On May 9, violent protests broke out across the country after the arrest of the former prime minister in the Al-Qadir Trust case. Ms. Shah, Aliya Hamza, Rubeena Jamil and others were presented before the ATC judge after their judicial remand expired on Tuesday.

DG LDA orders for stringent action on parking law violations

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner and Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa, held a comprehensive meeting addressing pivotal issues within LDA and Traffic Engineering & Transport Planning Agency (TEPA) here on Tuesday.

The session encompassed enlightening updates on reforms across diverse facets of the LDA and the TEPA, with Additional DGs delivering detailed briefings on their wings progress.

Noteworthy insights into housing, town planning, and metropolitan projects were shared, emphasizing the commitment to reforms and over-arching goals.

A spotlight on IT-based advancements showcased strides in record digitization, underlining the commitment to modernization.

The LDA's chief engineer presented an overview of ongoing city projects, while TEPA's chief engineer outlined plans to invigorate the enforcement wing.

The DG LDA issued directives for stringent actions against parking law violations, urging collaborative efforts by Town Planning and TEPA.

The TEPA received instructions to enhance fines and fees collection mechanism, aligning with the pursuit of effective governance. Key attendees included Additional DGs, Chief Engineers, Chief Town Planner, and NESPAK officers, collectively contributing to the strategic discussions.

CTD apprehends inter-provincial gang of robbers

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) announced a significant breakthrough on Tuesday, revealing the dismantling of an alleged inter-provincial gang of street criminals from Main University Road.

According to a CTD spokesperson, three individuals were apprehended during the initial interrogation, confessing to the systematic looting of citizens who withdrew cash from ATMs across various cities in Sindh and Punjab.

These accused individuals reportedly admitted to targeting unsuspecting individuals and looting an estimated sum ranging from 1 to 1.5 million rupees in each city. Shockingly, they confessed to carrying out such robberies over an extended period.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Abdul Sattar, Muhammad Shahid, Qurban Ali, and Muhammad Ashraf. The CTD seized four pistols and 12 bullets from their possession, further solidifying the case against them.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the accused, with ongoing investigations set to uncover additional details regarding their criminal activities and potential network connections.

Siraj extends invitation to political leadership to join for safeguarding Gaza

LAHORE (NNI): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has extended an invitation to the political leadership to join the efforts aimed at safeguarding Gaza.

During a mass gathering at Thoker Niaz Baig on Tuesday, he emphasized that mere statements and resolutions from the Muslim world would not deter Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

He said the II would continue support for Gaza and hold a historic Palestine solidarity rally in Lahore on November 19.

He expressed disappointment with the OIC Summit in Riyadh, asserting that it fell short of meeting the expectations of the Ummah, particularly in the

Punjab govt to establish 9 model agri centers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at CM's Office on Tuesday, reviewed the establishment of model agricultural centers in Punjab.

During the session, a strategic decision was made to establish nine such centers across Punjab. He directed formulating a comprehensive plan to ensure farmers have centralized access to a spectrum of services, emphasizing the implementation of measures aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector.

The participants were briefed on the Okara-based model agriculture center during the meeting. Stressing the importance of a thorough plan, the CM urged the development of a detailed blueprint for the establishment of these model agri centers.

At the divisional level, these centers are poised to become comprehensive hubs offering essential services to farmers all under one roof. Facilities, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural machinery and equipment will be made available to farmers at these centers.

Further, the meeting highlighted that these centers will encompass marketing and storage facilities for a variety of produce, including fruits, vegetables and other commodities. The phased program for the establishment of model agri centers will extend to districts as well.

Provincial Minister SM Tanveer, Chairman Planning & Development,

Secretary Agriculture and agri experts attended the meeting.

CM reviews WCLA projects, emphasizes timely completion: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at his office here on Tuesday, reviewed the progress on Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) projects.

During the session, the restoration of Kharak Singh's historic mansion took center stage, with plans to refurbish its rooms for tourism promotion, ensuring standard facilities for tourists' accommodation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed the initiation of necessary steps for relocating the Rim Market and accelerating work on the Lahore Fort Cafe. The meeting also assessed progress on the restoration projects for the historical gates of Lahore and fort Kohna Qasim Bagh in Multan.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the timely completion of these projects, emphasizing the restoration of the wall around the historical gates to its original condition for full protection.

Highlighting the historical significance of Lahore's gates and fort Kohna Qasim Bagh in Multan, the CM envisioned them becoming key attractions for tourists post-restoration. The meeting disclosed plans to remove poles on Mall Road to restore its historical character, with post-restoration management involving the hiring of experts.

PU, NAB arrange painting competition focusing on anti-corruption campaign

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has said that providing awareness against corruption through art is a best source.

He was addressing at the 'Wall of Culture Painting Competition' organized by Punjab University, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Brighto Paints in connection with the anti-corruption campaign here on Tuesday. NAB Director Imran Sohail, Additional Director Attia Azmat, Resident Officer-II Muhammad Kashif Nazir, Director Student Affairs Dr Muhammad Ali, faculty members, administrative officers and students were present.

In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood

said that NAB and PU are giving a positive message against corruption through anti-corruption activities, which is commendable.

Imran Sohail said that NAB would continue to play a dynamic role to create a corruption-free society. He said that students of Punjab University have proved to be responsible citizens by providing awareness about anti-corruption through excellent creative work.

In the event, students made various sketches on the wall of Punjab University to create a corruption-free society.

Later, certificates of appreciation and medals were distributed among the students who participated in the competition.

LESCO detects 283 power pilferers

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 283 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 67th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 279 electricity thieves, out of which 189 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 28 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 67th consecutive day (Nov. 14) 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 11 were commercial, 01 agricultural and 271 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 312,458 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 13,141million.

Apprising the media about some major power pilferers, he explained that LESCO charged Rs 280,000 detection bill against 4,000 units to an electricity pilferer in Shahdara Lahore; Rs 250,000 fine in the form of detection bill against 5,000 units to a customer stealing electricity in Shafiqabad area; Rs 200,000 detection bill against 4,064 units to another power thief in Kot Lakhpat Lahore; and Rs 200,000 detection bill to a power thief in Qila Gujjar Singh area.

During the 67 days of grand anti-theft campaign, the spokesman mentioned, the LESCO detected pilferage on 25,828 power connections and submitted 25,578 FIR applications against electricity thieves in the relevant police stations out of which 24,757 FIRs have been registered, while 12,446 accused have so far been arrested by the police.

The LESCO has so far charged a total of 47,833,285 detection units worth Rs 2,018,063,755 to all the power pilferers.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman visiting the stalls of Pharmaceutical companies on the occasion of World Diabetes Day at Governor House.

CM distributes textbooks, urges teachers to complete course

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar speaking at a free textbooks distribution ceremony among the school children at Landhi said that the school education department has printed the last tranche of textbooks for which this ceremony has been organized to distribute them among the students.

The ceremony was organised by Minister of Education Rana Hussain at the warehouse of Sindh Textbook Board, Gaddafi Town Ground, Landhi Industrial Area, Karachi.

Chairman of STBB Agha Sohail, education department officers, and parents of students attended the ceremony. The CM said that he was feeling relieved by distributing textbook sets amongst students and hoped that the teachers would work hard to complete the course which had been delayed due to lack of textbooks.

Baqar said: "We, as a nation, have lagged in every sector and are much behind the other developing nations but all these gaps could be stridden over if we succeed in improving our education system for which every segment of society, particularly the teachers, the academicians, the parents and the civil society will have to play their due role."

He said that these were our children, and they were our future, and we have to decide how to shape our future. Quoting Mark Twain, the CM said, "The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read" and he believed that we must not let it come to this - our children must have access to education. It is their right.

Minister Education Rana Hussain speaking on the occasion said that she pursued the STBB and the remaining tranche of the books printed which finally has materialized.

She suggested the chief minister allow her to start the academic session in April instead of August. "If the session is started in April, it would help the students to carry their homework and reading material for their summer vacation," she said.

Another suggestion Dr Rana Hussain gave to the chief minister was recollecting the textbooks given to students once their session was over. She said, "The books are the property of the government and if the parents play their role in returning the books given to the [school] children they would be provided to the other students in the session," she said and added the shortfall [of the books] would be printed if the collection

remained below the target or the enrolment was increased.

At the end of the program, the chief minister distributed the free textbooks among the students and inaugurated the transportation of the textbooks in the districts where they were required.

Doctors delegation calls on CM Baqar: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar met a delegation of doctors from different medical organizations namely PMA, CPSP, Young Doctors Association, Peoples Doctors Forum, Society of Surgeons, CPSP, Vice Chancellor of Dow University Professor Dr. Saeed Qureshi, Executive Director of JPMC Prof Shahid Rasool and others.

He discussed the policy matters and issues related to the improvement of service delivery in public sector health institutions of Sindh.

The participants appreciated the consultative approach of the caretaker government and suggested policy measures to serve the people of Sindh in a better manner.

The caretaker chief minister assured the representatives of doctors' associations that issues related to service structure and budget shall be resolved on priority.

35pc premature deaths in Pakistan linked to diabetes

LAHORE (APP): Medical experts and nutritionists, highlighting an alarming increase in diabetes patients in Pakistan, emphasized the importance of minimizing sugar and sweets intake to combat this rising health challenge.

During a seminar organized by the Institute of Public Health (IPH) on World Diabetes Day, experts highlighted the risks of diabetes, attributing it to the surge in diseases like high blood pressure, heart disease, renal failure, and blindness.

Dean of IPH, Professor Dr. Zarfashan Tahir, expressed concern over the escalating risk, revealing that 32 million Pakistanis are currently grappling with diabetes, serving as a significant precursor to other life-threatening conditions. Dr. Mehreen Farooqi stressed the need for regular blood screenings, particularly for those above 35, to enable early detection and preventive measures against diabetes.

Rangers, water board crack-down on water theft, 187 illegal hydrants targeted

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh, in conjunction with the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, initiated an operation against water theft in the city, resulting in action being taken against 187 illegal hydrants. During a joint news conference at the Rangers Headquarters led by Sector Commander Brig. Kabir, Colonel Amer, and Managing Director Salahuddin of KW&SB, it was revealed that the operation, commencing on September 17 of this year, led to the sealing of 24 illegal hydrants and the demolition of 163 others. Subsequently, 163 individuals were arrested, and FIRs were filed against them.

The officers asserted that these efforts notably improved water supply in various areas. However, ongoing endeavors aim to fully extend the operation's benefits to the public. A substantial portion of the

crackdown on illegal hydrants has concluded, and current actions are targeting illicit connections.

Water mafia had installed 150 illegal hydrants and 1200 illegal connections, illicitly diverting 100 million gallons per day (mgd) for commercial and domestic use. The MD of the water board mentioned that amidst the hydrant demolitions, some connections would be regularized as per legal procedures.

The stolen water, sold at inflated rates to industrial and domestic consumers, led to billions of rupees in monthly losses for the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board. This theft deprived consumers in areas like Baldia, SITE, Keamari, and Lyari of their water. Approximately 20 percent of the stolen water has been reintroduced into the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board's supply system due to these opera-

tions. For the first time in areas such as Orangi, Qasbah Colony, New Karachi, Clifton, Gadap, and Baldia, water has reached those at the tail end of the supply chain.

Furthermore, in Surjani, Gadap, and Clifton, water flow and pressure have doubled, reducing interruptions in supply and increasing overall distribution.

Around 1,000 water tankers have been officially registered with the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board to provide water to the public at government-set rates.

The Sindh Rangers, in collaboration with the Water and Sewerage Board, are committed to continuing the operation until water theft is completely eradicated. To access water at official rates, citizens can register via the Online Application provided by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB).

بورڈ آف انٹرمیڈیٹ اینڈ سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن مردان
نیلام عام

بورڈ نوڈا استعمال شدہ پرچہ جات اور استعمال شدہ سامان (اُتھرک) بیکل، ٹیٹ، پرچہ جات کے ہونے کوئے، درمی کاغذ، قلم، کے لئے "جہاں ہیں اور جہاں ہیں" کی بنیاد پر مورخہ 28-11-2023 بوقت 11:30 بجے دوپہر بورڈ آف انٹرمیڈیٹ اینڈ سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن مردان میں بنیادی جائے گی۔ اشعار کی بنیادی الگ الگ الاؤں کی مجلس میں کی جائے گی۔ کامیاب ہونے کی قیمت مع کوٹیشن/موصولات کے علاوہ ہوگی۔ موصولات کی مجلس کی ادا بنیگی قیمت کے مطابق کامیاب ہونے والے رقم کو ادا کرنا ہوگی۔ اشیاء اور دیگر شرائط کی تفصیلات مردان بورڈ کی ویب سائٹ www.bisemdn.edu.pk سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔

کامیاب ہونے والے ہندوستانی رقم بورڈ کے طریقہ کار کے مطابق کر سہاگہ ہر لٹ کے لئے الگ الگ ہونے والے رقم (مع شرائط و ضوابط) مثلاً - 50000 روپے کے عوض بورڈ کے ایڈمنسٹریشن سے فٹری وقت میں حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے ہونے والے رقم مورخہ 28-11-2023 کو بجے 11 بجے تک زیر تجلے کے فٹری میں بذریعہ سرڈو ڈاک کو زیر سرسختی جانی چاہئے۔ ہونے والے رقم کوئی فارم بیٹھوں کیجا چاہیگا۔ یہ تمام بنیادی عام نکیرا روز 2014ء کے تحت لی جائے گی۔ یہ شہنشاہ نکیرا کے ویب سائٹ www.kppra.gov.pk سے حاصل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

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بی آئی ایس ای مردان
0937-9230257

INF(P):
2774/2023



Gas Recovery Act:

PHC orders federal govt for submission of reply

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Justice Waqar Ahmad ordered the Federal Government for submission of reply to a plea seeking status quo against Section 29 of Gas Recovery Act 2016 while stopping respondents from receiving bill from petitioner, on Tuesday.

The counsel Malak Shahbaz Advocate argued that submission of disputed amount is compulsory for obtaining status quo against received utility bill under

Section 29 of Gas Recovery Act 2016 from Gas Utility Court which is violative to fundamental constitutional rights.

The petitioner named Najeeb Ullah approached Gas Utility Court Mardan for status quo against bill of Rs1 lac 42 thousand but the court had declined the relief and ordered the applicant for submission of disputed amount, the counsel added.

The counsel added that the plea for status quo will have to be no ground after submission of disputed amount and added that the dispute of consumption of gas and bill received isn't resolve still.

The counsel argued to

declared Section-29 of Gas Recovery Act 2016 unconstitutional and ordered for submission of the undisputed amount as well as requested for granting status quo in this regard.

The divisional of comprising of Chief Justice PHC Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Justice Waqar Ahmad issued notice to the Federal Government while stopped receiving of bill from petitioner after initial arguments in the plea.

PHC's Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim turndown Bail before Arrest plea of a businessman while police arrested him from the court's premises.

The petitioner has provided cheque of Rs2 million on 9th March 2023 which was bounced but he had obtained BBA from lower court and approached PHC after a year to obtain pre-arrest bail, the complainant counsel argued.

The counsel Khalid Khan Mohmand and Musa Wazir advocates argued that complainant Asfandiyar Riaz had given machinery costing Rs27.5 million while the accused paid Rs15 million while provided cheques for remaining amount which were bounced. PHC rejected bail plea of businessman while police had arrested him from the court's premises.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair listening people issues at his office.

50 illegal structures removed

PESHAWAR (INP): The district administration in assistance with the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) has demolished more than 50 illegal structures in Karkhano Market and issued strict warnings to the traders for not erecting such structures in future.

According to the district administration, during the operation, Assistant Commissioner Hashim Azeem, SP Cantt, Additional Assistant Commissioner Tanya Shaheen, staff of PDA, traffic police and officials of Civil Defense were present. A large contingent of police was also present to cope with any untoward situation during the operation.

The administration further said that over 50 illegal cabins and structures were removed with heavy machinery during the operation. These illegal structures had blocked the roads and footpaths, creating hardships for pedestrians besides interrupting the traffic flow.

The administration said no one would be allowed to erect encroachments in Karkhano Market and stern legal action would be taken against the violators in future.

Three held for hundi business

PESHAWAR (INP): FIA Peshawar Zone Operations during various crackdowns against illegal money exchangers and counterfeit drugs on Tuesday apprehended three accused and recovered spurious drugs and foreign and local currencies.

According to FIA, a team of Anti-Corruption Circle and Commercial Banking Circle during a raid in Shuba bazar arrested an accused Kifayatullah for selling and delivering counterfeit and unregistered medicines.

In another operation in Sarafa bazaar here, two illegal money exchangers identified as Fakhr Azam and Mohammad Azam were arrested and an amount of Rs 2.5 million and records of hundi were recovered. FIA registered cases against the accused and started investigation.

Free camp held at KTH

PESHAWAR (APP): Endocrinology and Pediatric Departments of Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) here Tuesday arranged free diagnostic and awareness camp in connection with World Diabetes Day.

Chairperson Pediatric Ward, Dr. Sabahat Ameer, Dr. Shazia Bahar and Dr. Sulaiman supervised the camp and conducted free checkups of patients.

Resolving issues:

Governor assures businessman

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A businessman in Peshawar city and social activist, Ghulam Bilal Javed through a telephonic conversation with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed him of issues being faced by small traders.

He informed the Governor KP Ghulam Ali of businessmen who are going through a difficult time and faced a number of issues including law and order situation, increase in

power and gas tariff and others.

He also let the Governor inform about how businessmen are taking key part in revival of economic activities in the city.

Ghulam Ali, was informed that businessmen in provincial metropolitan areas are facing severe gas and power outages and that their businesses were adversely affected. Governor KP after listening to the problems of businessmen assured that all the genuine problems being

faced by them will be solved on priority basis.

Talking about his conversation with Governor KP, Mr Ghulam Bilal Javed told media men that the Governor had told he had contacted the federal government as well over the taxes and other issues to help resolving issues of businessmen.

He stated that the conversation with KP governor over the businessmen issues and other matters was positive and hope it will give fruitful results.

Minister, Secretary to hold online Kuli Kachehri

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In an effort to enhance transparency and efficiency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, and Elections, Engineer Amir Durrani, along with Secretary LG Dawood Khan, are set to participate in an online Kuli Kachehri program on Facebook.

The initiative, organized by the Local Government Department, aims to raise public awareness and address community concerns.

Scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, at 11

am, the two-hour program will provide a platform for the minister and secretary to respond to public queries through a live Facebook session. Citizens are encouraged to submit their grievances and issues via an online Google form, with both officials committing to addressing them the following day.

The event will take place at the Local Government Committee Room in the Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. For public inquiries and participation, a hotline number (091-9210523) has been provided, along with the Facebook address www.facebook.com/LGkpGovt.

Caretaker Minister Engineer Amir Durrani emphasized the provincial government's dedication to transparency and improvement in the department, expressing confidence that the online program will facilitate a smoother resolution of public concerns in the digital era.

Secretary LG Dawood Khan echoed this commitment, affirming the department's focus on improvement through such initiatives, aiming to swiftly identify and address issues for the benefit of the general public.

Anti-drug awareness seminar organized

PESHAWAR (APP): The Department of Political Science, Islamia College Peshawar on Tuesday arranged a day-long Anti-Drug Awareness Seminar.

Student Hasnain opened the program by reciting verses from the Holy Quran, followed by the national anthem. Chairman Dr. Amir Ullah Khan presented the brief history of

collaboration with the Anti-Narcotics Force and various initiatives taken in this regard.

Brigadier Mazhar Hussain as a guest speaker delivered a comprehensive lecture on the efforts of Anti-Narcotics Force Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also interacted with students in a question-answer session.

He appreciated the efforts of Dr. Amir and the enthusiasm of students to participate in such positive activities.

Later, Deputy Director Wajid Yousaf shared a presentation with the students. Number of student and faculty members actively participated in the seminar saying that they have greatly benefited from the activity.



PESHAWAR: An aged vendor waiting for customers at his vegetable shop.

Justice, public authority critical to free nation from tyrant system

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) chairman Muhammad Faiq Shah emphasized justice and public authority imperative to free the whole nation from the current tyrant and oppressive system and occupied people/segments.

Rulers will make the right decision when power is delegated to people. Over 50million youth are the actual assets and source of the country's progress and giving them leadership and an action plan is highly crucial, Shah said, while talking to different delegations here on Tuesday.

He said ATP is the party

of youth and a name of public authority and movement, which leadership and future attach with youth.

He called upon youth to be united at a single platform and should raise with one voice for public authority and justice so no one can dare to stop them.

Faiq said this is youth Pakistan, government and leadership also belong to them.

They, themselves will become leader/head and manifesto and Pakistan will also become progressive nation by following it, he added.

Talking about readiness for the next general election, he said his party will

soon announce new leadership and those people taking part in the election.

In the initial phase, he said a list of candidates' names has been unveiled, and their major ideology is public authority and justice for which voice will be raised at every fora.

Shah said honesty with people and the country is a condition for the progress, which is ignored.

He said it is essential to learn from the rapid development of China.

The ATP Chief emphasized that everyone should bring back their assets to Pakistan and also demonstrates the passion of Tehreek-e-Pakistan and

called for removal of 'Lota-cracy' and 'Corrupt-cracy'.

He said it is a dire need of hour to lower the burden of loans on the country.

Those people who damaged democracy themselves have raised the slogan of democracy and adopted a dictatorial way in politics, he added.

He said there is no democracy in political parties and they have dissociated with the people so what kind of this democracy and this is only a game for gaining power.

If they are playing a game then there is also a rule of any game, but they won't accept any rule, he added.

Enhancing health potential in human life, educating students top priority

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar reaffirms its commitment to producing skilled professionals capable of saving lives through its recent participation in the nationwide Pakistan Life Savers Program (PLSP).

This initiative, organized by the KMU Public Health Department, aimed at

equipping students and faculty with essential life-saving skills, such as hands-on CPR, bleeding control, and other critical emergency response measures.

Under the guidance of Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan, Head of the Family Medicine Department at IPHSS, and in collaboration with his dedicated team, including Osama and Dr. Muhammad

Hassam Khan, the workshop saw enthusiastic involvement from various contributors.

Notable figures such as Registrar KMU Inam Ullah Khan Wazir, Assoc Prof Dr. Haji Bhader, Director IPMR Dr. Irfan, Dr. Imad, Dr. Zia ur Rehman, along with several esteemed faculty members, played vital roles, said a press release

issued here on Tuesday.

The engaging session drew active participation from the student body of KMU-IPMS Mardan, Peshawar, IPH, and IPMR.

Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan highlighted the significance of PLSP in enlightening Pakistani youth about life-saving methods.

He emphasized the program's objective to forge

partnerships with key stakeholders in the health and education sectors.

The ultimate goal is to transform Pakistan into a nation of skilled individuals proficient in life-saving techniques.

The PLSP, as outlined by Dr. Jalil Khan, aims to provide training to ten million citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, covering basic

life-saving techniques, including hemorrhage management and CPR.

This initiative seeks to empower the public to effectively respond to emergencies and administer life-saving measures.

Dr. Jalil Khan, along with other esteemed faculty members, personally provided specialized training to all participating students

and faculty during the event.

Registrar KMU, Inam Ullah Khan Wazir, acknowledged the pivotal role that medical students play in public life-saving efforts. He expressed appreciation for the Pakistan Life Savers Program, recognizing its commendable efforts in preparing the next genera-

tion of healthcare professionals.

He added that KMU remains at the forefront of fostering a culture of excellence in medical education, and this participation in the PLSP underscores its dedication to producing well-equipped healthcare professionals capable of making a meaningful impact in emergency situations.



In brief

Crackdown on immigrants F.P. Report

BANNU: Deputy Commissioner Bannu, Muhammad Nawaz here Tuesday decided to launch crackdown against illegal foreigners and repatriate them voluntarily to their home countries. In a statement here, the Deputy Commissioner said that Afghans are like their brothers and asked them to return their home countries voluntarily. He said that only those foreigners whom have legal traveling documents would be allowed to stay here. Free transport service are being provided to illegal foreigners upto Torkham border.

Domki hails WHO efforts F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has appreciated the World Health Organization (WHO) for its cooperation in provision of better health facilities in the province. He was talking to a WHO delegation led by its Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala which called on him in Quetta on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that collaborative initiatives to enable and strengthen the health-care system would significantly improve the health sector, from the coronavirus pandemic to the flood disasters. He said that the WHO's role has been crucial for the improvement of the health sector. The Chief Minister said that the caretaker provincial government is committed to providing all kinds of support to the World Health Organization which is an important working partner of the provincial government.

Two of family killed

CHINIOT (INP): Two of a family including mother and son were gunned down over property dispute here, police said on Tuesday. According to details, the incident took place in Pathankot area, Bawana police station jurisdiction in Chiniot where accused sprayed bullets at elder sister and nephew. As a result of firing, both mother and son were killed on the spot and attacker fled the scene after committing dual murder. The bodies were shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident started raids to arrest the culprit.

Man gunned down

SARGODHA (INP): A man was shot dead by an accused in the jurisdiction of Kot Momin police station here on Tuesday. Police said Ahmed Sheer gunned down Allah Yar when he was going to offer Fajr prayer in a nearby mosque on some family issue. Police reached the spot and shifted the body to a local hospital for an autopsy.

Wheat production can be increased

FAISALABAD (INP): Pakistan - Wheat production can be increased by up to 9% and fertilizer use can be reduced by up to 50% by using a seed-cum-fertilizer band placement drill, according to Dr. Khalid Iqbal, Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension Faisalabad. According to media reports, he said currently, over 550,000 tons of DAP fertilizer are used in wheat production to increase the fertility of phosphorus-deficient agricultural lands. This is putting a strain on the government's foreign exchange reserves, as DAP fertilizer is expensive to import.



NEWSHERA: Afghan refugees waiting for registration at UNHCR's camp and repatriation centre.

Fun fair arranged for orphans families in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The district administration on Monday in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) arranged a 'family fun fair for orphan children and their families at the government postgraduate college Timergara here on Tuesday. The event was arranged under the Provincial Government's policy of "Interaction with Civil Society".

The Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Fawad participated as chief guest and inaugurated the fun fair for Orphans. The DC along with Principal of the college Timergara Prof Wazir Akbar, District Sports Officer Ibrar Ahmad, President Al-Khemdat Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Waqas, AKF District President Advocate Hafeezullah Khaksar, former MNA Sahibzada Yaqoob Khan, former MPAs Izazul Mulk Afkari, Saeed Gul and others inspected various stalls set up on the occasion.

The guests also inspected the Health Screening Stall arranged by the Health Department Lower Dir for the orphans and their families. Deputy District Health Officer Dr Abdul Wali Khan and DMS, DHQ Hospital Timergara Dr. Sikandar briefed the guests regarding the medical camp. Various laboratory tests of orphans were conducted. The Rescue 1122 and Al-Khemdat Foundation had set up their rescue stalls in the fair.

Speaking on the occasion the DC said that the administration would extend its full support to the AKF particularly in its orphans program. He said that the AKF Orphans Program was very impressive and philanthropic work. The Al-Khidmat Foundation provides best education facilities to the



orphans. At the end the DC distributed gifts amongst the orphans and awarded shields to the children who secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in various sports events.

Traders demand actions against retired Major Adil Raja for maligning state institutions: The Dir Chamber of Commerce and Industries on Tuesday demanded strict actions against a retired Major Adil Raja for his anti-state activities. Speaking at a news conference at the Timergara press club the chamber's president Syed Noor Alam, senior vice president Khalid Iqbal, general secretary Gul Wahid and others alleged that retired Major Adil Raja, a fugitive, was continuously spreading baseless and false news against the Pakistan army through his social media accounts.

Appreciating the role of Pakistan army in stabilizing the economy, protecting lives of people during disasters and curbing currency smuggling, they said the nation stood behind its army. The traders' leaders said that black marketing of the US Dollar, decreasing the prices of petroleum products and the stability of the stock exchange all were the credits of the COAS General Asim Munir. They said that Adil Raja while staying abroad had

launched an anti-state and anti-army campaign on social media to again destabilize Pakistan. The businessmen said that they firmly supported the Pakistan army and would never let the enemies succeed in their nefarious designs. They said the government of Pakistan with the help of Inter Pol and FIA should bring Adil Raja back to Pakistan to face legal actions.

Meanwhile the Qalb Welfare Foundation (QWF) and Malakand Youth Assembly jointly arranged a 'blood group screening camp and Thalassaemia awareness walk' at Government College of Management Sciences Talash. Speaking on the occasion Dr Rafiq Khan highlighted the importance of blood grouping camps and blood donation for saving innocent lives of the Thalassaemia patients. Several volunteers and students participated in the camp. A total of 220 students were screened to collect their blood group information.

The district youth officer Malik Shehzad Tariq and director QWF Mansoor Zarin said the event was aimed to raise mass awareness regarding thalassaemia in society. They said that the pre-married test was essential for avoiding some genetic diseases.

Commissioner stresses welfare of inmates at Jail

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Commissioner Shaukat Ali Yousafzai visited Central Jail Mardan while Additional Commissioner Naem Akhtar, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Rahman, and DPO Mujibur Rahman were also accompanied, on Tuesday. On reaching the Central Jail, a squad of Jail Police saluted Commissioner Mardan.

Superintendent Jail Muhammad Arif Khan while giving a briefing said that Mardan Jail was constructed on 342 Kanal land at a cost of Rs 1730 million. The jail has a 180-bed hospital with necessary medical staff for the treatment of inmates, while the jail also provides religious and contemporary education as well as various skills to make the inmates useful members of the society. The skill include tailoring, electrician, fashion design, surf making, computer lab, plumbing and drug rehabilitation centers.

Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai along with Deputy Commissioner and DPO reviewed the security arrangements and other facilities in the jail. He took

keen interest in the establishment of drug rehabilitation center and marble product industry in the jail and assured full cooperation from the administration in this regard.

He said that provision of portable x-ray machine for patients in the jail hospital will be ensured while effective steps will be taken to solve other problems facing the inmates. He appreciated the performance of Superintendent Jail Muhammad Arif Khan for managing the cleanliness of the jail and other issues in a better manner.

Food authority seizes BISP products: Halal Food and Safety Food was raided major commercial center of Mardan, a large quantity of WHO-aided food supplements was recovered from the wholesale general store, the store was sealed and the goods were taken into possession. The seized food supplement is distributed under the BISP program for pregnant women and vulnerable children, strict legal action will be taken against the suppliers.

According to details, Ibrahim Khan, Assistant Director of Halal Food and Safety Food Authority Mardan along with a heavy

police contingent, on a secret tip-off, a raid was conducted on the Mustaqem General Store in Toru Chowk, the busy commercial hub of Mardan where the World Food Organization (WHO) has given a huge amount of food in the form of food packets (chocolate) to pregnant women and weak children through the Benazir Income Support Program, including cash, under a special procedure.

The shopkeeper said about the food supplement packed in bags, sacks and cotton bags that these women sell to us instead of receiving and using them under the program. In this context, the local spokesman of the Development Program said that the open sale of food supplements in the markets is illegal strict legal action will be taken in the matter.

FBR team visits MCCI: The Federal Board Revenue (FBR) Mardan Zone Additional Commissioner Muhammad Alam with Inland Revenue Officer Israr Yousafzai visited Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and had a special meeting with MCCI President Zahir Shah and businessmen.

Attaullah appointed SP Swat Upper Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Following a notification issued from the office of Inspector General of Police (IGP), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Saidul Sharif, Attaullah Shams has been appointed Superintendent of Police (SP) Swat Upper on Tuesday.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand, Muhammad Ali Khan and District Police Officer (DPO) Swat, Shafi Ullah Gandapur pinned the badges of SP rank on Attaullah Shams' uniform. Both the officers congratulated the newly appointed SP Swat Upper and wished him best in discharge of duty.

Police arrests two alleged culprits F.P. Report

WANA: Police arrested two alleged culprits for injuring one person by firing at Mughal area of Wana in the premises of City police station, on Tuesday.

According to details, Aslam Khan and Izzat Ullah along with two unknown persons fired and wounded Muhammad Irfan on his feet. District Police Officer Farman Ullah took strict action and ordered concerned personnel for arrest.

Station House Officer (SHO) city police station Allah Nawaz along with his team took strict action following the order. As a result of which two accused Aslam Khan and Izzat Ullah were arrested and started further investigation in this regard.

NAB arranges session F.P. Report

QUETTA: Under the anti-corruption awareness campaign of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, a lecture/interactive session on "Corruption is a hindrance to the economy" was conducted at Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI), Quetta.

President WCCI, Sharmeen Younas, Executive Members Bushra Bibi, Shehzadi Fozia and former Chairman Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Javed Raheem were present. Khuram Shehzad and Saleha Zaman Deputy Directors of NAB along with team represented NAB therein. The main objective of the lecture was to interact with the body to talk about the curse of corruption.

NAB Deputy Director Khuram Shehzad delivered lecture and highlighted the effects of corruption, its ill effects on economy and solutions to overcome the evil of corruption. Deputy Director NAB explained the working of NAB and its methodology. He also elaborated the complaint filing procedure in NAB (Balochistan).

The guest speaker emphasized that women have always been crucial to the fight against corruption since they have the equal role along with men in all facets of life.

Three new industrial units inaugurated at DIK Economic Zone

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Tribal Affairs graced the D.I. Khan Economic Zone on Tuesday, marking a significant milestone with the groundbreakings and inaugurations of five zone enterprises, in Food and Beverage, Chemical and LPG sectors, representing a vital advancement in the region's industrial landscape.

The event, hosted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), was led by Mr. Javed K-hattak, CEO of KPEZDMC along with the company's senior management team.

The Food and Beverage industry's groundbreaking will result in generating employment opportunities and will attend the increasing demands of consumer products of the region. Simultaneously, the addition of LPG industry in DIK marks a momentous step towards enhancing energy security and self-

sufficiency. Chemical industry is set to play a pivotal role in contributing to the chemical and manufacturing sector, bolstering the region's industrial prowess.

The combined investment for these ventures totals an impressive PKR 660.5 million, exemplifying the strong commitment to fostering economic growth and prosperity in the region. This substantial investment will not only bolster the local economy but also contribute substantially to Pakistan's industrial progress.

These industries collectively are expected to generate approximately 500 direct jobs and an additional 1,050 indirect employment opportunities, providing a much-needed boost to the local workforce, and contributing to the economic well-being of the D I Khan, and it's adjoining.

Nestled across 189 acres, the Dera Ismail Khan Economic Zone is strategically located to serve as a thriving economic hub in one of Pakistan's most resource-rich regions. The existing investment in this zone sums up to PKR 1.7

Billion employing 894 individuals. There are 12 industries functioning while 26 are under construction. This zone not only caters to D.I. Khan but also extends its reach to encompass the neighboring districts of South Waziristan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, and numerous districts in both KP and Punjab. What sets the D I Khan Economic Zone apart is its accessibility. Positioned at the second-most important intersection of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route, specifically on the Western Corridor. The D I Khan Economic Zone, under the management of KPEZDMC, continues to attract investment and drive industrialization, serving as a catalyst for economic prosperity in the region.

The launch of these new enterprises underscores the commitment of Provincial Government to foster a diverse industrial environment and propel economic development in the province, particularly in southern belt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

USAID-ERDA brings hope to flood hit areas

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: In response to the catastrophic 2022 floods that devastated many districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) has made remarkable contributions for revitalizing agriculture in the flood-affected districts of Dera Ismail Khan, Tank and Peshawar.

In 2022, devastating floods wrought havoc upon Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, leaving a profound impact on the region. A total of 17% of cultivable land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was severely damaged. Notably, in Dera Ismail Khan, three out of seven seed farms, responsible for 10% of the province's annual seed production, faced dire circumstances, posing a significant threat to seed availability and the livelihoods of 300 farmers.

In response to this crisis, USAID-ERDA took swift action, mobilizing resources and expertise to restore agricultural infrastructure and provide essential support to the affected farmers. The results have been nothing short of miraculous. USAID-ERDA successfully rehabilitated 488 acres of land and repaired nine flood-damaged watercourses with total length of 3.3 Km in Government seed farms in Dera Ismail Khan.

These initiatives enhanced irrigation efficiency and productivity of land. Additionally, USAID-ERDA rehabilitated 18 flood-damaged soil and water conservation structures in various villages of district Dera Ismail Khan to protect land from sliding and erosion, and enhance groundwater recharge and storage of rainwater for irrigation in a water scarce area.

The impact is already evident, with paddy cultivated and harvested on 33 acres and wheat seed cultivation underway on the remaining 345 acres. This intervention will not only restore agriculture but also enhance the livelihoods of farmers, providing hope for those who have endured adversity.

USAID-ERDA is also engaged in rehabilitation of 158 flood-damaged watercourses, a significant initiative that is expected to be completed by June 2024. This rehabilitation is vital for ensuring proper water management in the affected areas, which is essential for agriculture and the local ecosystem. To celebrate these significant achievements and officially hand over the completed schemes to the Agriculture Extension Department and District Office Soil Conservation Department, Dera Ismail Khan, a special ceremony was held.

Zafar-ul-Islam, Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division, expressed his heartfelt gratitude, stating, "USAID-ERDA's interventions have played a key role in revitalizing the flood-affected agriculture sector. It is a testament to the strong partnership between the United States and Pakistan, which continues to bring positive changes to the lives of our citizens."

Dr. Shakeel Kakakhel, Deputy Chief of Party USAID-ERDA, commended the dedication and hard work of all involved, saying, "This intervention demonstrates the resilience and determination of the



people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is a testament to their spirit and the positive impact of international partnerships in building a better and brighter future for our community."

Najeeb Ullah Shah, a local farmer who has benefited from USAID-ERDA's intervention, expressed his gratitude, stating, "This support has given us hope and the opportunity to rebuild our lives as our fields are flourishing once again, and we are optimistic about the future."

The handover ceremony symbolizes a moment of hope and promise for the people of Dera Ismail Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reaffirming the enduring partnership between USAID-ERDA for the promotion of economic recovery and development.

USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) has successfully revitalized agriculture in the flood-affected districts of Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, and Tank, in response to the devastating 2022 floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This initiative has rehabilitated 488 acres of land, repaired nine flood-damaged watercourses, and reconstructed 18 soil and water conservation structures. USAID-ERDA's intervention has not only restored agriculture but also improved the income and livelihoods of local farmers, showcasing the resilience of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa community.

Reference in honor of Late Shams Buner held

F.P. Report

BUNER: A reference in memory of late Shams Buner advocate was held at district bar room, on Tuesday. District and session judge Haq Nawaz Khan was chief guest. The judges the lawyers the prosecutors the assistant commissioners the journalists the petitions writers largely participated.

The elderly son Advocate Riaz Jan shared valued informations about his father life struggle period spent in prisons the conviction to lashes and long exile in out of country. The chief guest D&S Judge Haq Nawaz Khan the KP bar council member Advocate Sheren Khan the DBB president Advocate

Rafiq Ahmed Khan general secretary Advocate Hazrat Husain Yousafzai advocate Shamshul Rehman Advocate Rafiqullah Khan Advocate Nowshad Khan Advocate Advocate Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jehanzeb Khan Advocate Mehbub Ayub Advocate Israel Khan spoke.

The speakers highlighted different aspects of late Shams Buner Advocate as poet writer intellectual political leader and as lawyer. They confirmed his girm commitment for left nationalist politics and politics for rights of the oppressed depressed and marginalized segments of the society. They shared their experiences during negotiations and profes-

sionalism and confirmed he was man of spirit courage and crystal clear vision towards his direction in politics and never demanded returns in term of party tickets and privileges of share in power.

The speakers branded him a man of true character and bold politician who replaced all about his vision in poetry writeups speeches and discussions as well and by his practical display as well. They asked rest of the politicians activists poets writers and intellectuals to follow late Shams Bunery to lead the nation towards democracy. The participants offered joint pray for eternal rest of the departed soul and best heaven Almighty Allah.



Biden hails ‘new era’ of ties between US, Indonesia

WASHINGTON (AP): President Joe Biden celebrated a "new era" in the relationship between the United States and Indonesia as he met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House, formalizing closer ties with the world's third largest democracy and a heavyweight player in Southeast Asia. The announcement is a reflection of US commitment to the region before Biden heads to San Francisco for a summit of Asian leaders, where he's scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Washington and Beijing have been jockeying for influence in Southeast Asia, which is a critical crossroads for trade and a potential flashpoint for global conflict. "This will mark a new era in relations between the United States and Indonesia across the board," Biden said, sitting next to Widodo. He added that Widodo, the leader of a tropical archipelago, mentioned that he was cold when he stepped out of his vehicle at the White House. Biden joked, "I told him I could take care of that immediately," and there was a roaring fire in the Oval Office fireplace.

Biden and Widodo shared an afternoon tea and met with top advisers as they began their new strategic partnership. Also on the agenda was expanding the trade of critical minerals like nickel, which can be used to produce electric vehicle batteries. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel. Widodo described the US as one of Indonesia's most important partners, and he said they must give "real meaning" to their strengthened relationship. But there were also signs of friction over the war between Israel and



Hamas. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country, and Widodo arrived in Washington after attending a summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where leaders criticized the Israeli bombardment and invasion of Gaza.

Widodo urged the US "to do more to stop the atrocities in Gaza and have a ceasefire for the sake of humanity." Biden has resisted calls for a ceasefire, although he's asked Israel to show more restraint in its military operations and called for pauses in the fighting that would allow the delivery of humanitarian aid or the release of hostages held by Hamas. The White House has cultivated ties with Indonesia in recent years. Biden attended the Group of 20 summit in Bali last year, and Vice President Kamala Harris attended a regional summit in Jakarta in September. Before visiting the White House, Widodo stopped at Georgetown University, which is planning a new

program in Indonesia. Widodo has described improving educational opportunities as critical for his country's development.

He said a closer relationship with the US could pay dividends because "the United States is a big country, and its influence to any other country is also very big." But he also was careful to emphasize Indonesia's neutrality at a time of tension between Washington and Beijing. "Indonesia is always open to cooperate with any country, and not to take the side of any power, except to take the side of peace and humanity," he said. Widodo also raised alarms about the death toll in Gaza, mentioning estimates that a child is killed every 10 minutes. "Human life seems meaningless, but for me, every life is precious," he said. "This is a humanitarian problem, and to end it requires global solidarity, global leadership which prioritizes humanity."

Jordan rejects Israeli plan to occupy parts of Gaza

AMMAN (Reuters): Jordan's King Abdullah rejected any plans by Israel to occupy parts of Gaza or to create security zones within the enclave, saying the root cause of the crisis was Israel's denial of Palestinians' legitimate rights, state media said. In comments at the royal palace, the king was quoted as telling senior politicians that there could be "no military or security solution" to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

He said war-ravaged Gaza should not be severed by Israel from the other Palestinian territories. The monarch said the "root of the crisis was Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and its denial of Palestinians' legitimate rights". "The solution starts from there and any other path is doomed to failure and more of a cycle of violence and destruction," he said. Abdullah said he had long warned about Israeli violations in the West Bank, with which Jordan shares a border, and Jewish settler attacks on Palestinian civilians could "expand the conflict" and push the region "to the abyss". Jordan is home to a large population of Palestinian refugees and their descendants who fear Israel could expel Palestinians en masse from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli settler attacks on Palestinian inhabitants have surged since Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said in an interview with public broadcaster Al Mamlaka that Israel had crossed "every legal, ethical and humanitarian red line in its barbaric war on Gazans."

"Israel refuses to listen. What it is doing is not self-defence but committing war crimes," he added. Abdullah said this month the only path to permanent peace was revived negotiations on an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. US-brokered negotiations have been frozen for almost a decade. Washington has said Israel cannot occupy the enclave after the war, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying the Gaza administration had to be re-united with the nearby West Bank, parts of which are run by the Palestinian Authority. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the Palestinian Authority should not take charge in Gaza. Last week he said Israel would take control of security in Gaza for an indefinite period.

Nations convene in Kenya

NAIROBI: International delegates have convened in Kenya in the hopes of making further progress towards a landmark treaty to fight global plastic pollution. Addressing the first day of the talks in the capital, Nairobi, Kenyan President William Ruto said that time is running out to reach a deal before the end of 2023, a deadline set in March of last year.

"I urge all the negotiators to recall that 2024 is only six weeks away and [there] are only two other meetings to go," Ruto said. The meeting is taking place at the headquarters of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as leaders try to address the scourge of pollution resulting from more than 400 million metric tonnes of plastic waste produced each year. The UNEP says less than 10 percent of plastic waste is recycled, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature said at least 14 million metric tonnes of it makes its way into the world's oceans. Progress has been slow at previous summits, and delegates in Nairobi will have to decide between a wider focus on the production and life cycle of plastic or a more limited emphasis on waste management.

Countries such as Kenya have advocated for a firmer and more binding agreement whereas the powerful plastics industry and petrochemical suppliers such as Saudi Arabia have pushed for a more limited approach. More than 2,000 delegates are attending the meeting, including representatives from the oil and gas industry, environmental organisations and civil society groups. — Aljazeera

Anti-Palestinian sentiment rises amid bipartisan US support for Israel

WASHINGTON: Anti-Palestinian sentiment is on the rise in the United States, with politicians from both major political parties backing Israel's war in Gaza despite the mounting Palestinian death toll and growing accusations of war crimes. Last week, the war in Gaza dominated the third Republican presidential debate, where competing candidates were unanimous in their support of Israel.

"I'm sick of hearing the media, I'm sick of hearing other people blame Israel just for defending itself," one of those candidates, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, told the audience. Such statements cropped up throughout the two-hour event, even when the candidates were discussing topics unrelated to the crisis. But Palestinians were barely ever mentioned, despite a death toll in Gaza that has ticked past 11,000. In fact, the only time a candidate said "Palestinian" or "Palestine" was when DeSantis bragged about banning a Palestinian student advocacy group from state universities. Advocates say this is indicative of a wider trend of US politicians - across ideological lines - justifying and denying Israeli atrocities in Gaza. "There is a bipartisan effort to dehumanise the Palestinian people," said Ahmad Abuznaid, the executive director of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USPCR). Abuznaid cited recent episodes in US politics that he said underscore hostility towards Palestinians. They include Democratic President Joe Biden voicing doubt over the accuracy of the Palestinian death count and attacks on Palestinian American Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib for her criticism of Israel's military offensive. "Whether they fail to mention Palestinians,

question our death tolls, attack our students and protests, or censure the only Palestinian American representative in Congress, their attempts to silence us won't work," Abuznaid said. "As much as they wish us to disappear, we are here and will be here, and they will be seeing much more of us moving forward." At Wednesday's debate, DeSantis and Nikki Haley, a former ambassador to the United Nations, used similar language to push Israel to take strong action in Gaza. "Finish the job once and for all with these butchers, Hamas," DeSantis said, referring to the Palestinian group that launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 7. Haley echoed that sentiment, saying, "Finish them. Finish them," in response to a question about whether she would urge a "humanitarian pause" during the fighting. Former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie - another Republican presidential candidate - followed his appearance in the debate with a visit to Israel, where he likewise rejected calls for ending the violence. A bipartisan delegation of US congress members, including the top lawmakers on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also made a solidarity trip to Israel this past weekend.

Ohio Republican Max Miller, who has faced outrage for saying that Palestine will be turned into a "parking lot", accompanied key Democrats on that visit and posted a photo of the group with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Ambassador to Israel Jacob Lew. Advocates have warned that comments like Miller's could be interpreted as a call for mass violence against the Palestinian people. But Miller is hardly alone in his sentiments. Congressman Brian Mast

suggested earlier this month that there are no innocent Palestinian civilians. "I don't think we would so lightly throw around the term 'innocent Nazi civilians' during World War II," he said on the House floor. Such comments did not provoke a rebuke in the House of Representatives. However, the chamber did vote to censure its sole Palestinian American member, Tlaib, over her criticism of Israel. Twenty-two Democrats, including the former chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Debbie Wasserman Schultz, joined Republicans in supporting the symbolic punishment, which passed 234 to 188.

Attacks against Tlaib have continued after the censure vote. Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn baselessly accused Tlaib of having "alleged ties to Hamas" and "calling for a genocide against the Jewish people". Tlaib is one of more than a dozen House Democrats to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, out of a chamber that contains 435 voting members. Meanwhile, other congressional Democrats have voiced opposition to ceasefire efforts, similar to their Republican colleagues. Democratic Senator John Fetterman, for instance, waved an Israeli flag as he walked by protesters demanding a ceasefire on Capitol Hill last week. To highlight the solid bipartisan support for Israel, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been sharing videos of left-wing Senator Bernie Sanders expressing opposition to a ceasefire in Gaza. Sanders is usually one of AIPAC's most vocal critics, often rebuking the pro-Israel lobby group for spending millions of dollars on election campaigns to undermine progressive candidates. — Aljazeera

Nikki will launch a \$10 million ad campaign to try to overtake DeSantis

NEW YORK (AP): Nikki Haley 's presidential campaign will reserve \$10 million in television, radio and digital advertising across Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in the first week of December, a massive investment designed to give the former United Nations ambassador an advantage over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a critical moment in the GOP nomination fight.

Details of the advertising plans, which represent the Haley campaign's first official advertising reservation, were obtained by The Associated Press ahead of a public announcement expected. Haley's planned investment, as of now, is more than five times larger than DeSantis' current advertising reserves for the same time period, according to the media tracking firm AdImpact. Haley's move comes as she fights to emerge as the clear alternative to former President Donald Trump to represent the GOP against President Joe Biden next fall. DeSantis stands as Haley's strongest competition for her party's second-place slot, although the Florida governor's campaign has shown signs of financial strain following a tumultuous summer.

Trump remains the overwhelming front-runner in the GOP primary. Rival

campaigns are betting that if they can emerge as the main alternative to Trump that they can consolidate enough support to mount a strong challenge against him or replace him if he falters. Trump faces four criminal indictments, including a case focusing on his efforts to overturn his 2020 general election defeat in Georgia and another on felony charges for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent Jan. 6, 2021 riot by his supporters at the US Capitol. In US politics, fundraising and advertising strategy can often be more consequential than a candidate's policies or personality. But money raised and spent by campaigns only tell part of the story in the 2024 election. South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, whose allied super PAC had booked \$7.5 million in ads through Iowa's Jan. 15 caucuses, dropped out of the race. Scott had struggled to register in polls nationally and October polls found him trailing far behind Trump and Haley, his fellow South Carolinian.

Haley will run her advertising through Iowa's Jan. 15 caucuses and New Hampshire's primary to follow. As of now, the DeSantis campaign is spending only in Iowa. Haley's campaign declined to say whether the ads

would attack DeSantis or Trump directly. But campaign manager Betsy Ankney called out DeSantis' campaign, which after winning the endorsement of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds argued that Haley and others in the GOP field could only be "spoilers." "Nikki Haley's momentum and path to victory are clear," Ankney said. "The same can't be said for Ron DeSantis, who, even with a decent showing in Iowa, can't afford a cup of coffee at the Red Arrow diner in New Hampshire and is a mere tourist in South Carolina." DeSantis' campaign reported just \$5 million available to spend in the primary at the end of September, although spokesman Andrew Romeo said DeSantis raised millions more last month, including \$1 million since last week's GOP presidential debate.

"As Americans look behind the curtain, they will see (Haley) does not have the extensive record of conservative achievements that Ron DeSantis boasts," Romeo said in response to Haley's advertising plans. "It's clear there is no way Nikki Haley can beat Donald Trump, and every dollar spent on her candidacy is an in-kind to the Trump Campaign. ... We are confident the Iowa voters will see who will best represent them and their values."

The DeSantis campaign, which has gone through two rounds of layoffs already, continues to look to an allied super PAC to help build out campaign infrastructure and supplement advertising spending. Haley's campaign has also leaned on an allied super PAC to keep pace with DeSantis' allies in recent months. The rival super PACs have largely kept pace with each other. Haley's super PAC had reserved nearly \$4.9 million in advertising through January compared to almost \$4 million reserved by DeSantis' super PAC, according to AdImpact. DeSantis' opponents flagged another shift in spending as a potential sign of financial stress. The pro-DeSantis Never Back Down moved late last week to shift roughly \$700,000 in advertising initially set to run this month into January instead. The move leaves DeSantis with no advertising in New Hampshire whatsoever over the next two weeks. Kristin Davison, who leads Never Back Down, said no advertising dollars were "cut." Instead, she said they were "optimized and placed to complement (the) campaign and get January started." Future advertising reserves don't require payment until just before the ads run, while the bill for this month's ads were about to come due.

US, S Korea sharpen deterrence plans over N Korean nuke threat

SEOUL (AP): The United States and South Korea updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats. The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said. Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat. During their Security Consultative Meeting, Austin and Shin signed a new version of their countries' Tailored Deterrence Strategy agreement, which was

revised for the first time in a decade to address the growing threat of the North's military nuclear program. Shin said the new document spells out that the United States would mobilize its full range of military capabilities, including nuclear ones, to defend the South in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack. He also said the document will provide a template for the allies to strategize how South Korea could assist US nuclear operations in such events with its conventional capabilities but didn't elaborate further. "Our deterrence commitment to the ROK remains ironclad - that includes a full range of our nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities," Austin said at a news conference, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

Austin said the US deployments of major military assets to South Korea in recent months, which included a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine, a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber and aircraft carriers, demonstrated the US commitment to defense of the South. He said another US aircraft carrier battle group will travel to the region soon in a further show of force. Shin said the allies, after conducting their largest-ever live-fire training this

year, will continue to further expand their combined military exercises to deter and respond to North Korean threats. The United States and the government of conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol have also been strengthening their trilateral security cooperation with Japan, which has included joint military exercises and tightened defense planning, in response to North Korea's intensifying weapons development and verbal threats of nuclear conflict. Arriving in South Korea over the weekend, Austin earlier met Shin during a three-way meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara, who participated in the talks through online video. They agreed to start as planned a real-time information sharing arrangement on North Korea missile launches in December. They also agreed to set up multiyear plans in coming weeks to enhance their trilateral military exercises, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Austin also met Yoon, who expressed satisfaction over the increased consultations with Washington over nuclear deterrence plans and the more frequent deployment of advanced US military assets to the Korean Peninsula in past months,

which he described as crucial for keeping the North's nuclear and missile threats in check. Yoon also stressed that the allies should be prepared for any type of provocation by the North, including a "Hamas-style surprise attack," and insisted that North Korea was "directly and indirectly" involved in Russia's war on Ukraine and the clashes between Israel and Hamas, according to his office. US and South Korean officials have accused North Korea of providing munitions and military equipment to Russia to help boost its war in Ukraine. South Korean officials have said North Korea-made rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons could have been used by Hamas during its Oct. 7 assault on Israel and that the North could be considering selling weapons to militant groups in the Middle East amid a deepening confrontation with the United States.

The surprise attack on Israel by Hamas has raised concerns in South Korea about the possibility of a similar assault by North Korea and prompted the Yoon government to openly discuss suspending a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on reducing border tensions to strengthen front-line surveillance on the North.

Tunnel collapse: Rescue operations continue

NEW DELHI: Excavators have begun drilling with heavy machinery to fix a wide steel pipe that will help pull out almost 40 Indian workers trapped inside a collapsed Himalayan highway tunnel that caved in two days ago in the north Indian state of Uttarakhand. The 4.5km (2.7-mile) tunnel, which was being built on a national highway as part of a Hindu pilgrimage route, caved in at about 5:30am.

"We have been supplying food, water and oxygen to the trapped labourers and the officials are in continuous touch with all of them," Devendra Singh Patwal, a disaster management official, said on Tuesday. More than 100 rescue workers are using heavy machinery to drive a steel pipe with a width of 90cm (nearly three feet), wide enough for the trapped men to squeeze through the rubble, the government's highway and infrastructure company said. Patwal said it was not easy to ascertain the time required to pull out the

workers. A team of geologists from the state government and educational institutions had arrived to determine the cause of the accident, he added. "Our biggest breakthrough is that we have established contact and there is a supply of oxygen and food," Uttarkashi district's top civil servant Abhishek Ruhela told AFP news agency on Tuesday. "Whatever is necessary for their survival is being done." Oxygen was being pumped into the tunnel and small food items like dry fruit were being provided to the workers, he added. Photographs released by government rescue teams soon after the collapse showed huge piles of rubble blocking the wide tunnel, with twisted metal bars from its roof poking down in front of slabs of concrete. The region is prone to landslides, earthquakes and floods and the incident follows events of land subsidence in the state that geologists, residents and officials have blamed on rapid construction in the mountainous region.

The work on the tunnel stretch commenced in 2018 and was initially intended to be completed by July 2022, which has now been delayed to May 2024, an Indian government statement said.

The Char Dham pilgrimage route is one of the most ambitious projects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. It aims to connect four important Hindu pilgrimage sites of north India through 889km (551 miles) of a two-lane road being built for \$1.5bn. But some work has been halted by local authorities after hundreds of houses were damaged by subsidence along the routes, including in ecologically fragile Uttarakhand. Accidents on large infrastructure projects are common in India. In 2021, at least 200 people, most of them construction workers, were killed after part of a Himalayan glacier broke away, causing flash floods in Uttarakhand in a disaster that experts partly blamed on excessive deforestation.

China's probe into Foxconn 'political'

BANGKOK: Taipei's national security chief has said a Chinese tax probe into Taiwan tech giant Foxconn is "political" as its billionaire founder Terry Gou is running for president of the democratically ruled island. Gou, who gave up Foxconn's management reins four years ago, launched his presidential bid in August as an independent candidate in Taiwan's January polls.

The Chinese state-run Global Times reported last month that Foxconn - one of the world's largest contract producers of electronics and a key supplier for Apple's iPhones - was under a "normal and legitimate" investigation for tax and land issues by mainland authorities. Chinese authorities have not confirmed the probe and Foxconn has said it will cooperate on "operations concerned" while urging "confidence" in the company. Taiwan's National Security Council head said there was a "political aspect" to the

Foxconn probe as election analysts have predicted that Gou's entry into the race could split the opposition vote. "They [China] certainly don't want Terry Gou to run," Wellington Koo, whose department falls under President Tsai Ing-wen, told reporters. "Based on our observations, China does not want Terry Gou to split votes [within the pro-Beijing camp]," he said.

When Gou entered the race, some critics alleged his relationship with Beijing was a cosy one given Foxconn's numerous mainland factories, but he said he had "never been under the control of the [Chinese Communist Party]". Taiwan is claimed by Beijing, which dislikes the Democratic Progressive Party's government under Tsai as she has said the island does not belong to China. Koo added that Foxconn has also been looking to diversify its supply chain lines away from China, which could "also be a factor" in prompt-

ing an investigation from Chinese authorities. "If all assembly lines are moved out under the request of major US brands, the harm to China will be significant," Koo said.

His comments echoed others made by Taiwan's top officials, including Deputy Premier Cheng Wen-tsun, who said Taiwanese businesses in China should not be subject to "political interference". Foxconn is China's largest private-sector employer, with more than a million workers nationwide. But the country's strict COVID policies - as well as a bout of industrial unrest and ongoing diplomatic tensions with the United States - have hurt production. In May, it bought a huge tract of land on the outskirts of Indian tech hub Bengaluru and has since announced plans to expand its India operations. Analysts say Gou has a slim chance of winning, with DPP candidate Vice President Lai Ching-te currently in the lead. — Aljazeera

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JALIL AFRIDI
Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,
Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001
Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

“USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Military courts and theory of necessity

THE Upper House of Parliament has recently passed a resolution against the Supreme Court's verdict on civilians' trials in the military courts, urging the top court to stop implementation of the judgment unless it is considered by a larger bench. The resolution observed with apprehension that the invalidation of the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities. It said military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders. The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the martyrs to address the concerns raised regarding the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation.

Previously, a five-member apex court bench headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan announced its verdict on October 23 on the petitions filed by the PTI Chief and others against the trial of civilians/ May 9 rioters by the Military Courts. Four judges out of the five had declared that Section 2(1)(d) of the Army Act and 59(4) (civil offences) ultra vires the Constitution and of no legal effect and ordered the immediate transfer of the cases of around 103 accused involved in May 9 riots to trial courts that were deemed competent forum for trial of subject cases. The incumbent government expressed dismay over the apex court's verdict and announced filing a petition for review of the judgement by a full bench of the supreme court as the administration perceives it a deterrence to curb anti-state vandalism and violence against the state and its institutions.

The rigmarole regarding the importance of military courts has been resonating in the media and scholarly circles over the past weeks after the President okayed the Parliament's legislation regarding the Pakistan Army Act Amendment Bill 2023 and the Pakistan Official Secret Act Amendment Bill 2023 that was aimed at removing legal restrictions in the path of civilians' trials in the military courts. Historically, the military leadership and the PDM coalition government were determined to prosecute the May 9 rioters through the military courts as the heinous acts of vandalism targeted military installations and sabotaged the martyrs' memorials which flared nationwide condemnation and outrage in the masses. Although, the coalition government, the military and a majority of the public demanded an exemplary and stern punishment for self-claimed fake nationalists who wage war against the military and invaded the state but the apex courts annulled the parliamentary legislation declaring it extra-constitutional and contrary to the law.

Presently, a few Senators from the former PDM coalition are attempting to resuscitate the issue of Military courts to garner support from the military establishment ahead of crucial polls in the country. In fact, the parliament has played its due role by formulating its intended legislation that had been declared null and void by the court and a review process will also be completed in due course of time. Hence, adopting politically motivated and controversial legislation is nothing but pressure tactics and point-scoring efforts on the part of self-elected lawmakers.

At the helm of prevailing confusion and ambiguity, the competing political groups are persistently attempting to involve the military in political affairs in the garb of patriotism and pro-military sloganeering. Historically, selfish politics and the theory of necessity have always proved to be disastrous for the country. The military establishment has opted to assume an apolitical role in the national affairs therefore the selfish politicians should not drag the military in their inter-patry tussle and political wrangling. Hence, the incumbent government, parliament and the military must use all available potential and legal resources to inflict optimum punishment on May 9 rioters under the existing law so no culprits ever dare to malign or sabotage our national institutions in the future.

UK's biased minister

THE UK's former home secretary Ms Suella Braverman has been exposed to the world for her biases and abuse of authority in connection with the ongoing war in Gaza, the million marches and protest demonstrations in support of bereaved Palestinians and in condemnation of rouge Israeli regime that has made records of apartheid policies and inhumane atrocities against innocent unarmed Palestinians.

London has witnessed massive weekend demonstrations over the past month, with tens of thousands of people taking to the streets to denounce Israel's relentless bombing campaign in the Gaza Strip and demand the United Kingdom government call for a ceasefire. Ms Suella Braverman, a Buddhist turned Jew who had been serving as the home Secretary in the Rushi Sunak's administration was much upset with pro-Palestinian rallies and had been terming protesters as hate marchers and terrorists supporters. The biased leader was also uneasy with anti-Israel slogans, stickers and banners condemning Israel's aggression against innocent Palestinians. Interestingly, the wife of a hardcore Jew issued orders to the London Metropolitan Police enforcing a ban on pro-Palestinian march sorting intelligence regarding potential violence during the rally over the past weekend. Despite pressure from the government, the Metropolitan Police said that the law enforcers could not legally ban the march, as there was no credible intelligence about a risk of public disorder.

Unfortunately, the low-calibre leader could not curb her prejudice and went public through the media labelling the UK's government as well as the Metropolitan Police for double standards in handling the pro-Palestinian march. As a result, British Premier Rishi Sunak sacked his interior minister Suella Braverman over her unethical conduct, biased attitude and abuse of authority.

Historically, people from different regions, conflicting ideologies and backward communities have now made up a mix of British society that is deprived of royal mannerisms, high social values and democratic norms. Earlier, an Anglo-Indian lady introduced substandard culture and biased policies in British society, now another partisan woman made a mockery of Britain's morals and royal constitution. Historically, the Palestine dispute was created by the British government nearly a century ago and the time has come for the UK's authorities to address the grave mistake of their predecessors by playing a kinetic role in the resolution of the Palestinian issue so that millions of poor Palestinians could live a free and dignified life in their nation.

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Bombing Gaza won't bring Israel victory

Moncef Khane

‘They have got to go in there and I mean really go in... I want everything that can fly to go in there and crack the hell out of them. There is no limitation on mileage and there is no limitation on budget. Is that clear?’ That was the order US President Richard Nixon gave his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, on December 9, 1970.

Minutes later, Kissinger relayed the order to his deputy, General Alexander Haig: "He wants a massive bombing campaign in Cambodia. He doesn't want to hear anything. It's an order, it's to be done. Anything that flies, on anything that moves. You got that?" Over five decades ago, the US Air Force executed "Operation Menu" followed by "Operation Freedom Deal" to eradicate the Vietcong, the People's Army of Vietnam, from Cambodia. It focused on carpet bombing vast swathes of land to destroy the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a massive network of pathways and tunnels used by the North Vietnamese through the jungle linking North to South Vietnam, via Cambodia and Laos.

The bombing of Cambodia had already started in 1965 under the Johnson administration; Nixon merely stepped it up. Between 1965 and 1973, 2.7 million tonnes of bombs were released over the country. In comparison, the Allies dropped an estimated 2 million tonnes of bombs during all of World War II. Thus, Cambodia may be the most heavily bombed country in history. By square kilometre and thermic value, however, it might have already lost that tragic record to Gaza.

On day 25 of the war, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant boasted that more than 10,000 bombs and missiles had been dropped on Gaza City alone. According to the Geneva-based Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, the explosives used on the exclave as of November 2 may be twice as powerful as a nuclear bomb, thus exceeding the TNT-equivalent of Little Boy, the 15-kiloton atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. On November 5, an Israeli cabinet minister, Amichai Eliyahu, dropped another type of bomb by suggesting

that the use of nuclear weapons on Gaza was an option. While he was "suspended" from the cabinet, his remarks may well have been the first time a sitting Israeli official confirmed publicly the open secret of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

The first glaring difference between the bombing of Cambodia and the bombing of Gaza is that the former was kept secret from the US Congress, the American people and the world as bizarre as it may sound today; it was obviously not-so-secret to the Cambodians. The incessant bombardment of Gaza, however, is boasted about to the world by Israeli leaders and receives overt encouragement and material support from the US and other Western powers.

The second difference is that while Cambodian civilians could try to run away from the terrifying roaring sound of incoming B-52 squadrons, Palestinians in Gaza, overwhelmingly refugees or descendants of refugees themselves, have nowhere to flee to in the hope of living another day.

Strangely, US President Joe Biden has questioned the accuracy of the death toll the Palestinian Ministry of Health has released, giving credence to similar Israeli claims. This is despite the fact that his own staff believes in those numbers, and even estimates that they may be higher, as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf recently stated. US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has also repeated the Israeli narrative that Hamas "terrorists" use UN schools, hospitals, mosques and churches as command-and-control posts, munition and arms storage depots, which makes them legitimate military targets.

International humanitarian law, however, suggests otherwise for even if the unproven Israeli claims were substantiated, the principle of proportionality prohibits attacks against military objectives when they are "expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete

and direct military advantage anticipated". Israel would be hard-pressed to make its case when over 11,000 Palestinians civilians have been killed, including more than 4,500 children and infants, with additional thousands decomposing under the rubble.

Worse still, Israeli government and military officials have repeatedly demonstrated genocidal intent by declaring that there are "no innocents" in Gaza. Before the UN Security Council, Israel has even accused UN ambulance drivers, medical staff and aid workers of being members of Hamas, trying to justify the murder of over 100 such workers and the direct, wilful targeting of Gaza's hospitals. In view of the patent commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide as eminent jurists allege, the majority of governments the world over have disgracefully remained silent. It is distressing to witness the cautionary stance of states ready to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel in the face of its all-out bombardments of the civilian population of Gaza.

When Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Morocco or Turkey - not to mention Western powers, China or India - continue to maintain diplomatic and economic relations with Israel, why should the latter revisit its decade-long policies of apartheid, of dehumanisation and delegitimation of Palestinians, of oppression and subjugation of the Palestinian people, if there is no price to pay? Why should Israel stop its relentless bombing of the Gaza exclave? Why should it rethink its illegal occupation and colonisation? Why should it even listen when the secretary-general of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, accuses it of perpetrating "genocide" and Arab leaders make perfunctory declarations but take no decisive action at the Arab-Islamic Summit?

Calling for a "humanitarian ceasefire" as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has, or for a straightforward "ceasefire" he hasn't even dared demand, is necessary but grossly inadequate. After 37 days of unrelenting

bombardment to "eradicate Hamas", there is little evidence that goal is within reach. For one, Hamas is not only present in Gaza but also in the occupied West Bank and elsewhere. And even if, theoretically, Israel were to effectively terminate Hamas in Gaza, just as it had once sought to do with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation, what comes next?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself doesn't really know, does he? Or maybe he knows, but can't tell. As he has put it, "a long and difficult" war lies ahead. Translated, this means the continuation of the genocidal onslaught on the Palestinians, unless and until the position of his Western backers - and Arab bystanders - shifts in words and in deeds. To date, only Bolivia has severed diplomatic relations with Israel to protest against the ongoing war crimes perpetrated against the Palestinians. Unless Egypt, Jordan, UAE and Morocco sever their diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv as their people demand; unless countries such as Turkey, South Africa and Brazil, which have denounced Israel's war crimes, align their diplomacy with their own pronouncements; unless these countries emulate Bolivia's principled diplomatic move and put pressure on their Western partners; unless Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Qatar, Azerbaijan and other large exporters of oil and natural gas use their economic leverage on Israel's blinded backers, Gaza and its population will be destroyed, inch by inch, soul by soul. And no one will be able to say: "We didn't know."

Biden, Blinken and Netanyahu should be reminded that the horrific carpet bombing of Cambodia for years produced only one seminal political outcome: Cambodia's takeover by the infamous Khmer Rouge. What the posited annihilation of Hamas would yield is thus not a frivolous question. "Anything that flies, on anything that moves" and bombing to "crack the hell out of them" sowed death and craters still visible today. It produced infamy and misery, but no military victory.

Aljazeera

Inhumanity in Gaza must awaken our collective humanity

Baria Alamuddin

AMID all the unimaginable horrors facing Palestinians in Gaza, special mention should be made of the more than 50,000 women who are pregnant. Many new mothers are so emaciated after weeks of inadequate food that they are unable to produce milk for their babies.

UNICEF has estimated that 180 women a day are giving birth in Gaza without adequate care, including undergoing cesarean sections without painkillers and being discharged, still bleeding, within hours of delivery. Dozens of babies face death in neonatal intensive care units, where lifesaving incubator machines lack electricity.

At a time when they are most desperately needed, about half of Gaza's 35 hospitals are destroyed or nonoperational, while the remainder lack equipment and electricity. We enter the lowest circles of hell when even hospitals are being bombed and doctors and patients alike are caught in the crossfire, with Israel accused of turning the besieged Al-Shifa Hospital into a war zone. Imagine the horror of being maimed in the destruction of your own home, only to incur further injuries when the ambulance conveying you to hospital is hit by an airstrike. The inability of hospitals to bury hundreds of bodies contributes to horrific conditions and the wildfire spread of infections.

Even if Hamas were to set up a headquarters in the middle of a hospital, attacking that institution would still unambiguously be a war crime. Israel acts as if international law does not apply because an indulgent and unheeding Western world has, for years, allowed this to be the case. Hamas in no way represents the Palestinian nation and the group bears responsibility for triggering this situation, but world leaders are also culpable for the bloody consequences of affording Israel decades of absolute impunity.

In a spectacular own goal, British interior minister Suella Braverman, who was sacked on Monday, denounced the London Armistice Day pro-Palestine demonstration as a "hate march" and unsuccessfully piled pressure on the police to have it banned. Largely thanks to Braverman's free publicity, hundreds of thousands of people peacefully participated in one of the largest marches in British history. Indeed, will we ever live to see a memorial day for the 4,500 children and thousands of other innocent civilians who have already been killed in Gaza, alongside those senselessly murdered in Israel? To avoid history repeating itself, we should emphasize and commemorate the sacredness of all human life. The huge marches also taking place in Spain, France, Germany, America and elsewhere demonstrate how rapidly Israel is losing sympathy among its closest allies. I have been struck by the fluidity of Western public opinion. Immediately after Oct. 7, anyone expressing pro-Palestinian sentiments was denounced as a terrorism sympathizer. But now, with the obvious exclusion of emotionally and morally dead self-serving politicians, can anybody with a few granules of humanity not be moved by Gaza's heart-wrenching horrors? Many Western media outlets have lurched from outbursts of slavish support for Israel to more nuanced language for

fear of losing their audiences, although certain outlets persist with editorial lines that wholly dehumanize Palestinians.

These events have unleashed the hateful seeds of antisemitism and Islamophobia around the world, with far-right elements speculating about genocidal measures against Jewish and Muslim communities. Even in Israel, thousands of demonstrators, including the families of hostages, demanded a halt to the violence and the launch of determined negotiations to free about 240 hostages before too many of them are killed by Israel's own airstrikes. Israeli observers worry that, despite the obvious objective of mass collective vengeance against Palestinian civilians in Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu's war goals appear grossly unrealistic and self-defeating - other than seeking to temporarily save his own political skin. Although Israeli troops have timidly encircled the outskirts of Gaza City, where more than a third of buildings have been damaged by bombing, they still have not made significant incursions through the city's rubble-strewn streets. So, if Israel is serious about following through on "eliminating" Hamas, the war has barely started yet. Indeed, the conflict could get infinitely worse if provocations on the Lebanon border and in the West Bank trigger full-scale conflagrations.

For all Hassan Nasrallah's rhetoric about "victory" in his latest speech, the situation in both Gaza and Israel is not what victory looks like. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi weighed in with similarly escalatory language about how "there is no other way but to resist Israel." Yet, other than stoking the pot and exacerbating the regional situation, it is not clear how the actions of Iran and its proxies help the Palestinians. Meanwhile, in unusually strong language, Saturday's Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh denounced the "war crimes and barbaric, brutal and inhumane massacres committed by the colonial occupation government," while calling for an end to the Gaza siege. Among the summit's tangible proposals were the establishment of media monitoring units to document and publicize violations against Palestinians, along with a number of international initiatives for holding Israel legally accountable.

As International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan argued, we cannot allow ourselves to be desensitized to this level of anguish and this "pandemic of inhumanity." We must remember that those pulled from the rubble are the same as us and equally deserving of justice.

Several decades as a working journalist have caused me to be deeply cynical of politicians, even when they are saying the right things. It is not acceptable for us as global citizens to passively accept a world where thousands are meaninglessly slaughtered before our eyes.

Whether the victims are Israeli or Palestinian, this relentless diet of inhumanity must awaken our innate humanitarian empathy in seeking to end this brutality and establish a path toward a lasting and just peace - an essential component of which is ending the illegal occupation of Palestinian land once and for all.

Arab News

Never forget is now

Andrew Mitrovica

anted to their dear friend, Benjamin Netanyahu and other fanatical Israeli prime ministers, to kill as many Palestinians as they want to, whenever they want to, for as long as they want to. The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget the pilgrimages they made recently to Tel Aviv to hug and shake the hand of a strutting murderer who has a long, odious record of ordering Palestinians to be killed instantly with bullets, bombs and drones. The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget their lectures tarring us as "terrorist sympathisers" while praising the resolve and righteousness of a wretched sociopath who has ordered Palestinians to be killed slowly by depriving them of water, food and fuel.

The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget the sobbing babas carrying the bodies of their children wrapped in white shrouds and the mamas weeping over their hasty graves. The presidents and prime ministers

certain death on foot, makeshift carriages and mules for miles with whatever little they could carry or rescue.

The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget when their dear "democratic" friend bombed schools, hospitals, ambulances and convoys of spent Palestinian refugees trying to escape the murderous madness. The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget the images of limp, dead children pulled from the flattened remnants of their homes, where they once slept, laughed, played and lived and were cared for by doting mothers and fathers whom they loved in equal measure.

The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget the sobbing babas carrying the bodies of their children wrapped in white shrouds and the mamas weeping over their hasty graves. The presidents and prime ministers

want us to forget that they said that Palestinians lied about the number of brothers and sisters, including infants and children, killed or maimed by their dear, "democratic" friend, whom a legion of Israelis believe is a habitual liar, career crook and cocky authoritarian.

The presidents and prime ministers want us to forget that when we shouted "stop" - again and again - they told the habitual liar, career crook and cocky authoritarian to keep killing Palestinians whenever he wants to, wherever he wants to, for as long as he wants to. But take note: We will remember. We will remember what these complicit presidents and prime ministers - and their rank confederates in the establishment press - have done and what they have failed to do because decency and our abiding solidarity with Palestinians and their just cause insists upon it.

These myopic presidents and prime ministers are just beginning to see the true and lasting breadth of support that Palestinians enjoy

among millions of their incensed constituents who, in the unmistakable face of an unrelenting genocide, are moved to do something about it today and, most certainly, tomorrow.

We will mobilise. We will organise. We will channel our outrage. We exercise our agency. We will also be patient. In time, we will rid ourselves of these sick presidents and prime ministers and their collaborators by voting in defence of humanity and Palestine - even if carrying out our franchise is labelled a "blood libel" or "anti-Semitic" by the usual, pedestrian apologists. We will choose wisely. We will cast our ballots for candidates who side with Palestinians not simply rhetorically, but tangibly. First, by demanding a ceasefire. Then, by helping Palestinians to rebuild their ancestral home being occupied and obliterated by the world's most immoral army. We, mostly ordinary people from largely ordinary places, will never forget.

Western hostility to Russian exiles plays into Putin’s hands

Dan Storyev

THE European Union parliament adopted a resolution last week that, among other things, highlighted how members of Russian civil society and opposition groups living in exile in Europe struggle to live under the bloc's sanctions policy. Instead of helping bring an end to the war, this state of affairs could "instead harm the credibility of the EU." This is an accurate assessment of the situation.

The Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine sparked various forms of protest across Russia. One of the most visible was voting with one's feet. As of Sept. 28, 2023, an estimated 820,000 to 920,000 have left the country - in fear of persecution, economic hardship or mobilization, or simply for the sake of moral clarity. Some exiles were welcomed with open arms. In Kazakhstan and Armenia, locals organized housing and collected food for the new arrivals. But in many cases, these exiles became a favorite scapegoat of local politicians due to a mix of societal grievances, historical legacies and international pressure.

Russia's border with the EU is effectively closed as Finland and the Baltic countries have imposed a harsh entry ban on Russians. The ban is so severe that even Ukrainians who were deemed to have spent "too much time" in Russia, and Israelis with Russian backgrounds, risk being turned back. Reportedly, even a genuine asylum seeker, who tried to request asylum after exiting a train from Moscow to Kaliningrad, was turned over to the Russian authorities by Lithuanian border guards. A few other EU countries, such as Belgium and the Czech Republic, have also stopped issuing tourist visas for Russians, citing security concerns. Exiles are similarly shunned in Georgia, where Western-leaning President Salome Zourabichvili recently said it was "unnerving" that Russian emigres "believe that they are at home" in Georgia. Central Asia's Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, while still extremely lenient on migration, recently tightened their rules after an influx of Russian exiles.

So what motivates this hostile response to people fleeing their government because they are unwilling to kill or be killed, or be persecuted for their political opinions? The answer is complex. But, regional nuances aside, there are three main drivers. For many of

Russia's neighbors, the reason lies in the legacy of imperialism of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. With the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine, it is no wonder that locals might view the new arrivals with suspicion. These Russian exiles are often seen as an extension of the Kremlin, even though they are fleeing Putin's repression.

The second reason could be the threat the exiles pose to the social fabric of poorer nations. An influx of Russians needing a place to live caused rents in cities like Yerevan and Tbilisi to skyrocket. At the same time, global inflation went up, putting a massive strain on the consumer economy. Lastly, there is international pressure. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned Georgia that its accession to the bloc could be jeopardized by Tbilisi's resumption of direct flights to Russia.

Regardless of the true underlying causes, pundits and politicians in the West, and countries that are trying to take a westward path, like to portray the tightening of immigration rules against Russians as a way to fight Moscow. This line of thinking dehumanizes Russians. As put by former president of Estonia Toomas Iives, they are believed to possess an "ethnic solidarity for genocide." The argument is quite simple: hurting Russians means hurting the Kremlin. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Tightening immigration rules helps the Kremlin immensely. Thus anyone who is making exiles' lives harder is making Putin's life easier, whether that was their intention or not.

The most immediate impact of tightening immigration rules is that it will be harder for anti-war activists to escape the Kremlin's wrath. For many activists, staying in Russia could mean imprisonment and torture, potentially putting their lives at risk. Leaving aside the purely moral consideration of believing Russians opposed to the war deserve to live decent lives, there are more pragmatic reasons for making their departure easier. Operating from abroad has become the norm for Russian anti-war projects. This is not to disregard the courageous work of civil society groups who remained in Russia. But some things - like publishing freely - are only possible in exile, as independent journalists know all too well. Rejecting

Russian exiles makes it harder for the Russian opposition to continue resisting the Kremlin.

There are also some who have no empathy for Russians and argue they need to be kept in Russia, expecting that they could overwhelm the Kremlin and force a regime change. But unlike fictional characters, Russian activists have enough self-preservation and concern for their families to refrain from launching suicidal attacks against a nuclear-armed authoritarian state, which possesses one of the largest repressive apparatuses on the planet. The Kremlin has carried out at least 19,747 detentions of anti-war protesters, often brutally, utilizing a police force that is twice the size of America's. The security forces also employ state-of-the-art surveillance, allowing them to track and detain activists everywhere.

Some contrast the plight of exiled Russians with that of war refugees in Ukraine, Syria, and Gaza, arguing Russians have not suffered enough for the West to take pity on them. But in reality, the Kremlin's domestic repression is also a serious reason to flee. It should not be impossible to grasp both that Ukrainian refugees have been through hell, and that some Russian exiles might be escaping potential imprisonment and torture in their home country. The West's aid to Russian exiles should not come at the expense of aid to war refugees. If anything, by accepting Russian exiles, the West maintains its moral standing and damages Putin's war effort.

Aside from disrupting the opposition's work, anti-exile policies give ammunition to the Kremlin's propagandists. Putin built his regime by painting Russia as a besieged fortress, constantly threatened by the West that is out to get Russians wherever they are. What could be better proof of this than exiles being turned back by the very liberal countries they wanted Russia to be like? This, too, addresses the constant concern that fleeing Russians might not be sufficiently against the war to deserve sanctuary.

But if the West wants to break the spell of Kremlin propaganda it needs to be less hostile to Russia. Then, propagandists in Moscow would have less ground to stand on when they accuse the West of plotting the wholesale destruction of

the Russian people. One of the valuable lessons we should have learned from the Cold War is that cross-border connections were key to the liberalization of Soviet society. Unfortunately, Western capitals don't appear to be heeding the past.

Some might argue that the Kremlin does not want the immigrants to return. But, if that is the case, why would Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov encourage exiles to do exactly that? "Their motherland is Russia. And it is always waiting for them," Peskov said in October. Furthermore, why would Russia's security services kidnap escapees? This is what happened with activist Lev Skoryakin, who was kidnapped in Kyrgyzstan and disappeared until a lawyer affiliated with our organization, OVD-Info, found him in a Moscow jail. His comrade Ruslan Abbasov was refused asylum in the EU despite having an easily provable history of protesting against the Kremlin. Furthermore, a Russian activist was just recently kidnapped from Georgia. While these cases are too few to establish a trend, they show the Kremlin's intent.

Even the Russians who have fled for economic rather than ideological reasons are a net loss for the Kremlin. The more Russians leave, the fewer soldiers the Kremlin has to throw at Ukrainian lines, the fewer workers it has to power its military plants, and so on. Fifteen percent of escapees who fled Russia have since returned, perhaps because they did not find acceptance or economic opportunity abroad. This means that Russia's human capital is now stronger by thousands of people. Not aiding Russians in escaping the Kremlin is thus tantamount to maintaining Putin's war machine. Yet Western nations, such as Germany and the US, confirmed that draft evasion is not enough reason for automatic asylum status.

Attempts to tighten immigration rules for Russians might be based on sincere beliefs. But anti-exile policies help Putin strengthen his fortress Russia narrative, bolster his war machine and weaken the opposition. A more welcoming policy would undermine the Kremlin's war effort. Not only would it lose manpower, but Russians would be persuaded that Moscow's propaganda is based on a web of lies.

The Moscow Times

After the Riyadh statement

Ghassan Charbel

the right to remain silent under the rubble of its dignity. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres should not be rebuked for expressing his outrage at the mass killing of children and the massacres. The "world's only superpower," which ceaselessly preaches about human rights, does not have the right to justify "the mother of all massacres" with the excuse of "the right to self-defense." The West does not have the right to abandon international humanitarian law. If the West opposes Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territory, then how can it remain silent over one country's occupation of another?

Israel has repeatedly tried to douse the fire by eliminating the voice of the oppressed. It has tried occupation and incursions and resorted to jets, tanks and assassinations. It pursued and besieged Yasser Arafat. The fire died down for a short while, before burning again later. It assassinated Khalil Al-Wazir, the father of the intifada. The fire again died down before burning again later. It assassinated Ahmed Yassin and several of his comrades, but the fire refused to die. The world, which was outraged by the racism in South Africa, the horrors of Yugoslavia and the massacres in Rwanda, does not have the right to turn a blind eye to the massacre of today's era taking place in Palestine.

I thought of all of this as I listened to the statement of the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit that was held in Riyadh on Saturday. The statement was powerful in its spirit and in its vision of how to douse the flames. It expressed anger and outrage at the oppression, the double standards and the barbaric war being waged by the occupation. The statement was drafted responsibly under the rule of international law and requirements for real peace. The statement demanded that the UNSC save its role and image and assume the responsibilities that were the reason for it being established in the first place. It demanded respect for international law and respect for people's faith in rights, laws, justice, dignity and humanity. It demanded that influential countries pressure Israel to prevent it from hiding behind general statements and old biases.

The deliberations at the summit demonstrated that Arab and Islamic leaders did not travel to Riyadh to issue a traditional statement. It was apparent that they sensed the gravity of what is

taking place and the danger of it being prolonged. The embers of the conflict could easily spread to other fronts. The eruption of a broader conflict would mean dragging the region into a new cycle of violence and major powers would be incapable of remaining on the sidelines, especially in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine. The statement called for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege on Gaza. At the same time, it demanded that the tragedy must not be allowed to happen again in the future. To that end, it demanded that the two-state solution be implemented to resolve the conflict.

Yes, the countries that met in Riyadh do not all share the same policies toward regional and international affairs. They each have their own interests, calculations, alliances and friendships. They look at crises from varying angles based on their own experiences and circumstances. But it is evident that these countries all agree on the broad headlines, which are demanding an immediate end to the war, establishing a just peace and ending the occupation and oppression. The vast majority of these countries believe that establishing an independent Palestinian state is the only way to resolve this chronic conflict. The Arab and Islamic worlds were never capable of being effective players on the international arena. However, this is not the case now amid the international scene that is taking shape. The Arab and Islamic worlds have a growing sense that they possess the traits that allow them to develop into players capable of defending their interests. The Arab world boasts resources and capabilities and the West and major powers have vital interests in this region. Some countries from the Arab world are taking on a greater regional and international role, even playing an influential role in the G20. Perhaps this is why Riyadh sought to hold a joint summit. It wanted to address the world from a united position and in clear statements.

The Riyadh summit statement was important in its phrasing and messages. Now, attention will shift toward the committee that was formed, which will contact major countries to form a united front that can impose an end to the conflict based on the two-state solution. This is better than making do with a ceasefire and temporary treatments that will eventually lead to another, even more horrific, round of fighting.

Israel may win the battle in Gaza but likely to lose the war

Ashok Swain

humiliation against Palestinians by the illegal settlers, may help extremism to gain inroads to the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority, in charge of governing the West Bank, has lost almost all of its legitimacy and has become ineffective as a provider of any form of security to the people. The approval rate of Palestinian Authority's President Mahmoud Abbas is hardly even in double digits. Israel, by using highly disproportionate violence and creating a terrible humanitarian disaster missed a big opportunity to delegitimise the Palestinian struggle in the eyes of the world. The large pro-Palestine demonstrations around the world show that Gaza has won the public perception battle in a much bigger way vis-a-vis Israel.

As any rational assessment can see Israel's stated aim of 'total' elimination of Hamas in this ongoing war is unlikely. When the aim sounds grandiose but unlikely to be achieved, it is important for Israel to have a well-thought-out exit strategy. An exit strategy is crucial for ensuring that a military occupation remains somewhat consistent with international law and strategic objectives. It helps manage resources, maintain political and public support, and facilitates the eventual transition to a more stable and peaceful situation.

Without a clear exit strategy, military occupations can become protracted, costly, and politically unsustainable. The longer the military occupation continues without a clear exit strategy, the more likely Israel is to face resistance from both the occupied Palestinian population and the international community. Israel cannot occupy Gaza and keep it within the control

of its security forces for long. Tel Aviv had not been able to do that in the past and it is in no way going to succeed now. In August 2005, Israel was forced to implement the Gaza Disengagement Plan after several years of occupation. While doing that Israel had to evacuate all Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip and withdraw the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from the area. The evacuation of Israeli settlers from Gaza settlements was a highly contentious and difficult process. If Israel does not want to learn from its own mistakes of the past, it should see how a superpower like the US failed miserably in its occupation of Afghanistan for 20 years.

Like Israel, the US invaded Afghanistan with an inflated aim to completely destroy the Taliban and without a calculated exit strategy. The US lost the war and was forced to face a humiliating withdrawal while the Taliban did not vanish. The group simply recaptured Afghanistan with more power than ever before. It is important for Israel to realise that force cannot buy its security in the long run. It can't win the war having such an unachievable aim and the end result will be much worse than before due lack of a strategically planned exit strategy. Self-determination struggles are best managed through negotiation and accommodation.

Military power can help to keep a territory under control but not the people living in it. Palestinians will always find ways to break the shackles. Israel needs to realise this dangerous loop. Instead of making it worse, Netanyahu needs to immediately agree on a ceasefire and sincerely start a political process with an aim to achieve a lasting two-state solution.

Gulf News

Who a ‘stalemate’ in Ukraine really benefits

Jade McGlynn

RESPONSES to the recent statements by the commander in chief of the Ukrainian military, Valery Zaluzhny, warning of a stalemate war between Ukraine and Russia, have been varied and revealing. In last week's lengthy interview with The Economist, Gen. Zaluzhny set out - and proposed solutions for - problems that anyone who has spent time on the front, or with soldiers and instructors recently returned from frontlines, already knew. His interview is not a revelation or admission. It is an intervention on behalf of Ukraine, a call for honesty.

Not everyone welcomed Zaluzhny's call, let alone heeded it. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denied the war had reached a stalemate, while his chief diplomatic adviser, Igor Zhovka, even questioned the wisdom of participating in the interview at all. Some Western military analysts, confusing a pro-Ukrainian stance with wishful thinking, rebutted the general's conclusions. On the other side, skeptics of Western support for Ukraine gloatingly cited the interview as evidence that Ukraine should have capitulated at some imagined earlier opportunity. Speaking of active imaginations, it has been widely rumored that a number of Ukraine's Western partners have been trying to force Ukraine towards a ceasefire. If so, they have failed to understand Zaluzhny's argument - not for lack of intelligence but for lack of willingness to accept the context and motivations accompanying this intervention.

Dmitry Peskov, Russian presidential spokesman, is on hand to help reacquaint Western leaders with reality. In response to the essay, Peskov claimed it was "wrong to say the war was moving in the direction of stalemate" and insisted Russia would achieve all of its stated war aims. Peskov's remarks serve as a timely reminder that Ukraine is not the intransigent party here. It is not Ukraine that is desperate to continue war despite plentiful options to stop the bloodshed - it is Russia. In Russian, and some variants of Ukrainian, the word for a stalemate is rendered as 'tupik.' The word carries connotations of blindness and stupidity. In all senses, Russia is certainly not in a tupik. The Kremlin can see a clear way forward, grinding down Ukraine while it waits for Western resilience and supplies to dry up.

The West, on the other hand, certainly is in a tupik. There is little to gain from pointing fingers about the delayed supplies and what difference they might have made in autumn 2022 or even early spring 2023, even if the thousands of Ukrainians who con-

sequently died deserve at least this. There is however plenty to gain from examining the attitudes that informed this reluctance and will continue to hamper Ukraine's self-defence unless radically re-examined. Perhaps the most glaring deficiency is stale western thinking. It is as if the West refuses to have a strategy for this war. The US does not appear to want Ukraine to win, if we define winning as returning all its taken land. Western European leaders, even the Brits, who previously lobbied the US for more weapons, now wait to see what Washington says rather than act on their own initiative to resolve a war that impacts their continent much more than North America.

NATO is not ready to offer credible deterrence via membership, even though other countries that were either part-occupied or at war have joined, namely West Germany. The combined impression is one of Western irresolute-ness, the root causes of which can be deciphered by unwrapping the insidious phrase 'Ukraine fatigue.' One reads that 'Ukraine fatigue' is forcing leaders to explore news 'ways out' of the conflict, presumably through Ukrainian territorial concessions to Russia. But why is the West so fatigued by this war, when a strong majority of Ukrainians affirm the need to fight on? And would there still be 'fatigue' in Western capitals if Ukraine had retaken more territories during the summer counteroffensive?

Honest answers to both questions clarify that 'Ukraine fatigue' is a misnomer: This isn't about tiredness, but rather the West's lack of resilience, itself an inevitable consequence of the West's refusal to admit the limitations of its own worldview. Initially, many laughed at the Russian leadership for its failure to understand their Ukrainian opponents, its inability to see Ukrainians as they are in reality, rather than as Russian historical obsessions, propaganda and imperialistic worldviews depicted them. Yet, many in the West apply the same self-absorbed lens to viewing Russia. They continue to presume President Vladimir Putin acts according to the same rational calculus as they do; that Russian society is as outraged by the war, or at least the sanctions and high death rate, as their societies would be; that the Kremlin elites will turn on the President when his war threatens the types of assets and interests Western elites hold dear.

But Putin isn't worried about any of these things. He is safely ensconced at the top of his power vertical and preparing for another six-year term. For now, a static war suits Russia very well: it is

socio-politically sustainable (there is currently no need for mobilization and the public are largely happy to accept the war). It is economically sustainable, and it is militarily sustainable due to stockpiles, increased production capacity and supplies from partners like Iran and North Korea.

There is no democratic pressure on Putin to stop the war and no structures even exist through which such pressure could emerge. For Putin, the war is sustainable, but the peace probably is not. The war provides cover and justification for an increasingly repressive state, weakened welfare system and centralized governance. It consolidates the population against an external enemy. On the contrary, peace would lead to awkward questions: For what did so many men die? Where are their bodies? And why did the army fail to achieve the stated aims of the 'special military operation'? In this light, it is understandable that Russia has shown no serious interest in stopping the war.

Putin has said again and again that Ukraine doesn't exist. We have Russian officials boasting almost weekly of kidnapping Ukrainian children and indoctrinating them to hate their own country. We have pages and pages of genocidal intent from state journalists. Russia has written an entire national security strategy outlining its position that the West is in freefall and now is the time to reclaim their rightful decisive place in a new multipolar order. It has reorganized its education, cultural and foreign policy doctrine to place society on a gradualist war footing. When Russia says it will pursue its war aims for as long as it takes, it has the ideological and literal infrastructure to back it up. The West doesn't. For now, the war is not an existential threat to the Euro-Atlantic security order: It doesn't need to intervene directly, or send troops. But this appears to blind some to the fact that, while the war is not an existential threat to the Western security order, Ukraine losing would pose such a threat.

In the event of Ukraine's defeat, what happens with the enormous numbers of weapons and refugees? How would Europe manage the ensuing popular insurrection? What does Russian victory mean for global nuclear proliferation? Would NATO remain viable? In Putin's December 2021 ultimatum he wanted a return of NATO to 1997 borders; in other words, a restoration of Russia's sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. When I spoke to Kremlin advisers in summer and autumn 2022, they were

all bamboozled by the West's interpretation of this as a gambit or joke: it wasn't, it was a serious negotiating position that Russia wished to achieve or at least approximate.

If they dealt with Russia and Putin as they are, as they have constantly shown themselves to be, any wavering Western leaders would soon recognise the need to devise a strategy worthy of the threat. Perhaps this is why they don't ask these questions and instead cling to a vision of the world that does not exist, and perhaps never existed. In so doing, they are setting Ukraine up to lose. As Gen. Zaluzhny explained, Ukraine does not have the weapons, supplies or men to win the war as it is currently being fought. He lays out a concise military strategy to return manoeuvrability to what has become a positional war.

A similarly adaptable and bold political strategy is required from Ukraine's allies - one that goes beyond just money and weapons deliveries and entails a meaningful shift in European economic and social models. North Korea has delivered over 1 million shells to Russia. The EU had promised Ukraine the same but is unable to fulfil the order. It should not be beyond the wit of the EU to match North Korea - and it isn't, but it is seemingly beyond its will. Any viable strategy of more fulsome support will also require honest conversations with electorates as to why supporting Ukraine is in these countries' direct national interests. Such dialogue is long overdue in many countries, where people have tired of the moralistic rhetoric around freedom versus tyranny.

These phrases are applicable to Ukraine but have sadly lost all meaning following the 'global war on terror.' Any residual meaning is further undermined by the use of moralistic language as a crutch to avoid admitting that the West has no strategy for Ukrainian victory and that its current position will leave Ukraine without what it needs to defend itself, risking the lives of thousands of men and endangering its own populaces in the process. These are stark and uncomfortable conclusions. But what does the power of liberal democratic values and economic reach really count for when Russia's ally, North Korea, can deliver on promises to its partners but the EU cannot?

What is power without the willingness to use it? Inevitably, decline. If the Euro-Atlantic community wants to avoid a more precipitous drop, it is high time to look down, see where they are heading, and change course - starting in Ukraine.

CNN



SBP allows ASA MFB to commence operations

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has allowed ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited to commence microfinance lending business nationwide from November 13, 2023.

ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited, licensed by SBP under the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001, is a wholly owned subsidiary of ASA International Group plc, which is recognized as one of the world's largest

international microfinance institutions. By commencing business, ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited will be the 12th Microfinance Bank (MFB) to operate in the country.

MFBs play an important role to serve a large number of microcredit borrowers and depositors.

MFBs have approximately three percent share of total advances of the banking system, however, in terms of number of domestic borrowers, MFBs have a share of 58.6 per-

cent, signifying their importance in Pakistan's credit market, financial inclusion and economy.

The commencement of business by ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited is expected to increase the market share of MFBs regulated by SBP within the overall microfinance sector.

Given the focus on women across their international network, ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited is expected to play an impor-

tant role towards gender mainstreaming and female empowerment by providing small, socially responsible loans to low-income women entrepreneurs belonging to less-privileged and unbanked segments of the society.

It is expected that ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited will contribute towards poverty alleviation and financial inclusion mandate under the Microfinance Institution Ordinance, 2001.

No stone will remain unturned to resolve business community issues



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Senior leader of Businessman Forum (BF), former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq reaffirmed the commitment toward resolving the business community on priority basis.

Speaking at dinner function hosted by Traders Alliance Federation senior vice president Sheryar Khan Sarraf, vice president Hasnain Shiraz, and executive member of the federation Awais Arni Sarraf in honor of Businessman Forum Leader Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, SCCI chief Fuad

Ishaq, senior vice president Sanaullah Khan, and vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi, the business community leaders vowed to promote close liaison with governments at centre and provincial level through the SCCI platform for bringing tax-reforms, provision of relief to the business community and economic stability.

The dinner was attended by former presidents, senior vice presidents and vice presidents, executive members, office bearers of the Traders Alliance Federation, dignitaries and members of the business community in a large number, said in a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Ilyas Bilour said efforts and struggle made in every

term for mitigating sufferings and difficulties of the business community through the platform of the SCCI and all the time, gained remarkable achievement in resolution of the issues for that extended high thankful to the Almighty Allah.

He continued to say that the chamber is a sole forum of the business community, has always played a pivotal role in resolving their issues and will continue services for protection of business community rights and resolution of issues by utilizing all available means and resources.

Fuad Ishaq said business community has faced with enormous difficulties under the prevailing economic conditions and called for

proactive initiatives at governmental level for amicable resolution of the community issues, tax-reforms, special incentives and facilities to continue running the wheel of economy, business and industries that will also bring economic stability and lead the country toward sustainable growth and progress.

Ghazanfar Bilour while talking about sacrifices of the business community said businessmen have played an important role for bringing economic stability by continuing their businesses despite the unfavorable conditions in the province.

He said SCCI believes in selfless services to the business community and the chamber doors are always open for them, saying that no stone will remain unturned to resolve their issues.

The Businessman forum leader and SCCI president extended wholeheartedly thanks to the Traders Alliance Federation for hosting a dinner for their honour.

Earlier, the Traders Alliance Federation leaders and office bearers also spoke on the occasion and pointed out various issues of the business community and suggested a number of proposals for the amicable resolution.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz co-chairing Trilateral Trade meeting along with Afghanistan Trade Minister Nooruddin Azizi and Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister on Trade and Investment Jamshid Khodjaev.

Rupee sheds 33 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed a devaluation of 33-paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.87 against the previous day's closing at Rs 287.54.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 79 paise to close at Rs 308.20 against the last day's closing of Rs 307.41, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89; whereas an increase of Rs 1.95 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.95 as compared to the last closing of Rs 352. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 09 paise each to close at Rs 78.37 and Rs 76.75 respectively.

Gold rates up to Rs212,800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs 212,800 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 211,800 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 858 to Rs 182,442 from Rs 181,584 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 167,238 from Rs 166,452, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewelers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,580 and 2,211.93 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$5 to \$1965 from \$1,960, the Association reported.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Aby, Suape Express, Kyparissia, Ayati and Al-Berta, scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, and Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, CSL Manhattan, Maersk Denver and Milaha Raslaffan also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containers ship 'Suape Express' is left the Port on today morning, three more ships, MSC Aby, Kyparissia and Nikitis are expected to sail on same day.

A cargo volume of 131,027 tonnes, comprising 77,539 tonnes imports cargo and 53,488 tonnes export cargo carried in 4,512 Containers (2,367 TEUs Imports and 2,145 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 11 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them 02 ships, Milaha Raslaffan and Maersk Denver & two more ships, MSC Madeline and MSC Nassau carrying LNG and Containers are expected to take berths at Elengy Terminal and Container Terminal.

Gas theft crackdown:

SNGPL disconnected 53 gas connections

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 53 connections while 180 under billing cases processed and imposed fine of Rs 5.66 million.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 06 connections on illegal use of gas and another 5 on use of compressor and 52 under billing cases have been processed. The team also imposed fine of Rs 2.49 million against gas theft and under billing cases and lodged one FIR against gas pilferers.

In Bahawalpur the company disconnected two con-

nections on the use of compressor and 58 under billing cases have been processed.

The regional team in Multan disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas, 25 under billing cases have been processed. The team imposed fine of Rs 0.03 million against gas pilferers.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 14 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.32 million against gas theft cases.

In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas and fine imposed 0.17 million against gas theft.

In Mardan 15 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and 0.63

million amount booked against gas theft cases.

In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on use of compressor. In Faisalabad 10 under billing cases processed and 6 connections were disconnected on illegal use and amount of Rs 0.23 booked against gas pilferers.

In Gujarat 2 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and one under billing case has been processed, fine of Rs 1.43 million against gas pilferers.

The team in Gujranwala booked an amount of Rs 0.3 million against under billing and gas theft cases.

In Sargodha 34 under billing cases have been processed and 0.06 million amount booked against under billing cases.

Pak, China can produce high grade sugar in abundance

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Tuesday that Pakistan and China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance and export it across the world.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he remarked that sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan will bring sweet revolution, and will literally turn the friendship between the two nations 'sweeter than honey'.

Ghurki said, "Our responsibility is to connect people and experts from China and Pakistan, and provide them a platform. This is what we are doing with zeal and zest. China and Pakistan should

join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing to produce high-grade sugar. Believe me two iron friends can export sugar to the world if they enhance cooperation in this field." He added that "Tissue Culture" can bring revolution in the production of sugarcane; Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science has been giving training to the scientists across the globe. It has introduced 100 training courses for 4,000 participants from more than 90 countries. More than 40 young scientists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America came to CATAS for medium and long term visits and exchanges, he added.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Pakistan is a traditional

agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to do to modernize its agriculture sector to enable it to meet international.

CATAS strongly rejected using conventional seeds. Conventional seeds are not suitable for planting. Breeding disease free seedlings are perfect for sugarcane production and he made clear that by applying integrated disease-free techniques, the pathogens of viruses and RSD can be removed, and problem of degradation and purification can be solved simultaneously. He added, "As CPEC inches near to completion in Pakistan, we are offering our latest agricultural technology to Pakistan. We are here to modernize Pakistan's agriculture sector."

IBA sets stage for Global Entrepreneurship Week



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi is celebrating Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2023, from November 13 to November 16. The week-long activities started with an engaging workshop titled 'Boosting Entrepreneurship in University Education,' featuring esteemed trainers from the University of Turku, Finland.

Dr. Lalarukh Ejaz, Assistant Professor and Director, CED welcomed a dynamic and accomplished audience, including international and national faculty members. In her opening remarks, she emphasized that GEW is not merely an

event but a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and the boundless potential of each aspiring entrepreneur.

Representatives from the University of Turku included Dr. Sanna Ilonen, University Teacher, Entrepreneurship; Joachim Ramström, Senior Lecturer, Marketing; and Ari Koski, Key Account Manager, Innovation Services (TTO). The workshop delved into innovative approaches to integrate entrepreneurship into university education, aiming to foster a mindset of creativity and enterprise among students.

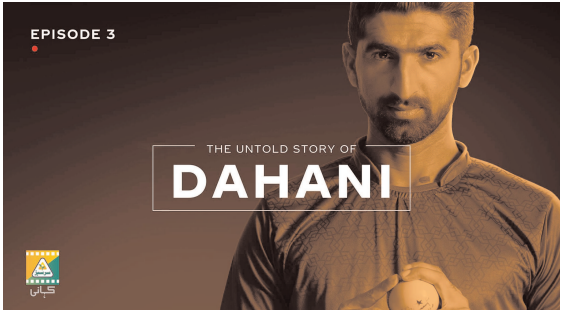
Faculty members from IBA Karachi, Punjab University, Institute of Business Management (IoBM), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi

University, and beyond will engage in sessions and activities designed to empower and inspire.

The week's agenda includes a diverse array of events including, panel discussions on November 15; 'Iventure' startup showcasing on November 13 - 14 and 'Invent' which is an IBA-CED startup pitch competition on November 16.

As we embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship, the IBA-CED seeks to create meaningful connections and pave the way for a future filled with innovation and success. Throughout the week, participants are encouraged to seize the opportunities presented, connect with like-minded individuals, and absorb the wealth of knowledge shared.

Sarsabz Kahani unveils another uplifting true story rooted



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sarsabz Kahani, Pakistan's first-ever agri-focused web-series platform introduced by Fatima Fertilizer, has unveiled another inspiring true story that embodies the values of hope and determination. The platform is on a mission to spotlight exceptional stories of men and women who represent the true spirit of Pakistan's farming community and exemplify the values of courage and dedication to relentlessly pursue national prosperity and growth.

The first two episodes of Sarsabz Kahani proudly featured the remarkable stories of two Pakistani

female farmers, whose undeterred character exemplifies the very essence of our beloved nation.

The third episode features the inspiring journey of Shah Nawaz Dahani, a Pakistani cricket sensation who belonged to a farming family in the rural outskirts of Larkana, Sindh

and fulfilled his dream of making it big in the world of cricket.

Growing up in an agricultural background, Dahani embodied the values of courage and dedication while fighting challenging circumstances. Despite hailing from a humble background, his unwavering dedication and tireless effort earned him acclaim during the sixth season of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Making his T20 debut with Fatima Fertilizer's partner franchise, Multan Sultans, he played a crucial role in their championship victory and emerged as one of the top wicket-takers of the season, also garnering the attention of national selectors.

Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizers, underscores the profound significance of this platform by saying, "Sarsabz Kahani is a heartfelt tribute to the resilient character of our brave Pakistani farmers who are a pride for the nation. They passionately serve their homeland and work selflessly in the fields to protect its economic revival and national food security. At Fatima Fertilizer, we remain committed to celebrating their unwavering spirit and the pivotal role they play in shaping our nation's resilient character."

KATI president urges steps for economic recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) President Faraz-ur-Rahman on Tuesday urged the government to prioritize addressing challenges confronting the export sector.

Talking to media persons on the conclusion of his successful meetings with trade bodies here, he asserted that it would enable the sector to actively contribute to pulling the economy out of its current challenges and set it on a trajectory of sustainable development through a rapid increase in exports.

He pointed out that facilitating exporters with accessible loans could significantly enhance the export sector.

However, the prevailing 22% interest rate stood as a substantial impediment to business and investment development, he added.

Faraz said this obstacle was evident in the more than 290% decline in private sector loans from July to October this year compared to the same period

last year. Pakistan's exports witnessed a 5% decline from July to September this year compared to the previous year, a discouraging trend amid economic recovery efforts, he said stressing the imperative for a significant surge in exports.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of the business sector in steering the economy out of the current crisis, he underscored the necessity for the government to prioritize reducing the high cost of doing business.

He underlined the need to create a business-friendly environment to foster economic development and prosperity in the country by promoting business activities more effectively.

He committed to consolidating the entire trader community on a unified platform to navigate Pakistan through its current economic challenges.

In elucidating his mission, Faraz 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.

He, in a recent visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, engaged in discussions with the chamber's leadership to address the challenges encountered by the business community.

He affirmed his commitment that his association would actively collaborate with ICCI to safeguard the interests of businessmen and industrialists.

During the meeting, notable attendees included Atif Ikram Sheikh, the nominated UBG candidate for the presidency of the federation, and Rizwana Asif, the president of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, alongside other prominent city businessmen.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge III/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No. 38/13. Institution 17/4/2022. Date of hearing, 18/11/2023. Mst Amrasa etc VS Mian Gul Rehman etc. Notice to no 5. Shahid Rehman s/o Shah Hasan. 11. Bakhtaj s/o Mst Amrasa residents of Hisar tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 18/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Naseem, Ahsan
excelling in C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueists Muhammad Naseem Akhtar and Ahsan Ramzan have earned victories in the last 16 Round matches of the IBSF World 6 Red Snooker Championship 2023 at Doha, Qatar. In Last 16 Round Results, Naseem Akhtar beat Rodion Judin (Latvia) 5-2 (16-41, 35-10(30), 61-04(32), 36-27, 0-36, 46-06, 58-0(30) while Ahsan Ramzan defeated Pankaj Advani (India) 5-0 (41-28, 38-10, 42-14(41), 44-10(32), 32-28). Earlier in Last 28 Round Results, Naseem Akhtar beat Khalid Alastal 5-1 (86-0(47), 51-0(51), 35-36, 51-0, 38-0, 33-08) while Ahsan Ramzan defeated Wang Yuchen (Hong Kong) 5-1 (37-15, 67-0(37), 8-63(63), 31-01, 31-21, 43-27). The semifinals and final of the championship will be played on November 15.

Shaheen Club wins girls' athletics championship

FAISALABAD (APP): Shaheen Club has won the Inter Club Girls' Athletics Championship organized under the aegis of District sports Department in Firdous Colony Jhang Road here on Tuesday. A spokesman of local administration said that 13 events were arranged in the championship including 100 meter race, 200 meter race, 400 meter race, 1500 meter race, 4x100 meter relay race, 100 meter hurdle race, long jump, high jump, javelin throw, shot put, discus throw, etc. According to results, Shaheen Athletics Club grabbed first position with 85 points whereas Haidri Club stood second with 31 points and New Arrival Club was declared 3rd with 29 points. Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Dr Shahab was chief guest and he distributed medals and trophies among the position holders. Divisional Sports Officer Chaudhry Tariq Nazir, District Sports Officer Sajida Lateef, Tehsil Sports Officer Shabina Hameed and others were also present on the occasion.

Bellingham ruled
out qualifiers

LONDON (Agencies): Jude Bellingham has been ruled out of England's final Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia, the Football Association announced on Tuesday. Chelsea defender Levi Colwill has also been withdrawn from Gareth Southgate's squad, meaning five players are missing from the initial group announced for the match at Wembley on November 17 and the away fixture three days later. Midfielder Bellingham, 20, who has scored 13 goals so far in a stunning debut season for Real Madrid, and Colwill both have shoulder issues. "Jude Bellingham and Levi Colwill will play no part in England's forthcoming UEFA Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia," the FA said in a statement. "The pair arrived at St. George's Park for assessments on Monday but will now return to their clubs to continue their rehabilitation." Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford and Manchester City midfielder Kalvin Phillips will join the squad later this week "owing to personal matters," the FA said. On Monday, Cole Palmer, Ezri Konsa and Rico Lewis replaced the injured James Maddison, Callum Wilson and Lewis Dunk.



MUMBAI: New Zealand players during practice before semi final match with India at Wankhede Stadium.

Perfect record leaves host India as favorites over New Zealand in cricket World Cup semifinal

MUMBAI (AP) : After winning nine straight games to finish atop the standings, India faces fourth-place New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday in the first Cricket World Cup semifinal.

Based on the host team's perfect record going into the semifinal, and the parochial home crowd, New Zealand will have to rise above expectations to advance to Sunday's final against either Australia or South Africa.

In pursuit of its third title, India set the benchmark — it easily beat Australia and Pakistan, then trounced England and South Africa. Perhaps its biggest challenge came from New Zealand at Dharamsala, but Virat Kohli's 95 helped navigate past it.

India changed its combination when allrounder Hardik Pandya was ruled out with an ankle injury, and it plowed on unbeaten. This was achieved through dominant performances with both bat and ball and playing in nine venues.

Kohli leads the run charts with 594 runs in nine games. Skipper Rohit Sharma is fourth with 503 runs — his strike-rate is the highest for any opener who has featured in all nine league games. Four of India's six primary batters have posted hundreds in the tournament. India's Jasprit Bumrah is fifth in tournament

bowling with 17 wickets. Mohammed Shami has blitzed his way through batting lineups to pick up 16 wickets at a remarkable average of 9.56 in just five games. Ravindra Jadeja is just outside the top 10 with 15.

"We've maintained some really high standards in terms of our execution (and) our intensity," India coach Rahul Dravid said. "We've traveled the length and breadth of this country ... and I think what this team has done really well is it has really represented India fantastically. It's played a really good brand of cricket."

New Zealand has the onerous task of facing the rampant home team in the playoffs. The New Zealanders opened with four consecutive wins before a loss to India at altitude sparked a run of four losses. They stopped that slide to win against Sri Lanka and qualify for a fifth successive World Cup semifinal.

New Zealand will take some confidence from winning at the same stage four years ago, when it beat table-topping India across a rain-affected two days in Manchester before losing to England in the final in a contentious boundary cloutback.

New Zealand pace bowler Lockie Ferguson says his team must accurately assess the Wankhede Stadium pitch and look to tighten up its bowling at

the traditionally high-scoring venue.

South Africa twice posted scores of 350-plus at the stadium and India made 357-8 in its clash with Sri Lanka before Glenn Maxwell hit a double-century as Australia successfully chased down 291 against Afghanistan last week.

"A lot of Indian grounds have been high-scoring," Ferguson said. "That's the nature of one-day cricket in this part of the world. It's trying to understand what the pitch will be like and read what a good score on it is because those big overs, 10 runs here or there, can cost you at the back end of the innings," Ferguson said New Zealand will have to deal with the result of the toss.

"Whatever it might be — bat or bowl first — we've got plans for that," Ferguson said. "It's important to stick to them. Obviously, it's nice to bowl under lights, nice to see when the ball does move around a bit and it brings us into the game. We'll have to play it as we see it come game day."

South Africa and Australia finished level with seven wins and two losses each in the first phase of the tournament and will meet Thursday at Eden Gardens in Kolkata in the other semifinal. The semifinal winners advance to the championship match on Sunday at Ahmedabad.

AJK, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Islamabad victorious in Pakistan Blind Cricket Trophy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Bahawalpur, Lahore and Islamabad won their matches in the 14th National Bank of Pakistan T-20 Blind Cricket Trophy (Grade-1) played here at two different venues on Tuesday.

In the first match, AJK beat Peshawar by 10 wickets at Shalimar Cricket Ground. Peshawar won the toss and decided to bat first. They made 85 runs in allotted 10 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Haroon Khan made 37 runs and Sanaullah Khan chipped in with 16 runs. Usman Ali took 1 wicket.

In reply, AJK with the help of Captain Nisar Ali's superb innings of unbeaten 62* runs off 31 balls reached the target in 7.2 overs without any loss. He was named Man of the Match.

Bahawalpur defeated Gujranwala by 23 runs here at PAF cricket



Ground. Bahawalpur set the competitive target of 131 runs on the board for the loss of 1 wicket in the allotted 10 overs. Muhammad Rashid scored 59 runs off 30 balls and well supported by Moen Ali who was unbeaten on 48* runs off 29 balls. Syed Zubair Shah took 1 wicket.

In reply, Gujranwala scored 108 runs in allotted 10 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Muhammad Akram was their top scorer with 44 runs. Muhammad Shah Zaib took 1 wicket for

Bahawalpur. Rashid was declared Man of the Match.

In the third match, Lahore downed Okara by 10 wickets at Shalimar Cricket Ground. Lahore won the toss and decided to bowl first. Okara team scored only 99 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in the allotted 10 overs. Abu Huraira was the leading scorer with 22 runs. M Rizwan and Karamat Ali took 1 wicket each. In reply, Lahore reached the target with ease in just 8.4 overs without any loss.

Badar Munir played superb innings of unbeaten 67* runs off 33 balls and Sanwal Shehzada made 22 runs. Badar Munir was named man of the match.

Islamabad outplayed Multan by six wickets in the fourth match at PAF cricket Ground. Multan won the toss and elected to bat first. Multan made 110 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in stipulated 10 overs. Muhammad Sadar was the prominent scorer with unbeaten 84* runs off 41 balls. Matti Ullah took 1 wicket for Islamabad.

In reply, Islamabad reached the target in 6.4 overs by losing 4 wickets. Shah Zaib Haider was the top scorer with unbeaten 46* runs off 22 balls while Matti Ullah made 35 runs off 11 balls. Hafiz Farhan, Abdul Razzaq and Safdar shared 1 wicket each. Matti Ullah was declared Man of the Match.

ITF World Junior C'ships Seeded players through to quarterfinal rounds

ISLAMABAD (APP): All the seeded players advanced to the quarterfinal round by beating their respective opponents in straight sets in the ITF Pakistan J30 World Junior Tennis Championships-II at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad on Tuesday.

A total of 22 matches were played on the second day of the championship.

The match of the day was played between 6th Seed Hamid Israr Gul of Pakistan and Taichi Tamura of Japan. Hamid Israr struggled hard to win the thrilling three-set match.

In the first set, both the players adopted a defensive game strategy by holding their own serve 5 games all. In the 12th game, Hamid made some unforced errors and hit the ball into the net, which resulted in losing the first set at 5-7.

In the second set, Hamid

changed the game plan and played his own natural game by hitting down the line and cross-court shots and building up the winning lead 5-1.

After losing the 8th game Hamid again made some unforced errors but managed to settle in the next game and won the second set at 6-3 and levelled the match one set all. In the decisive set, he did not allow his opponent to settle down and build up the winning streak 4-1. He lost his serve then and hung on to win the 3rd set 6-3.

Results: Boys Singles Pre-Quarter Finals:

Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) beat Gehash Tissera (SRI) 6-2, 6-2, K a m o n p a n y a k o r n Thadpong (THA) beat Aahil Khaleel (SRI) 6-2, 6-0, Yoshito Oda (JPN) beat Hamza Roman (PAK) 6-1 6-4, Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Amir Muhammad Khan

Mazari (PAK) 6-0 6-0, Muhammad Hamza Aasim (PAK) beat Muhammad Hussnain Ali Rizwan (PAK) 6-1 6-1, Asad Zaman (PAK) beat Takuto Fuke (JPN) 6-4 6-1, Toki Adachi (JPN) beat Jian Pyun (KOR) 6-1 6-0, Hamid Israr Gul beat Taichi Tamura (JPN) 5-7, 6-3 6-3,

Girls Singles Pre-Quarter Finals:

Saajida Razick (SRI) beat Sheesa Sajid (PAK) 6-0 6-0, Viktoriya Sedoca (RUS) beat Soha Ali (PAK) 6-1 6-2, Madina Omarova (KAZ) beat Amna Ali Qayum (PAK) 6-3 6-1, Phitchayapak Srimuk (THA) beat Fatima Ali Raja (PAK) 6-0 6-0, Saina Jayesh Vaidya (SGP) beat Venuli Senari Jayasinghe (SRI) 6-0 6-3, Bahar Kilic (TUR) beat Zainab Ali Raja (PAK) 6-0 6-0, Hinata Wada (JPN) beat Zara Khan (PAK) 6-1.

5th Chairman WAPDA Amateur Golf Tournament opens

LAHORE (APP): The 5th Chairman WAPDA Amateur Golf Tournament formally commenced here at Royal Palm Golf and Country Club on Tuesday, with a tee shot by Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani to commence the golfing activities of the day.

WAPDA Member (Finance) Naveed Asghar Chaudhry, Member (Power) Jamil Akhtar, General Manager (HRD) Brig Hamid Raza (Retd), General Manager (Sports) Imdad Ullah Memon, WAPDA Sports board officials and a number of golfers were present.

Speaking on the occasion,

Sajjad Ghani said that WAPDA has been tremendously contributing towards promotion of sports in Pakistan for more than five decades. "We feel proud that WAPDA teams have been bringing laurels to the country at international level," he said and added that WAPDA is the biggest employer of sportspersons in Pakistan as it has been sponsoring 65 teams of men and women of different games.

WAPDA has been simultaneously focusing on all disciplines of sports and this golf tournament is a part of efforts in this regard. This tournament aims to be inclusive by catering to partici-

pants across all age groups. "Though it is an amateur golf tournament, following that we will move towards open golf tournament. In addition, coaching facilities will be made available for young golfers," he concluded.

It may be mentioned that more than 500 golfers of affiliated golf clubs with Pakistan Golf Federation across the country are participating in the tournament. The matches will be contested in the categories of amateurs, senior amateurs, ladies, veterans and invitational with 54 holes for amateurs, 36 holes for senior amateurs and ladies, while 9 holes for veterans and invitational categories.

Tsitsipas quits ATP Finals with back injury

TURIN (AFP): Stefanos Tsitsipas pulled out of the ATP Finals on Tuesday after a back injury led to him retiring from his match with Holger Rune early in the first set. Sixth seed Tsitsipas was trailing the opening set 2-1 when he was forced to quit the Green Group match, handing Finals debutant Rune his first ever win in the season-ending tournament.

"My apologies to all the fans and the crowd who came to support me today. Really I'm gutted that I wasn't able to finish the match," Tsitsipas, 25, told reporters. "My doctors and the countless visits that I had in the last few days suggested that I play... Unfortunately I felt terrible on the court. I did what I could do in best possible way to be ready and fit for this match, But it didn't work out for me."

Hubert Hurkacz will now step in to play Tsitsipas' final match against Novak Djokovic

with no chance of progressing to the semi-finals following two defeats for the Greek. Tsitsipas said after pulling out that he had felt problems during his warm up and that once on the court he felt too much pain to complete the match.

"The pain was very big," he added. "I've gone through pain during matches in the past... But this was clearly too much to handle and I had to take the difficult decision to do what I did." He had insisted that there was nothing wrong with him physically after Sunday's straight-sets defeat to Jannik Sinner, playing down reports of an elbow injury which curtailed practice ahead of his tournament opener.

However Tsitsipas hinted that a lack of rest in a packed schedule could have contributed to him having to drop out. The ATP has come under fire from players and coaches for scheduling which often leads to late-night matches and short

recovery times during tournaments. "I do believe that it's maybe a combination of a lack of rest and not that good a preparation," he said.

Later Djokovic will attempt to reach the semi-finals with a match to spare when he takes on home hope Sinner, who is aiming to become the first ever Italian to reach the tournament's last four. Djokovic secured top spot in the year-end world rankings for a record-extending eighth time with his opening win over Rune on Sunday and will qualify if he beats Sinner.

This year the 36-year-old has won three Grand Slams to take his total to an all-time best 24, as he bids for a seventh Finals title. Victory in Turin would make him the record winner in the singles, one ahead of old foe and retired great Roger Federer. Sinner meanwhile will make the semis if he beats Djokovic in two sets, a tall feat as he has lost all three of his previous encounters with the Serb.

Egypt captain Salah leads African stars into WC qualifying

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies): Prolific Liverpool scorer and Egypt captain Mohamed Salah will be among the stars in action this week when 2026 World Cup qualifying in Africa kicks off with two match days.

His two Premier League goals against Brentford at the weekend raised his total to 200 in English football, and he is now set to shine against Group A rivals Djibouti and Sierra Leone.

Salah was the second highest ranked African in the Ballon d'Or last month behind Napoli and Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen, who misses the first match-days due to an injury. Omar Marmoush of Eintracht Frankfurt and Mostafa Mohamed of Nantes are other Egyptians who have been scoring regularly in major European leagues this season.

Djibouti, who face Egypt in Cairo on Thursday, are among the

weakest African national teams and have twice suffered eight-goal hidings in World Cup qualifiers.

Sierra Leone will be handicapped at having to stage a home fixture against Egypt on Sunday in Liberia because they lack an international-standard stadium.

Egypt have won the Africa Cup of Nations a record seven times, but struggle in World Cup qualifying, reaching the finals only three times, compared with eight appearances by Cameroon. The strongest challenge to Salah and his teammates could come from Burkina Faso, ranked 10th in Africa, five places below Egypt. Guinea-Bissau and Ethiopia are the other Group A contenders.

Nigeria must do without Osimhen, one of the favorites to win the CAF Footballer of the Year award next month, and injured AC Milan winger Samuel Chukwueze against Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

But Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro has many talented replacements to choose from, including Victor Boniface of Bayer Leverkusen and Taiwo Awoniyi of Nottingham Forest. There are concerns, however, about the Super Eagles' defense with Cyprus-based goalkeeper Francis Uzoho coming under fire for his performances in two recent friendly matches.

Zimbabwe are back in international football after a FIFA ban for government interference prevented them competing in 2024 Cup of Nations qualifying.

They are among 17 African countries who cannot play at home either because of sub-standard stadiums or safety concerns and will host Nigeria in the Rwandan city of Butare.

South Africa are considered the biggest threats to Nigeria in Group C, but will tackle Benin at home and Rwanda away minus

star Lyle Foster.

The Burnley forward and only South African in the Premier League has been sidelined by the recurrence of a mental health issue. Former Premier League manager Chris Hughton admits he is under pressure as Ghana coach ahead of qualifiers at home to Madagascar and away to the Comoros.

"They are two games we must do well in," he said amid media calls for his dismissal after a four-goal friendly hiding by the United States last month.

Veteran Andre "Dede" Ayew, who joined Ligue 1 outfit Le Havre last weekend, has been recalled, but an injury rules out another midfielder, Thomas Partey for Arsenal.

Last December in Qatar Morocco became the first World Cup semifinalists from Africa, but they will not be involved in match-day one as opponents Eritrea withdrew without



an explanation.

So Saudi Arabia-based goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, Paris Saint-Germain defender Achraf Hakimi and Sevilla forward Youssef en-Nesyri go into action for the Atlas Lions only next Tuesday.

Their belated entry into

qualifying will be away to Tanzania in Group E, which also includes resurgent Zambia, Congo Brazzaville and Niger, who are set to hire Moroccan coach Badou Zaki. The nine group winners after 260 qualifiers that stretch to October 2025 qualify for

the record 48 nation finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico. There could be a 10th African qualifier as the best four runners-up enter a mini-tournament and the winners advance to inter-continental play-offs with two finals places up for grabs.



In brief

765 professional beggars arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on professional beggars, the Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon ordered teams of Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, and Civil Defense to take action in their respective areas and over the past month, from October 12 to November 12, these teams have arrested 765 professional beggars. According to an ICT Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Tabasum, the beggars were arrested and transferred to the police station, while minor children were sent to the Edhi Center. The operation against beggars is ongoing under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners on a daily basis. The Deputy Commissioner's crackdown on professional beggars is a positive step towards making Islamabad a safer and more welcoming city. It is hoped that the operation will continue and that more beggars will be arrested in the coming months.

NHA to take action against vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has announced to take strict action against overloading of vehicles on national highways and motorways from November 15. This initiative was taken in the wake of a number of accidents caused by overloaded vehicles in recent months, public relations officer said talking to APP on Tuesday. The NHA has warned that vehicles carrying more than the prescribed limit would be heavily fined and the drivers even would be arrested besides seizing the vehicles. The NHA said that the axle load control regime would be strictly implemented from tomorrow. This means that all vehicles will be weighed to ensure that they were not carrying more than the allowed weight, he added. The NHA appealed to all citizens to cooperate with the authority to control overloading.

Five more dengue cases surface in city

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as five more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,557 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said among the new cases, two cases had arrived from Potohar town urban area, while one of each case was reported from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi, Chaklala Cantonment and Potohar rural area. He added that presently 54 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 29 were confirmed cases while 2,527 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered six FIRs, issued tickets to five, and a fine of Rs 322,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

Car lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing operations against car and bike lifter gangs managed to arrest two car and bike lifters including ringleader besides recovering a stolen Mehran car, five motorcycles, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Bani police conducted a raid and rounded up two members of 'Sanam' car and bike lifter gang including Muhammad Sanam, the ringleader and Jawad and recovered a Mehran car, five stolen motorcycles, two mobile phones and other items.



ISLAMABAD: Students holding placards during an awareness walk regarding Diabetes on the eve to mark World Diabetes Day organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at National Press Club Islamabad.

Shah, ambassador emphasize strengthening cultural relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Portugal Ambassador Manual Frederico Pinheiro da Silva and Interim Federal Minister Jamal Shah on Tuesday discussed common interests, particularly improving cultural ties between the two countries. Both parties mutually agreed to intensify bilateral relations and increase the frequency of cultural

exchanges. They delved into the specifics of collaborating in the cultural sphere, including organizing joint cultural events and promoting the cultural heritage of both Pakistan and Portugal. The minister expressed that there was substantial potential for collaboration between the two nations. Ambassador Manual

Frederico Pinheiro da Silva recognized the opportunity for collaboration in culture and sports. Additionally, he suggested setting up a Portugal book corner at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP). He also suggested creating a dedicated corner for Portuguese books at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

DC Islamabad orders crackdown on encroachments

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major crackdown on encroachments, illegal constructions, and price gouging, the Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Aneel Saeed and the Magistrate, along with CDA Enforcement Teams, conducted a joint operation in the Secretariat Subdivision.

The operation resulted in the demolition of a number of illegal structures, the seizure of materials, and the sealing of unauthorized buildings and plazas.

Additionally, an illegal petrol filling agency was sealed, and the Anti-Dengue Spraying and Fogging Secretariat conducted spraying and fogging operations in different areas of the Sub-Division under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner Secretariat. The Assistant Commissioner's Secretariat is also conducting operations against professional beggars in different areas along with teams of Civil Defense to address public grievances.

Police broadcast 130 awareness messages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police disseminated 130 awareness messages during last month through its FM Radio 92.4 which were mainly aimed to create awareness about traffic rules. These messages encompassed various topics, including pedestrian safety, zebra crossings, traffic signals, types of road signs, distinctions in lanes, and instructional videos regarding parking laws, the police said.

Additionally, daily news bulletins about the performance of the police are being published, while citizens are also informed in a timely manner about traffic laws and the traffic situation on the roads through FM radio.

ICCPD Dr Akbar Nasir Khan stated that the police were taking all possible measures for protecting lives and property of the citizens. No space will be given to any criminal elements to disrupt public peace. The citizens are urged to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious items or activities to their respective police station, emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or at ICT-15 app.

Boost in broadband fiber connectivity vital for economic growth: Dr. Umar Saif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Tuesday said that a boost in broadband fiber connectivity is vital for economic growth. The minister was chairing a meeting which discussed in detail matters related to fiberization, and the Right of Way Policy. Senior officers of MoITT, and representatives of telecom companies attended the meeting, said a news release.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Umar Saif said that the provision of quality telecom services to the masses is the topmost pri-

ority. He said that every 10% increase in mobile broadband adoption results in 0.5 – 0.8 percent increase in GDP. Therefore, to help grow the country's economy, "we must incentivise broadband fiber connectivity in the country."

In the past few weeks, the ministry standardised right-of-way policies for laying of fiber for ISPs and telecom players, he maintained.

He asked IT industry to set its target for fiberization in the country. Ministry of IT & Telecom will fully cooperate with the telecom industry'.

PMDC determined to collaborate with PAPANA to spearhead a mental health awareness campaign

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark collaboration, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) determined to collaborate with the Pakistani Psychiatry Association of North America to launch a comprehensive mental health awareness campaign across Pakistan. This strategic alliance aims to address the growing need for increased awareness, understanding, and destigmatization of mental health issues within the country.

The PMDC, as the regulatory authority overseeing medical and dental education and practice in Pakistan, recognizes the critical importance of mental health in the overall well-being of individuals and communities. By teaming up with the Pakistani Psychiatry Association of North America, renowned for its expertise and commitment to mental health advocacy, the collaboration seeks to leverage international knowledge and best practices to benefit the Pakistani population. In this regard, the President Pakistani Psychiatry Association of North America (PAPANA) Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan visited PM&DC and met President Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj. During the meeting, it was discussed to strengthen the capacity-building process of Psychiatrists working in Pakistan. He apprised that 600 to 700 Psychiatrists are currently working in Pakistan whereas more than 1000 Pakistani Psychiatrists doctors are practicing in United States.

Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan stated that there is a huge need for mental health awareness, relevant courses, and pieces of training to cope with rapidly growing depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses etc. He added that President PM&DC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj was kind enough to allow me to collaborate and for that, we have started working on online courses, child psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, elderly psychiatry, etc. He also added that since there is not much literature available on psychiatry in Pakistan and in light of that Dr. Rizwan Taj, myself, and Professor of Harvard University Dr. Harrison wrote two books namely Psychiatry for medical and nursing students.

Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan said that our society aims to further collaborate with PMDC and to improve the training, certification courses, and short courses regarding psychiatry. Without collaboration, we cannot achieve the objective.

President (PAPANA) Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan said that our core objectives are to raise awareness, Destigmatization, Combating societal stigma associated with mental health issues by fostering open conversations and understanding, and Education by providing accessible and accurate information about various mental health conditions, their signs, and available treatments, Advocacy by Encouraging individuals to seek professional help and advocating for improved mental health policies and resources in Pakistan.

He also added that by Conducting educational workshops and seminars in collaboration with mental health professionals to disseminate information about mental health, Launching a robust media campaign across various channels, including television, radio, and social media, to reach a diverse audience and raise awareness about mental health, Training for Healthcare Professionals, organizing training programs for healthcare professionals to enhance their understanding of mental health issues and improve patient communication.

President PM&DC Dr. Rizwan Taj stated that "The collaboration between PM&DC and the Pakistani Psychiatry Association of North America is a significant step toward addressing the pressing mental health needs in Pakistan. By combining our resources and expertise, we aim to create a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families affected by mental health issues." He apprised that with the collaboration of (PAPANA) we have launched a book for teaching medical students about mental health issues today, especially for adolescent, children and medical students with Psychiatry needs, and ADHD medical students so they can cope with their issues.

In addition further on line seminars are also planned on mentorship of teachers in medical Colleges across pakistan.

Embassy of Spain, NCRC collaborate on art competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain celebrated the Universal Children's Day with an award ceremony for the 'Color of Dreams: Embassy of Spain's Art Competition on Child Rights on Tuesday.'

The competition, which engaged 310 children from various schools in Pakistan, invited participants to create artwork that depicted their perspectives on critical child rights issues. The themes ranged from child marriage, child labour online protection, mental health, violence against children, out-of-school children and corporal punishment.

Despite the challenging task of selecting the 50 best

art pieces from the pool of entries, the jury was impressed by the exceptional talent and creativity displayed by the young artists.

The award ceremony, held at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain, brought together distinguished guests, including Ambassadors, Excellencies, Senators, children, civil society and child rights activist, all united in their commitment to championing the cause of children's rights. Jose Antonio de Ory, the Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, was recognized for his unwavering support in commemorating the Universal Children's Day in a manner that engaged children actively.

In her opening address, Ayesha Raza Farooq,

Chairperson, NCRC, expressed gratitude for the partnership with the Spanish Embassy and affirmed the Commission's dedication to fostering creativity, awareness, and dialogue surrounding the issues faced by children in Pakistan.

The young artists, in addition to showcasing their creative prowess during the award ceremony, also took the time to explain the aspirations and motivations behind their compelling artworks.

The 'Color of Dreams' competition successfully engaged children in a meaningful dialogue about child rights, empowering them to become advocates for change and contribute to the discourse on these important issues.

ANF seizes 960kg narcotics worth US\$27.064m

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 960.981 kilogram drugs & 102 liters Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) worth US\$ 27.064 million, arrested 32 accused including two women & a foreigner (Japanese National), impounded 14 vehicles while conducting 33 counter narcotics operations throughout the country. The seized drugs comprised 266.2 kg opium, 121.137 kg Heroin, 470.408 kg hashish, 7.576 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 660 grams Ecstasy Tablets (1000 x Tabs) and 95 kg Morphine.

The ANF Balochistan recovered 435 kg drugs & 102 liters Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) in six operations while arrested two accused persons in drug smuggling and impounded three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 127 kg Opium, 108 kg Heroin, 105 kg Hashish and 95 kg Morphine.

The ANF Punjab recovered 265.713 kg drugs in eight operations while arrested nine accused persons in drug smuggling and impounded 4 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 31.200 kg Opium, 7.950 kg Heroin, 225.563 kg Hashish and 1 kg

Methamphetamine (Ice).

The ANF Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) recovered 18.305 kg drugs in eight operations while arrested eight accused including a woman in drug smuggling and impounded three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 3.500 kg Heroin, 13.645 kg Hashish, 500 grams Methamphetamine (Ice) and 660 grams Ecstasy Tablets (1000 x Tabs). The ANF Sindh recovered 10.860 kg drugs in three operations while arrested three accused persons including 1 foreigner (Japanese National) in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 6.600 kg Hashish and 4.260 Methamphetamine (Ice). The ANF North recovered 231.103 kg drugs in eight operations while arrested 10 accused including a woman arrested in drug smuggling and impounded four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 108 kg Opium, 1.687 kg Heroin, 119.600 kg Hashish, 1.816 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 1 x Pistol. All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process.



ISLAMABAD: A group of students and faculty members of National Law College, Rawalpindi visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Asphalting road started

CHARIKAR (Xinhua): Local authorities began asphalting a major road in Charikar city, the capital of east Afghanistan's Parwan province, the provincial government said in a statement. Funded by the Ministry of Public Work, the project at a cost of 46 million afghanis (about 630,000 US dollars) would cover 11,150 square meters including an intersection in Charikar city and some streets nearby, the statement said.

Construction resumed

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Xinhua): Work for the construction of a water supply network has formally resumed in Balkh province, Nematullah Ahmadi, the head of the provincial water supply department, said. The water supply network project at a cost of 258 million afghanis is expected to be completed within two months. It will provide potable water to more than 100,000 people in the provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif and its vicinity, the official added.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Rabi-us-Sanni 29, 1445 — Wednesday, November 15, 2023

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

Recognition of Taliban govt still not on table: Kabulov

KABUL (Khaama Press): The special representative of Russia for Afghanistan has unequivocally declared that Moscow has no plans to recognize the Taliban formally.

Zamir Kabulov told the TASS news agency that Russia has repeatedly stated at all possible levels that there is no discussion about recognizing the Taliban.

He told TASS, "There is no progress, and this has been discussed at all possible levels."

Russia is a member of the United Nations Security Council and has consistently emphasized that the Taliban must adhere to their commitments, including combating terrorist groups and forming an inclusive government.

Russia's representative for Afghanistan also report-

ed to TASS that Moscow and Washington are not engaged in any negotiations regarding Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Kabulov said there will soon be another UN-mediated international meeting of special envoys on Afghanistan.

"We are planning a range of broad international events on Afghanistan. Our regional partners and we remember that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres planned to gather special envoys, just as he did, you will remember, in Doha in the spring, after the presentation of a report from his special coordinator," Kabulov said on Monday, cited by Tass.

"As far as I can see, such a report has been presented and distributed. We will have to study it thoroughly since he [the UN chief] said

that after all the parties concerned analyze the report, he would like to bring everyone together somewhere to exchange views. Bearing this in mind, we are in no hurry. First, we will scrutinize this report; we have already begun, and then an invitation from New York will probably come," he added.

The first conference on Afghanistan convened at the initiative of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Doha on May 1 to 2, 2023.

International meeting on Afghanistan may take place shortly

Zamir Kabulov, the Russian presidential envoy to Afghanistan and director of the Russian foreign ministry's second Asia department, has hinted at the possibility of another UN-

mediated international meeting of special envoys on Afghanistan shortly.

"We are planning a range of broad international events on Afghanistan. Our regional partners and we remember that UN Secretary General (Antonio) Guterres planned to gather special envoys, just as he did, you will remember, in Doha in the spring, after the presentation of a report from his special coordinator," Kabulov said on Monday, cited by Tass.

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Zamir Kabulov's perspective highlights the significance of international meetings as more than just formal negotiations.

These gatherings offer a valuable space for delegates to engage in informal conversations and build relationships with like-minded partners on the sidelines.

By emphasizing the importance of speaking with partners and like-minded individuals during such meetings, Kabulov underscores the role of collaboration and shared goals in addressing the challenges associated with

Afghanistan and other pressing international matters.

The conference on Afghanistan, convened at the initiative of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, took place in Doha from May 1 to 2, 2023.

This high-profile gathering brought together special envoys and representatives from diverse countries and international organizations, highlighting the global community's concern and commitment to addressing the complex challenges facing Afghanistan.

The extensive list of participants, including countries like Russia, the United States, and China, and regional actors like Pakistan and Iran, as well as international organizations such as the European



Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, underscored the broad nature of this diplomatic effort.

Such multilateral engagements are pivotal in fostering dialogue and

cooperation to find a lasting solution to the Afghan crisis. The conference provided a unique opportunity for these stakeholders to unite and explore strategies for peace, stability, and development in the region.

Refugees in Torkham ask for relocation to home areas

KABUL (TOLONews): Returning refugees who have moved to temporary camps in the Torkham crossing area asked the current government to speed up the process of registration and the distribution of aid and to transfer them to their home areas as soon as possible.

The refugees asked the Islamic Emirate to address their challenges before the arrival of the winter.

"We want the government to work for the people who are here and return them to their areas and create a job for them there," said Abdul Waris, a returned refugee.

"We want them to send us to our areas where if we don't have land or something else, we will complain on the spot," said Merajddin, a returned refugee.



Meanwhile, the officials of the Afghan Red Crescent Society said that food aid cannot solve the challenges of these returnees permanently, but they emphasize that after this they will pay more attention to the migrants who move to remote areas of the country.

"We try to bring some aid here, but our main goal is to help the refugees in remote areas," said, Matiul Haq Khalis, the president

of the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Local officials in Nangarhar said that since a month and a half ago, 55,000 families have returned to the country from the Torkham crossing, and the registration and biometric process of many of these families has been completed.

"55,000 refugees who entered the country through Torkham for one and a half

months have returned to the country," said Qureshi Badlon, the local official in Torkham.

The return of Afghan immigrants from the Torkham crossing has increased since the announcement of the deadline by the Pakistani government, and according to the officials, an average of 500 families return to the country via this route every day.

'Mass deportation poses risks to regional stability'

KABUL (Ariana News): Repatriation policy risks precipitating a humanitarian catastrophe, with major ramifications for the region and beyond, the International Crisis Group (ICG) warned.

The group said in a report that Pakistan's expulsion of Afghans may also pose serious security risks for both itself and Afghanistan.

"Should the Taliban (IEA) be unable to manage an influx of returnees desperate for work to sustain their families, as is likely, some might be enticed into criminality or armed opposition to the Taliban's (IEA) rule," ICG said.

"Perversely, one of the winners in the ensuing chaos might be the TTP itself, which might find among the returnees' cohort individuals who are familiar with Pakistan and could be persuaded to attack the state that upended their lives," it added.

The report also warned that migration from Afghanistan could grow exponentially, raising concerns in Europe and along the migrant trail in countries such as Iran and Turkey.

The group called for Pakistan and Afghanistan to reach an agreement for gradual repatriations, in a manner that does not breach legal and humanitarian rules, norms and principles.

Islamabad has begun round-up operations across the country after the deadline for voluntary departure expired on Nov. 1.

IEA considers expulsion of refugees as a pressure tool of Pakistan, but rejects claims it poses risks to regional stability.

The International Crisis Group is a global non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1995. It is a think tank, used by policymakers and academics, conducting research and analysis on global crises.

Paktika officials: Gayan earthquake victims still homeless

PAKTIKA (TOLONews): Local officials of the Gayan district said that houses have not yet been built for many earthquake victims in the district.

According to them, more than 7,000 houses in the district were destroyed in the deadly earthquake of 1401.

They said that 850 houses have been rebuilt and work is ongoing with over 2,700 houses, and there are plans to start work on 800 houses in the future, but there are more than 3,000 houses left for construction on which nothing has been done.

"7,461 houses were completely destroyed in the earthquake, about 8,500 houses were built and handed to the people, more than 2,700 houses are being worked on, and another 800 houses are on the UNHCR list, and the remaining

houses still remain without any construction," said Mohammad, deputy of the Gayan district.

"The people who are left without houses are worried and facing many challenges," said Monawer Haqqani, a member of the committee to help the victims of the earthquake.

Meanwhile, the residents of the district are asking the current government and supporting institutions to help them in the construction of the remaining houses.

They said that due to the lack of shelter during the winter, a large number of children and elderly people died due to the cold weather.

"Last winter many people lost their lives due to the cold weather," said Abdullah Jan, a Gayan resident.

"I am asking the organi-

zations to take action before the arrival of winter, otherwise if we face heavy rain, it will be difficult for us," said Zarif Jan, a Gayan resident.

The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate spoke of the construction of shelters for the most affected people in the Gayan and Barmal districts of the province.

"The aid provided by traders and the Islamic Emirate, which was received by affected people, and the aid announced by the institutions and the international community, have not arrived on time," said Zabiullah Mujahid.

The residents of Gayan Paktika district want the authorities to pay attention to the construction of roads, health centers, and other parts of their lives in addition to the construction of shelters.

Nazia Hashimyar wins Democracy Prize 2023

KABUL (Khaama Press): The National Democracy Institute has announced that it will award the Democracy Prize for 2023 to Nazia Hashimyar, an Afghan journalist. The institute stated that this year's Democracy Prize has been dedicated to her in recognition of her efforts as an Afghan journalist to raise awareness among the people.

The National Endowment for Democracy, also known as NED announced on Tuesday that the 40th anniversary of this institution will be celebrated today in Washington, D.C.

According to reports, this program has brought together figures from Congress, the Biden administration, activists and leaders of democracy from around the world, members of the media community, diplomatic corps, and other human rights advocates. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a non-profit organization created with the aim of promoting and strengthening democratic institutions worldwide.

This institution awards over a thousand prizes annually to individuals and groups who work towards democratic goals in more than 90 countries. It should be noted that freedom of speech, media independence, and access to information against women journalists in Afghanistan have



decreased since August 2021.

Furthermore, Damon Wilson, the President and CEO of this institution, has emphasized that journalists are frontline fighters for freedom and are adapting their legacy to meet the complex challenges of democracy. He stated, "We are not only celebrating NED's anniversary but also uniting our community to confront the new challenges of democracy."

This comes in the wake of a report from the Afghanistan Journalists Support Organization (AJSO), published on World Press Freedom Day, which highlighted that after the rise of the Taliban administration, four out of five women journalists in Afghanistan (84%) had lost their jobs.

Previously, Marjan Wafa Mohammadi, an Afghan journalist and two other country journalists, received the Best Journalist of 2023 award from the Afghanistan Journalists Center.

NEPA calls for resumption of projects

KABUL (TOLONews): Hafiz Aziz Rahman, head of the National Environmental Protection Agency, on Monday in a meeting called for the resumption of international projects in the environment sector in Afghanistan.

The head of the National Environmental Protection Agency said during a program to improve the capacity of provincial employees of the agency, that environmental activities in Afghanistan should not be politicized.

"Environmental issues have no borders. Today, when Afghanistan is involved in these problems that have caused droughts, monsoons, and floods, it will not remain only in the

geography of Afghanistan," Hafiz Aziz Rahman said.

The head of the National Environmental Protection Agency added that the Environmental Agency has prepared a plan for the purpose of managing sewage in Kabul, for which standard refineries will be established in Kabul.

"The standard refineries will be established that will manage all the sewage of Kabul in a proper way. Now the work on the plan is underway," Rahman added.

Meanwhile, the participants of this workshop said that by using the capacity building program, they can provide the necessary awareness to the citizens of the country in the

provinces.

"They provide training for employees and leaders so that we can provide services to people and make it easy to distribute licenses," said Firoz Mohammadzai, the head of Nangarhar's environmental agency.

"All the activities which are in Panjshir, we provide them environmental licenses to operate according to environmental standards," said Mohammad Mahfoz Kohistani, the head of Parwan's environmental agency.

Earlier, the agency said on World Environment Day that the work of more than 32 small and large projects worth \$824 million has been stopped in the country.

Forced marriage, divorce make Shamsia's life miserable



KABUL (Pajhwok): Shamsia, 35, one of the victims of forced marriages, is disabled on both legs going through painful life since her miseries started by forced marriage and further aggravated by divorce because she was unable to give birth to a child.

Forced marriages is one

of the basic problems that existed for years within Afghan society and often caused families break ups and remained the root cause of multiple other issues.

In each part of the country untold painful stories existed within families which attracted very little attention.

Shamsia, one of the forced marriages victim, go through difficult life in the Koh-i-Chel Dukhtar locality in capital Kabul.

She was forced to engage on the will of her parents when she was not even 15 and then soon she was married and had to go to her husband's house.

She live her five year marriage live in her in laws with immense difficulties and performed hard work but due to the health problem she had she could not give birth to a child.

"My in-laws always teased me that what's wrong with you that you can't have children, this taunt bothered me inside," she said.

She worked with her husband in the field despite doing house work and that caused her a spinal cord injury.

Shamsia said: "My husband's behavior at home was also very bad because there was a lot of housework and I couldn't do it, he mistreated me a lot, when I couldn't bring them a child, they called me bad and stupid many times, and he always said that you're not sick, you're making excuses, and when I went to the doctor, it was because

of my spinal cord injury. The doctor said that hard work and anxiety problems caused your health condition to deteriorate."

Recalling the bitter memories of her life, Shamsia stopped as her throat was filled with grief and looked at her relatives.

She said: "When my in-laws and my husband realized that I was of no use to them, I could not bring children, nor could I work for them, they decided to divorce me."

Marriage and divorce are the two decisions in which Shamsia had no say and were against her will.

"The way I was not asked before marriages, similarly they divorced me against my choice and expelled me from their house."

But the pain and miseries of Shamsiah did not end after coming to her father's house, she has to

undergo a medical operation for her recovery.

Her father sold a piece of land for Shamsia's operation but despite operation Shamsia did not recover.

She said: "When I had the operation, I felt that I was getting better, I was standing on my feet, but this feeling did not last long, because on one of the days after the operation, I noticed that my legs were senseless and I was losing the ability to walk day by day."

She is not capable of walking now and stands at her Balcony and look at the people walking in the area which made her really disappointed because of her disability to walk.

"I really want to walk, meet people and go sight-seeing, but when I move I disturb few people because I am disabled and could not walk myself," she deplored.

She looked at her elderly mother and said: "After divorce, I never see my husband, I don't know where is he, he never call and never inquire after my health, my mother and brothers help supported me from the past few years, my mother is always with me and she take care of me."

She is disabled over the past several years and need assistance of her family but still she did not lost here hope and pray for her recovery.

She said: "May Allah recover my legs, when I recover I will marry again because I don't want to be burden on my parents anymore, I am hopeful that I will recover."

She also does embroidery and said: "I work sometimes, when I have no work I become depressed so I keep myself engaged."

In her message to other women, Shamsia said:

"Woman should not persecute another woman, they should not create problems for one another and refrain from creating hurdles for one another."

Her eyes welled up and said: "Giving birth to child is not our mistake it is the will of God to give or not to give child, do not destroy the life of an individual for this cause."

Shamsia's mother, 65, complained against pain in her legs and said: "My life is opposite of others, normally children look after their parents at old age but I have to look after my daughter and help her in going and coming."

She was worried about the future of her daughter and said: "I will help my daughter until I am alive and will help her in activities, but I am worried that if I died than what would happen to my daughter."



GAZA: Amal al-Robayaa's children eating their meal amid the ruins of the family home destroyed by an Israeli strike in Rafah.

US announces third round of sanctions targeting Hamas

WASHINGTON: The United States and the United Kingdom have announced jointly coordinated sanctions targeting the Palestinian armed groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). In a statement on Tuesday, the US Department of the Treasury said that it was imposing a third round of sanctions on Hamas, targeting the group's leadership and the mechanisms through which Iran provides support to the group and the PIJ.

"Hamas's actions have caused immense suffering and shown that terrorism does not occur in isolation," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in the statement. "Together with our partners we are decisively moving to degrade Hamas's financial infrastructure, cut them off from outside funding, and block the new funding channels they seek to finance their heinous acts." Britain added sanctions on four Hamas senior leaders and two financiers, the Foreign Office said in a statement, including the group's political leader in Gaza

and the commander of its military arm.

The fresh sanctions against Hamas come more than one month after the group launched a deadly assault on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities. Israel has vowed to eliminate the group, launching a ground offensive and hammering the Gaza Strip with air strikes, severely restricting food, water and electricity and cutting off fuel supplies to Gaza's more than 2.3 million residents.

Palestinian authorities in Gaza say more than 11,200 people have been killed in the Israeli assault, including more than 4,600 children. About 70 percent of people in Gaza have been displaced by the fighting after the Israeli military ordered people in northern Gaza to move south, but Israel continues to bombard the southern end of the Strip.

The latest sanctions focus on Hamas leaders, as well as individuals and entities who allegedly act as conduits for Iranian funding. US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the US would continue to work with other countries to "disrupt these terrorist financing channels". In a press release, the Treasury Department said that the US has designated Mahmoud Khaled Zahhar, who it calls a "senior member and co-founder" of Hamas.

The sanctions also target the Lebanon-based money exchange company Nabil Chouman & Co, which the US says is used by Hamas to transfer money from Iran to Gaza. The owner of the company and his son were both also designated. The US also took aim at the smaller PIJ, which is allied with Hamas and took part in the October 7 attacks, sanctioning Nasser Abu Sharif, the group's representative to Iran, and Akram al-Ajouri, the group's deputy secretary-general. The sanctions freeze any US assets held by the designated individuals or entities and generally bar people in the US from dealing with them. — Aljazeera

SJC to meet on 20th to hear complaints against Justice Mazahar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) will hear complaints against Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and another judge on Nov 20. The council summoned those who filed complaints against the judge. Justice Naqvi will also be given an opportunity to present his point of view before the council.

The council will examine complaints against Justices Naqvi and Sardar Tariq. Earlier, the SJC issued a show-cause notice to Justice Naqvi over complaints against him. According to media reports, the show-cause notice was served after the SJC met under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. The other members are senior judges of the apex court – Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Ijazul Ahsan.

The chief justice summoned the SJC meeting to discuss complaints filed against the superior court judges. This was the first meeting of the SJC under CJP Isa and was convened after a gap of more than three years. The SJC is the only constitutional forum that has power to remove judges of superior courts in case charges are proved against them.

Justice Naqvi raises objection to CJP, two SJC members from hearing complaints against him Justice Masood, a member of SJC, had submitted his opinion on the misconduct complaints filed against SC judge Naqvi in September last.

Lack of quorum forces senate session adjournment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The lack of quorum on Tuesday forced Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Mohammad Afridi to adjourn the session till Friday. The quorum was pointed out when senators sought to speak on a resolution passed by the Senate of Pakistan regarding military court trials.

The Deputy Chairman ordered the bell to ring for five minutes. A count was conducted, but the house was not in order, leading to the adjournment of the session until Friday. Earlier, Pakistan Muslim League's Saadia Abbassi requested the withdrawal of a resolution passed by the Senate, urging the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision on military court trials.

During a point of order, she termed the resolution's passage as against the spirit of the constitution and democracy. She asserted that the Supreme Court's verdict on military courts was in the best interest of Pakistan. The senator also urged the caretaker government to take steps to improve law and order in the Balochistan province. She called for addressing the repatriation issue of Afghan nationals through diplomatic channels.

Asad Qaiser handed over to ACE

F.P. Report

SWABI: A judicial magistrate in Swabi on Tuesday handed over Asad Qaiser a senior PTI leader and former National Assembly speaker – to the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in case related to embezzlement charges on a two-day remand.

The court accepted the ACE's request for remand based upon the argument that they required a detailed interrogation, but rejected the plea for a 10-day remand. Qaiser, who is accused of corruption in the procurement of equipment for Gajju Khan Medical College, was arrested from Bani Gala, Islamabad, on Nov 3. Since then, he remained in the federal capital's police station but later shifted to Adiala jail – the main prison in Rawalpindi.

Earlier on Monday, a judicial magistrate in Islamabad had allowed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's ACE to take him custody by issuing a transit remand so that he could be presented before the relevant court in Swabi within a day. The move came as the ACE officials had informed the court that the former speaker was wanted in a case filed in Swabi.

Pakistan, IMF talks continue

UAE assures external financing investment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Policy-level talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission continued on Tuesday, with a focus on reforms in government institutions, privatization, revenue, expenditure, dollar inflows, institutional reforms, non-subsidy in the energy sector during the debt program, measures to reduce the budget deficit, power sector and petroleum sector.

According to media reports, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assured Pakistan of external financing and investment, according to sources who attended an important meeting between the IMF Review Mission and the Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan. The meeting discussed the assurances to be given by friendly countries on external financing by Pakistan. The IMF has not demanded any new taxes from Pakistan, but has

demanded that the country achieve its tax target for the current fiscal year. Pakistan is hopeful of a successful completion of the first review of the IMF's loan program.

According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan has provided the IMF with a written plan for achieving the tax target of Rs 9415 billion.

The plan also includes measures to eliminate tax evasion from the real estate sector. The Pakistani team, led by caretaker Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar, also briefed the IMF on reforms in government institutions, the progress of the privatization program, and the National Clean Air Policy, National Climate Finance Strategy, exchange rates, Sukuk bonds for new debt, T-bills, and issuance of investment bonds.

The talks between Pakistan and the IMF are likely to continue till

November 15. If successful, Pakistan will get the next installment of about \$71 million from the IMF's loan program. Final approval in the case of a staff-level agreement will be given by the IMF's Executive Board. The UAE has not disclosed the specific amount of external financing and investment that it has assured Pakistan, but the support is likely to be significant. The UAE has a close relationship with Pakistan and has been a major investor in the country in recent years.

The UAE's support is significant for Pakistan as it comes at a time when the country is facing economic challenges. The IMF's loan program is crucial for Pakistan to meet its external financing needs and to stabilize its economy. The UAE's support will also help to boost investor confidence in Pakistan and attract more foreign investment.

PHC approached against caretaker KP CM, cabinet

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The appointment of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Irshad Hussain has been challenged at Peshawar High Court (PHC) and writ seeking stoppage to exercising the power as well as to declare as illegal, on Tuesday.

The counsel Wali Khan Afridi and Shah Faisal advocates had filed writ petition on behalf of Tajamul Hussain advocate seeking appointment of Caretaker Chief Minister as illegal and unconstitutional.

Late Muhammad Azam Khan passed away on 11th November as Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while on the 2nd day a member of caretaker cabinet Syed Irshad Hussain was appointed as

Caretaker Chief Minister which is violative to Article 224/224A, the writ stated.

Governor had use unconstitutional means by calling former Chief Minister and Opposition Leader Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for consultation which was concluded with the notification of Syed Irshad Hussain as Caretaker Chief Minister despite there is no existing Assembly in the province, the petition added.

The writ pleaded that the Caretaker government had only jurisdiction for holding of free and fair elections along with operating day-to-day subject matters. The caretaker government didn't take single step for holding free and fair election despite a constitutional responsibility, the writ argued. The caretaker setup neither took a step towards

election nor fulfilled any constitutional responsibility but violated constitutional jurisdiction, the petition stated.

It is a threat for free and fair election because caretaker government is working as per political agenda while argued for declaring appointment of Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Irshad Hussain null and void decided by former Chief Minister and Opposition Leader Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

Attorney General of Pakistan, Advocate General, Caretaker Chief Minister, Cabinet, Secretary Law, and Federal's government along with others were made respondents in the writ plea while further seeking like caretaker CM, cabinet can't be sustain because it is established unconstitutionally.

Mainstreaming of PWDs inevitable: Alvi

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said the social and economic mainstreaming of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) is inevitable for progress of the country.

During a meeting with a delegation of Chal Foundation headed by Chairman Feroz Ahmed here in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the needs of the PWDs could be over-

come by providing assistive technology and artificial limbs.

The President also called for steps to ensure indigenous production of quality and affordable assistive technology and artificial limbs for facilitation of the PWDs.

He emphasized practical and policy-level measures to make the PWDs productive citizens of the country. The President lauded the Chal Foundation's role for

welfare, rehabilitation and facilitation of the differently-abled-persons.

The members of the delegation apprised the president of the steps taken by the Foundation for betterment of the PWDs including the provision of artificial limbs and assistive technology. The delegation also apprised the president of different projects being undertaken by the Foundation as well as the needs of the PWDs.

Militia will target Israeli ships in Red Sea: Houthis

ADEN: The leader of Yemen's Houthis said on Tuesday his militia would make further attacks on Israel and they could target Israeli ships in the Red Sea and the Bab Al-Mandeb Strait. The Iran-aligned group made several missile and drone attacks against Israel this month, highlighting the risk of the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas spreading into the wider Middle East.

"Our eyes are open to constantly monitor and search for any Israeli ship in the Red Sea, especially in Bab Al-Mandab, and near Yemeni regional waters," Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said in a broadcast speech. Washington is on heightened alert for activity by Iran-backed groups since Hamas fighters rampaged into Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people. Since then, Israel has escalated its assault on Gaza, where its forces have killed more than 11,000 people, according to Palestinian officials.

The Yemen war has settled into a stalemate as the fighting has largely stopped but both parties have failed to renew a United Nations-brokered truce that expired in October. Meanwhile, the Journalists in southern Lebanon said they were targeted in Israeli strikes, which Al Jazeera network said lightly wounded its photographer. A local mayor and Lebanese state media corroborated the journalists' account of the cross-border incident, which came exactly a month after deadly strikes blamed on Israel hit a press

group near Alma Al-Shaab in southern Lebanon.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli army did not immediately comment on the latest strikes. Around a dozen journalists from several media outlets were on a tour to inspect damage from Israeli bombardments and had been providing coverage from the border town of Yarun when the strikes hit. Al-Jazeera said its photographer Issam Mawasi was "lightly wounded as a result of Israeli bombing."

"Al-Jazeera's broadcast vehicle was also damaged during the attack. The strike occurred as a group of journalists toured the area," a report on the Qatari broadcaster's website said. Al-Jazeera's Lebanon bureau chief Mazen Ibrahim accused Israel of "directly targeting" the group, adding that the journalists were in an open area.

"Israeli occupation forces don't hesitate to directly target journalists," he charged. On October 13, Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah was killed and six other journalists from AFP, Al Jazeera and Reuters were wounded while covering the cross-border fighting in southern Lebanon.

Lebanese authorities have accused Israel of being behind the strikes. The Israeli army had said it was looking into the circumstance of the fatal strike. Yarun mayor Ali Qassem Tahlah said two successive Israeli strikes on Monday "targeted the group of journalists," hitting several meters (yards) from the

teams' vehicles and causing damage.

Lebanon's official National News Agency also said two Israeli strikes "targeted a media team" who were working in Yarun. Local broadcaster Al-Jadeed posted video on X, formerly Twitter, showing one of its correspondents, in a protective vest and helmet marked press, conducting a live broadcast when one strike hit, and a subsequent blaze nearby.

Other video footage showed civilian vehicles including at least one marked "press" on the road adjacent to the blaze. "We were on a tour to inspect damaged houses," journalist Amal Khalil from local newspaper Al-Akhbar told AFP. "Around 15 minutes after we were near a damaged house, the first strike hit the wall of the bombed house, and a second one hit the road," she said. Israeli surveillance drones had been flying over the town at the time of the attack, she added.

Since Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip, Lebanon's southern border has seen intensifying tit-for-tat exchanges, mainly between Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of the Palestinian group, stoking fears of a broader conflagration. At least 87 people have been killed in Lebanon since hostilities began: more than 60 Hezbollah fighters, 12 other combatants including from Palestinian groups, and 11 civilians, according to an AFP tally. — Aljazeera

Terrorist killed in Khyber IBO

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An active terrorist was killed during an intelligence based operation (IBO) of security forces conducted in Bara area of Khyber District, whereas a soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly thwarting a terrorists' attack on a private company's vehicle in Darazinda area of Dera Ismail Khan District, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to military's media wing, the security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Bara, Khyber District as a result of which one terrorist was sent to hell who has been identified as Qudrat Shah alias Abubakar. The security forces also recovered weapon and ammunition recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorists activities.

In another incident in general area Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan District, terrorists fired upon vehicles of a private company working on a development project in the area. Resultantly, two innocent civilian employees of the company, Muhammad Faisal (age: 35 years) and Asif Kamran (age: 29 years), residents of District Karak embraced Shahadat. Sepoy Syed Muhammad Shaheen Shah (age: 33 yrs, resident of: district Hangu), employed on the security of the project, having fought gallantly, also embraced Shahadat.

Russia, al-Assad step up Syria bombing

IDLIB: Syrian government forces and Russia have stepped up the bombardment of northwest Syria, killing dozens of people, including children, and wounding hundreds of others, opposition leaders and emergency volunteers have said, at a time when Israel's war on Gaza is holding the world's attention.

Russian and Syrian attacks in October focused on cities and villages in the countryside of Idlib and Aleppo. This escalation resulted in the total deaths of 66 civilians, including 23 children and 13 women, and left more than 270 people injured, with 79 children and 47 women among the casualties, according to a Syrian volunteer emergency rescue group. While the pace of aerial and artillery bombardment in northwest Syria has

decreased since the beginning of November, Syrian regime forces have shifted their attention to targeting civilian vehicles using guided missiles.

Syrian Civil Defence, also known as the White Helmets, said that from the beginning of the current year until November 8, their teams responded to 17 guided-missile attacks by regime forces. These attacks resulted in the deaths of four civilians, including a White Helmets volunteer, and injured 15 civilians, including two children. Idlib is the last province controlled by opposition fighters in Syria, governed by a ceasefire agreement between Turkey and Russia since March 5, 2020. However, this agreement is occasionally violated by Syrian government forces.

"The military escalation by al-Assad regime, the Russians, and the Iranians against civilians in northern Syria has not stopped for a single day, but it intensifies and weakens from time to time based on international, regional, and local circumstances," said Mustafa al-Bakour, a leader in Syrian opposition factions in northwest Syria, referring to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Al-Bakour told Al Jazeera that Russia and the Syrian regime exploited the world's preoccupation with the war in Gaza to escalate in northwest Syria, aiming to exert pressure on Turkey and Syrian opposition factions regarding issues such as opening the international road between Syria and Turkey. — Aljazeera

Illegal immigrants: 3,239 more Afghans return home

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreigners including Afghans to their homeland continues amidst the crackdown against illegal immigrants.

The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 31, chaired by Caretaker PM gave a deadline to all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation. After the expiry of the deadline, the caretaker government has swung into action against illegal immi-

grants. Mostly Afghan nationals staying in Pakistan as undocumented illegal immigrants.

On Monday, 3,239 illegal foreigners including 580 families of illegal Afghans on 357 vehicles returned to their homeland. So far 2,23,637 illegal immigrants have returned to their home country. Thousands of unregistered Afghan citizens are returning home through Torkham and Chaman border crossings daily.

Transit camps for illegal foreigners have been estab-

lished in various districts of KP and Baluchistan, which have all routine facilities.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has rejected any 'manhandling' of illegal foreigners in Pakistan's repatriation process. "Prime Minister [Anwaarul Haq Kakar] has given very clear instructions that there should be no manhandling of illegal foreigners during the repatriation process," the interior minister said while speaking on the Senate floor on Monday.