

Head constable found dead

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: A police head constable who was kidnapped from Land Ahmad Khel area of Lakki Marwat district, the other day was killed by the terrorists on Friday. Police said Head Constable Farman Uddin had gone to the Land Ahmad Khel area to meet his friend the other day and was abducted by unknown terrorists on his way back home.

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Govt challenges SC military court order

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal and provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan on Friday filed intra-court appeals against the Supreme Court's October 23 judgment, declaring the military trial of civilians arrested in connection with the May 9 mayhem null and void.

Besides the Centre and provincial governments, the Ministry of Defence also appealed to the top court to revoke its October 23 ruling and restore the sections of the Official Secrets Act that were declared illegal by the five-member bench.

In its plea, the federal government urged the top court to declare its October 23 judgment null and void. The Centre also sought a stay against the verdict of the top court till the decision on its appeal.

Raising objections over the judgment, the federal government argued that the five-member bench was not constituted as per the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, hence its ruling was "invalid". In similar petitions, the caretaker governments of Balochistan and KP also urged the top court to declare the five-member bench's judgment on the trials of civilians in military courts as null and void.

In its intra-court appeal, the Ministry of Defence urged the apex court to revoke the October 23 decision and restore the sections of the Official Secrets Act that were declared illegal by the bench. It also urges the Supreme Court to restore Section 59(4) of the Army Act.

The petition has also warned that declaring some sections of the Army Act and Official Secrets Act illegal would harm the country. The Sindh chief secretary on Thursday (yesterday) filed an appeal under Section 5 of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 read with Article 184(3) of the Constitution against the order passed by the apex court in the petitions, challenging

the trial of civilians in military courts.

The caretaker provincial government prayed to the apex court to allow its appeal against the October 23 short order. It further prayed the court to suspend the operation of the short order till the appeal is pending.

A day earlier, the Sindh caretaker government and Shuhada Forum, Balochistan, separately requested the apex court to set aside its judgment declaring unconstitutional the trials of civilians in military courts.

Last month, the five-member bench of the top court declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void as it admitted the petitions challenging the trial of civilians involved in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in a corruption case. The SC's larger bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan and comprising Justices Munib Akhtar, Yayha Afridi, Sayeed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Ayesha A. Malik had announced the verdict.

On October 23, a five-member larger bench of the apex court declared the trial of civilians in the military courts as unconstitutional. It also held that 103 persons and others who may be placed in relation to the events arising from May 9 and 10 could be tried by criminal courts established under the ordinary or special law of the land. PTI and others approached the top court against the military trials on the grounds that they lack transparency.

The decision to use military courts was taken by the government of Shehbaz Sharif, who has since completed his term in August and handed over to a caretaker government that will oversee an election slated for January. Hundreds of Imran Khan supporters stormed military and government installations, and even torched a general's house, following the former premier's brief arrest by the Punjab Rangers.

Solangi arrives in Maldives

MALE (Maldives APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday arrived Male to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Maldives' President, Muhammad Muizz.

The foreign minister-designate of Maldives welcomed the federal minister on his arrival. Murtaza Solangi is representing the Government of Pakistan in the swearing-in ceremony of the Maldives president on the instructions of the prime minister.

The swearing-in ceremony of the Maldives president is taking place today (Friday). The Caretaker Federal Minister will also hold meetings with other world leaders on this occasion.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi appreciated the "gracious welcome and hospitality" extended to him during his Maldives visit to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Dr Muhammad Muizzu.

Responding to a post of Maldivian Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer on the social media platform 'X', Solangi wrote, "Excellency, truly appreciate the warm welcome and great hospitality by the state and the proud people of Maldives. Pakistan and Maldives had bright future of cooperation in front of them. I had the honour of listening to the extraordinary inspiring speech of President @MMuizzu today."

The Maldivian minister, in his post, said: "Pleased to welcome Hon. @murtaza-solangi, Federal Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Parliamentary Affairs of Pakistan, for the inauguration of President-elect Dr @MMuizzu. #Maldives & Pakistan share a strong bond of friendship & brotherhood as neighbours & Muslim nations."

Cipher case hearing adjourned

ISLAMABAD (INP): The special court has adjourned the hearing of the cipher case against Imran Khan without any proceeding till November 21. Special court judge Abul Hasnat is conducting the trial of PTI Chairman Imran Khan and former foreign minister Qureshi in the cipher leaking case registered under the Official Secrets Act.

The court proceedings of the case were not held on Friday as the Islamabad High Court on Thursday extended the stay order against the jail trial of the PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the cipher case.

equated the resolution to a "drone attack" and an "attack on democracy". He further said that the passage of the resolution had tainted the Senate. Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Senator Kamran Murtaza termed said that senators had done something "very bad" by passing the resolution. PML-N Senator Saadia Abbasi said: "We will not allow the House to proceed until we talk about the resolution passed by the Senate."

PTI Senator Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur urged the Senate chairman to let parliamentarians discuss the resolution. However, he did not let anyone speak and tried to move the session along. "Respect the House and sit down [...]" The entire House cannot talk at the same time. This is not the way," Sanjrani said as senators continued to protest.

Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) senators.

Only two senators — Raza Rabbani of the PPP and Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) — had protested against the hasty passage of the resolution, but Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani had ignored their protests. The two-page resolution had termed the SC verdict "an attempt to rewrite the law" and an encroachment of the parliament's legislative authority.

Similar scenes were witnessed when today's session began. After the recitation of the Holy Quran and as the Senate chairman tried to begin the question hour session, senators refused to sit on their seats and chanted slogans against the resolution. "No military courts, no military courts," they chanted.

JI's Senator Ahmed

Verdict on civilians' military trials: Ruckus in Senate

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The upper house of Parliament saw much commotion in its session on Friday after senators protested the passage of a resolution urging the Supreme Court to "reconsider" its verdict on the military trials of civilians.

The resolution was passed on Monday in the presence of less than a dozen senators. It had urged the top court to "reconsider" its verdict of declaring "unconstitutional" the military trial of civilians for their alleged role in attacks on army installations on May 9. The resolution was not part of the agenda issued before Monday's session and was tabled when a majority of members were absent. It was read out by independent Senator Dilawar Khan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and supported only by the



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Shipping Clearing Agents called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq.

Caretaker setup to ensure free and fair elections: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday, reiterating the government's resolve to fulfill its duty of ensuring free, fair and transparent elections, said the caretaker setup would remain fully impartial.

Dispelling the impression that a certain political party was being favoured by the caretakers, he said the political parties normally tried to attract their voters in different ways and such allegations might be their tactics. "We are fully focused on holding the elections in a free, fair and transparent manner and are fully supporting the Election Commission for the purpose," he added.

PM Kakar, in an interview with a private news channel (Sun News), also denied the impression that his cabinet member Fawad Hassan Fawad, had affiliation with a certain political party. "He is one of the best cabinet members

and an able former bureaucrat. Due to his talent and abilities, he used to become a favorite choice of every ruling party during his service." He said Fawad was fully justifying his appointment as Minister for Privatization. The caretaker government would hopefully succeed in achieving the set target of privatization of state-owned enterprises at the its tenure due to his untiring efforts, he added.

As regards the recent depreciation of rupee against dollar, the prime minister said due to the government's actions, the artificial demand for the dollar had significantly reduced and now the rupee value was being adjusted according to the actual demand and supply of the greenback. He expressed his satisfaction that the country's economy had now almost become stable. Pakistan had also reached the staff level agreement with the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), he added.

"We have achieved our target of 'economic health' which was a very big challenge for the caretaker setup," he remarked. To a question, PM Kakar maintained that it was for the courts to decide about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The caretaker government would be bound to follow court orders regarding the PTI chairman's participation in the elections, he added. To another question, he said the state would not, in any case, allow any group or party to resort to mob violence in the country.

With respect to the prevailing situation in Gaza and the West Bank, the prime minister said the recent emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) gave a unanimous strong message with collective wisdom to ensure ceasefire in Palestine that would hopefully be implemented soon.

No space for intolerance and extreme behaviour

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Leading Islamic Scholars (Ulema o Mashaikh) of all schools of thought interacted with General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

Ulema and Mashaikh unanimously condemned extremism, terrorism and sectarianism and pledged their continued support for untiring efforts of State and security forces for bringing tolerance, peace and stability in the country. They underscored that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony and any skewed and distorted interpretations of religion by certain entities is for their vested interests only and has nothing to do with Islamic teachings.

COAS while lauding



ng 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' Fatwa by religious scholars to nullify misleading propaganda disseminated by extremists and terrorists called upon Ulema o Mashaikh for its propagation and implementation in letter and spirit and shun internal schisms.

COAS signified the role of Ulema in harnessing youth towards understanding of Quran and Sunnah and character building alongside other academic knowledge and technical

skills. COAS said that, there is no space for intolerance and extreme behavior by any entity against anyone, particularly against minorities and vulnerable segments of the society.

The forum unanimously supported Government's measures to harden the State including repatriation of illegal foreigners, implementation of One Document Regime, anti-smuggling and hoarding measures and anti-power theft drive.

ADB okays \$250m for Punjab, KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a financial loan of \$250 million. This financial aid aims to bolster the dependability of electricity delivery by augmenting and enhancing the power transmission infrastructure in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The sanctioned initiative, denoted as ADB's Power Transmission Strengthening Project, seeks to fortify the stability of the national grid through an amplification of its transmission capacity. The project lies the expansion of the high-voltage transmission network, with a focus on the integration of 500 kilovolt (kV) and 220 kV transmission lines loops.




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PID (I) 3055-D/23

94 illegal profiteers fined: 10 shops sealed

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput on Friday said that 94 shopkeepers were issued challans of Rs 719500 fine and 10 shops were sealed while many shopkeepers were warned during the ongoing crackdown against illegal profiteers and hoarders.

The crackdown against the hoarders is being carried out on the instructions of the Sindh government.

The city and district administration is taking action without exception to ensure the sale of essential food items on the official price list to redress grievances and to provide relief to the citizens.

Commissioner Karachi said that fine was imposed on seven shopkeepers who sold meat, fruit, flour and sugar at a price higher than the official rate.

Salim Rajput further said that citizens can register their complaints in Commissioner Control Room no: 99203443 or Rescue 1299 so that complaints can be redressed immediately.

Bilawal grieves over death of PPP leader

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday has expressed his grief and sorrow over the death of PPP President Jahanzeb Khan Advocate in Tehsil Mardan.

He said that late Jehanzeb Khan propagated the ideology of Bhuttoism throughout his life.

Bilawal said that the deceased political struggle would never be forgotten.

He also offered fateha for the departed soul and prayed for his higher place in Jannah.

CM inspects work at Bedian Road underpass project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a thorough inspection of the construction work at the side roads of Bedian Road underpass Friday morning. Lahore commissioner/ LDA director general and contractor briefed the CM about the work. Naqvi ordered for completion of the task in 10 days and stressed importance of tree plantation and landscaping along green-belts.

The CM pointed out that the initial timeline for completing the underpass was set at 6 months. However, through relentless and round-the-clock efforts, the project was finished in an impressive 70 days. Notably, this underpass stands as a groundbreaking accomplishment in Pakistan, being the first of its kind completed in such a record time. The CM highlighted that the underpass served as a vital convenience for the daily traffic of

120,000 vehicles. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Bilal Afzal, Ibrahim Murad, IG police, CCPO, DC, DG PHA, chief engineer LDA and others were also present.

CM orders crackdown on underage drivers: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has issued a directive to launch a crackdown on underage drivers operating vehicles and motorcycles without a licence throughout Punjab. Emphasising the need for swift action, he said that measures should be taken against such drivers to resolve the issue once and for all. The Inspector General of Police, CCPO Lahore, and all RPOs were given explicit instructions by CM Mohsin Naqvi to carry out the crackdown. He specified that vehicles and motorcycles driven by underage drivers should be intercepted, with a daily report of actions taken to be submitted from all regions, including Lahore.

Sui Northern Sports Gala 2023 concludes



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Annual Sports Gala of Sui Northern Gas concluded on Thursday with Lahore Distribution emerging as the winner. 336 players of 21 teams participated in the four days long sports gala which continued from 14th to 17th November. In the Finals held on Friday,

Lahore Distribution bagged first position with 51 points, Faisalabad Distribution got second position with 44 points whereas Mardan Distribution got third position with 41 points. Awais

from Faisalabad Distribution was declared best player of the event.

Winning shields and prizes were distributed by Faisal Iqbal, Chief Financial Officer; Qaisar Masood, Senior General Manager (Distribution); Shahzad Lone, Senior General Manager (Projects); Imtiaz Mahmood, President Sports Cell; Muhammad Arshad, Vice President; Imran Safdar Virk, General Secretary; Kanwal Wazir, Finance Secretary; Aftab Ashraf and Khalid Mahmood, Member Sports Cell, and Shaheen Iqbal Marwat, Secretary CBA Union.

**HEADQUARTERS
PAKISTAN RANGERS (SINDH)
MUSLIM JINNAH COURTS
DR.ZIA-UD-DIN AHMED ROAD KARACHI-4
No. 1617/PRO/728/2023 Dated 15-November-2023**

PUBLIC AUCTION OF PAKISTAN RANGERS (SINDH) VEHICLES, TYRE, TUBE, BATTERY, PLASTIC, IRON & WOODEN SCRAP AT KARACHI (ON AS IT IS WHERE IT IS BASIS)

1. All concerned are informed that auction of Old Vehicles, MCs, Tyre, Tube, Battery, MT Scrap of Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) will be held at KTC Building Near Mehkama-e-Mosmiat University Road, Karachi on **07 Dec 2023 at 1100 hrs** and Plastic, Iron, Brass & Wooden Scrap etc at KTC Building near PTCL Exchange Malir Halt on **08 Dec 2023 at 1100 hrs**.
2. **Terms & conditions are as under:-**
 - a. Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) will be charged as auction fee from each individual.
 - b. 25% of total bid will be deposited by the successful bidder at the spot.
 - c. 75% deposited within 15 x working days.
 - d. Lifting of stores within 7x working days after deposit of 100% amount including income tax and sales tax (late lifting surcharge will be applied after stipulated time).
 - e. Every individual must be in possession of original Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) with 2 x photocopies to participate in bidding. Mobile Phones, digital diaries, arms and ammunition any kind are not allowed in Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) premises. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the area, welding, cutting will not be allowed. Towing, Dismantling, loading/ removal of lots/ stores will be done at own arrangements.
 - f. No individual will be allowed to visit auction site without presentation of original computerized National Identity Card.
 - g. Any objections against any lot can be considered during the auction, however, after acceptance of bid no objection of any kind will be entertained.
 - h. Income Tax / Sales Tax will be paid by the bidder who has personally participated in auction and will not be deposited on the name of any other individual / Firm.
3. Vehicles, Tyre, Tube, Battery, Plastic, Iron & Wooden Scrap etc can be seen on the day of auction from **0800 hours to 1030 hours** at respective location. For further details please contact on telephone number 021-99205260.
4. Authorities of Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) reserve the right to cancel / reject any / all bids or withdraw any vehicle from the auction without assigning any reason. Further terms and conditions will be announced at site before conduct of auction.
5. Stores will be auctioned on as it is where it is basis.

Lieutenant Colonel
for Director General
(Muhammad Irfan)

PID(K) 1476/23

Education minister stresses technical education for economic development

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has emphasised the importance of skills development and technical education for the youth to ensure economic development of the country.

He was addressing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, held at the Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan here on Friday. The MoU was signed between VU and the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), aimed at jointly developing and launching technical and vocational education training (TVET) e-learning programmes. VU Rector Prof. Dr. Arshad Salem and NAVTTTC Executive Director Aamir Jan signed the MoU.

The minister congratulated both the organisations for officially entering into a strategic partnership, saying that the collaboration seeks to revolutionise TVET in the country by leveraging VU's expertise in online professional development programmes. Madad Ali Sindhi said that Pakistan's future lies in enhancing youth employability by improving soft and hard skills, required at workplaces. Elaborating on skills, he stressed the

need to enhance opportunities for the youth to learn skills across country.

He acknowledged the working of NAVTTTC and suggesting them to enhance their publicity campaign as it was also critical to achieve results. He was of the view that skills development and technical education have played an important role for country's development and also proved to be a source of

opportunities for the youth.

The minister expressed his displeasure at prevailing situation of the public sector schools, saying that the condition of government schools needs to be improved as education was among the basic facilities of citizen and around 80 per cent children are studying in these schools.

He suggested that political governments should form a comprehensive strategy for

bringing betterment in the education system and improving the condition of public sector schools across country. Executive Director Aamir Jan highlighted the working of NAVTTTC, saying that the commission as the regulatory body would play a pivotal role by providing a list of trades for digitalization, facilitating subject experts, and jointly certifying successful trainees.

TENDER NOTICE No.01/2023

FOR PURCHASE OF REFRESHMENT AND STATIONERY ITEMS

Sealed Tenders/bids/rates are invited from the reputed registered firms having financial soundness, managerial capability and sufficient logistic to meet out the statement of work on the basis of **Open Competitive Bidding Method of Single Stage (One Envelope Procedure) in terms of Rule 36 (a) of Public Procurement Rules 2004** for the supply of stationery items and refreshment/ Meals for Poling Staff during their Trainings in connection with upcoming General Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as per following detail:-

S. No	Description/Item	Menu	Quantity
1.	Refreshment for trainings of Poling Staff	Day-I Biryani+Water Bottle+ 02 times Tea with Cookies	Detail given in Tender document
		Day-II Chicken Karachi + Naan/ Roti + Water Bottle + 02 times Tea with Cookies	
	Stationery for trainings of Poling staff	Ball Pen, Lead Pencil, Scale, Eraser, Marker & Sharpener	Detail given in Tender document
2.	Refreshment for Half Day Orientation Session of Poling Staff	Biryani + Water Bottle	Detail given in Tender document
	Stationery for Half Day Orientation Session of Poling Staff	Ball Pen, Lead Pencil, Scale, Eraser, Marker & Sharpener	Detail given in Tender document

Terms & Conditions:

1. The Tender is on the basis of **Open Competitive Bidding Method of Single Stage (One Envelope Procedure)** in terms of Rule 36(a) of Public Procurement Rules 2004.
2. The bidders should submit a "Certificate" that the company has never been declared blacklisted or default by any department of Government of Pakistan.
3. Price should be quoted in Pak Rupees both in words and figures.
4. The Price quoted should be firm, final and clearly written/typed out without any ambiguity Rates/ bids submitted will be valid for a period of six months.
5. The price should include all the government taxes (Including GST if applicable), duties, delivery etc.
6. The bidder shall furnish a bid security/ earnest money equivalent to 5% of the total value of the bid in the form of bank draft or pay order issued by the schedule bank of Pakistan in favor of District Election Commissioner, Swat.
7. "Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained on written request from the office of the District Election Commissioner, Swat during office timings from 08:30 AM to 04:30 PM (Monday to Friday) latest by 8th December 2023 (Friday) till 11:00 AM against the prescribed fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand and only) non-refundable, on any working day during office hours.
8. All Sealed Tenders, (In separate) for Refreshment and Stationery should be delivered dropped in the Tender Box placed in the office of District Election Commissioner, Swat on or before tender's opening date i.e. 8th December 2023 (Friday) till 11:00 AM which will be opened on the same date at 11:30 AM in the presence of Tender Committee and bidders may be present. Open, e-mailed or faxed bid will not be accepted. Any bid received by the District Election Commissioner, Swat Office after the date and time of tender opening will be returned unopened to the bidder.
9. Exact No of participants will be given at the time of work order.
10. Training will be conducted in batches in different venues at Tehsils Babuzai, Matta and Khwazakhela which shall be intimated accordingly.
11. The firms/supplier shall provide refreshment/ stationery at different venues mentioned in para-10 above.
12. Quantity & Quality of food/refreshment will be checked and suitable penalty will be imposed on sub-standard quality.
13. Payment will be made after completion of trainings and preferably after availability of budget.
14. The procuring agency reserves the rights to increase or decrease the No of items being supplied/ purchased at any stage as per requirement.
15. The District Election Commissioner, Swat/ Competent Authority reserves the rights to cancel/reject any Tender or all tenders in accordance with Rule 33(1) of PPRA Rules-2004.
16. This advertisement is also available on the official websites of PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) and Election Commission of Pakistan (www.ecp.gov.pk)

District Election Commissioner, Swat

Tel:- 0946-920081-82

PID(P) 430/23

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE RE-INVITING RE E-BIDDING

Irrigation Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Electronic Bids proposal on the basis of **Single Stage Double Envelope** system from the Government Contractors/ Firms enlisted with Irrigation Department, who have renewed their enlistment and PEC license in relevant category for solar (EE-11) for the year 2023-24 for the following works:-

Work No.	Name of Work/ Sub Work	Estimated Cost Rs (M)	Earnest Money	Required PEC Category	Last date / time of submission of Tenders Forms.	Opening of Financial Bid	Time>ALimit
A	210588-Construction of Irrigation tube wells/Lift Irrigation Schemes & Solarization of existing Irrigation Tube Wells in Merged Areas ADP No. 2280 (2022-23) (2 nd time tender)	-	02% of the Estimated Cost	EE-11 & CE-04	19-12-2023 Time 12:00 P.M. & Will be opened on 12:30 PM	Financial Bid of successful bidders in technical evaluation will be opened after approval of competent authority.	As per Work order /BOQ
A-1	Construction of 06 Nos. New & Solarization of 06 Nos. Existing Tube Wells in Tehsil Utmankhel & Salarzai District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-01.	80.410	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
A-2	Construction of 03 Nos. New & Solarization of 03 Nos. Existing Tube Wells in Tehsil Mamund District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-02.	34.947	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
A-3	Construction of 05 Nos. New Solar Tube Wells in Tehsil Barang/Nawagai & Khar and Solarization of 05 Nos. Existing Tube Wells in Tehsil Barang/Nawagai & Khar District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-03.	68.271	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
A-4	Construction of 03 Nos. New & Solarization of 04 Nos. Existing Tube Wells in Tehsil Nawagai, Khar, Salarzai, & Utmankhel District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-04	32.296	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
A-5	Construction of 03 Nos. New & Solarization of 03 Nos. Existing Tube Wells in Tehsil Mamund District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-05	35.030	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
B	210579 - District Development Plan for Merged Areas (2021-22) (2 nd time tender)	-	02% of the Estimated Cost	EE-11 & CE-04	19-12-2023 Time 12:00 P.M. & Will be opened on 12:30 PM	Financial Bid of successful bidders in technical evaluation will be opened after approval of competent authority.	As per Work Order / BOQ
B-1	Solarization of 05 Nos. Existing Irrigation Tube Wells in Tehsil Marnaud District Bajaur (Solarization) Package-06	19.906	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. Bid solicitation documents including instructions to bidders can be downloaded from Irrigation website <https://www.irrigation.gkp.pk> as well as KPRA website <https://www.kpra.gov.pk> otherwise submitted without these documents (duly filed) will be considered non-responsive.
2. Technical design should be based on hydraulic parameter of the scheme provided in the bidding documents and rates should be quoted according in the financial bid. Technical bid will be opened on the date & time mentioned above by the bid evaluation committee in the office of the undersigned in the presence of bidders. Specification and design parameters of pumping machinery are given in the bidding documents.
3. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all bids with assigning cogent reasons.
4. Non-refundable bidding entry fee @0.03% of tender cost in shape of call deposit/cash and stamp duty in Shape of Call Deposit separately may be furnished (in original) to this office as recommended by the Sub-committee of the cabinet notified vide Section Officer (Confidential) Chief Minister's Secretariat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar No. SO(C)/CMS/KPK/2020-21 dated: 21-04- 2021.
5. The bidders are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance act, 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa act No. XXI of 2013) for the work consulting and non-consulting services are listed in schedule-II of the act bid.
6. Planning & Development Department Notification No. Chief /INF/P&D/003-02/2022/01 dated 31/1/2022 for the purpose curb the malpractice of submission of fake bid security in e-bidding system in the procurement of works, the competent authority has issued the following administrative instructions.
(i) The procuring entity shall ensure that the bids of only those bidders be opened whose security deposit has been credited to their official account before opening of bids.
(ii) In case, no security deposit is credited the bid shall be considered non-responsive and shall summarily be rejected.
7. The matter pertaining to additional security in case of abnormally low bids would be treated as per KPRA notification No S.R.O(14) Vol:1-24/2021-22, dated 10-05-2022.
8. All others rule of KPRA and Government of Pakistan will be applicable on the procurement process.

(INF/P): 2815/2023

Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Bajaur

Civil Colony Khar, Tehsil Khar District Bajaur. Email: irrigation.bjr@gmail.com Phone No: 0942-220393



ADDENDUM

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

This is in continuation to Extraordinary General Meeting Notice published on **Thursday, November 2, 2023.**

Scrutinizer Appointed for Special Businesses

With reference to the Regulations 4(4) and 11 of the Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2018, below is the information regarding the Scrutinizer for the purpose of upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) of Lucky Cement Limited (the Company) to be held on **November 23, 2023.**

Name of Scrutinizer	Messrs. A.F. Ferguson & Co, Chartered Accountants
Qualification and Experience	<p>The firm is a leading multi-disciplinary organization offering auditing taxation, business advisory, information technology, human resources and corporate services to public and private sector organizations in the country.</p> <p>A.F Ferguson & Co. is a member of PwC, one of the world's leading accounting and business advisory network.</p> <p>The firm holds a satisfactory Quality Control Review (QCR) status from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) which demonstrates the quality standards maintained by the firm. It is registered on the Panel of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).</p>
Purpose of appointment	<p>The Company is required to appoint a scrutinizer for the purpose of voting in the EOGM to transact business that pertains to investment in associated companies as mentioned in Section 199 of the Companies Act, 2017.</p> <p>The scrutinizer has been appointed to observe that satisfactory procedures of the voting process including adequate precautionary measures are ensured and reported as mentioned under regulation 11A.</p>

Karachi
November 18, 2023

Faisal Mahmood
Company Secretary

Repatriation of immigrants

Downward trend in prices of vegetables, fruits witnessed

PESHAWAR (APP): After quite some time, downward trends in prices of vegetables and fruits is being witnessed in Peshawar and Nowshera markets following repatriation of 219,742 people mostly afghans to their home country till November 16 last.

The voluntarily return of 219,742 foreigners to Afghanistan including 216,084 via Torkharm border, 3,239 through Angor Ada Lower Waziristan border and 419 through Kharlachi Kurram border between September 17 to November 16, 2023, have not only brought stability in prices of daily used commodities in open market but per kilogram price of vegetables and fruits were also decreased.

According to survey at fruits and vegetable markets at Nowshera and Peshawar districts conducted by this scribe on Friday revealed that prior to repatriation of Afghans ie November 1 last, one KG tomato was sold on Rs200 to 250 in local market that was now slashed to Rs150 while potato per kilogram that was earlier available on Rs150-180, was currently being traded on Rs120 per KG.

Similarly, at present, on KG onion was available on Rs100 compare to its previous prices of Rs150 kilogram, garlic at Rs100per KG today compared to its earlier price of Rs150 and Rs100 per KG 'kachalo' against its past price of Rs150 per KG at Chamkani fruits and vegetable market at Peshawar.

Gul Khan, a fruits and vegetable seller at Pabbi bazar Nowshera district said that prices of fruits and vegetables have witnessed a downward trend after voluntary repatriation of Afghans to their home country and people have taken sigh of relief after

quite some time.

Prior to repatriation of foreigners mostly Afghans, he said that one kilogram apple was available on Rs250-300 that was currently being sold at Rs200 per kilogram while previously prices of per KG grapes was Rs250 compare to its today prices of Rs200 while Guava was being traded on Rs100 per KG today compared to its earlier prices of Rs120 per KG.

He expressed the hope that prices of these commodities would further be reduced in the next few weeks after completion of the repatriation process by the government. Qasier Khan, a retired Wapda employee buying fruits at Chamkani market said that stability in prices of these commodities was witnessed after quite some time and hoped that its prices would further decrease in local market once the return process of all undocumented foreigners including Afghans completed.

He said Pakistan's agro-based economy was overburdened by over four million afghans' refugees who were provided extraordinary relief for four decades here by the people and Govt of Pakistan, saying trickled down effects of the Govt positive decision regarding repatriation of all undocumented foreigners started visible in the open market now besides reducing prices of properties and rent of houses in major cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He urged KP govt to maintain a close check on prices of daily used items including fruits and vegetables besides dairy products and activation of price review committees and magistrates for providing more relief to the consumers. Ali Syed, former senior Planning Officer,

Agriculture Department Govt of KP said that more than 29 types of fruits and 33 types of vegetables were produced in the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa throughout the year. He said most of the fruit production was consumed in domestic markets due to high population growth coupled with the presence of a large number of Afghan refugees.

He said five to six tonnes of traditional banana was being produced per acre whereas newly planted tissue cultured banana crops would produce up to forty thousands tons per acres with high exports potential for Pakistan. Despite better climate condition, skilled workforce and fertile lands, he said that Pakistan's fruits exports with UAE, China, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, UK, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Saudia Arabia and Indonesia was low and there was need of proper to increase trade volume with these countries besides exploring new markets to generate employment opportunities and provide relief to consumers.

He said fruits for all project was launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under which about five million fruit plants would be distributed among farmers and general public in the province, including erstwhile FATA. Ali Syed said that a committee has been formed to monitor and protect the plants besides identifying different locations in the province for upcoming spring season and merged tribal districts to plant the fruit trees maximum. He said the Agriculture Department will ensure the quality of seeds and plants and geographic feasibility, adding efforts would be made to cultivate the plants in areas accessible to the public.

Syed Ali defends Ph. D thesis successfully

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Syed Ali Abbas (Assistant Director KP-PPRA) has successfully defended his PhD thesis titled "The Multidimensional Effect of Workforce Spirituality on Employee Work Intention with Moderating Role of Ethical Leadership among the Employees of Civil Secretariat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" in Management Sciences at the public defense held at the Department of Management Sciences, Islamia College Peshawar and qualified for the award of a doctorate degree.

The scholar did his research under the supervision of Dr. Sonia Sethi Assistant Professor Department of Management Sciences, Islamia College. Dr. Jawad Hussain, Associate Professor University of Malakand, and Prof. Dr. Wali Rahman Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology served as his external examiners.

The public defense was attended by a large number of faculty members, and Ph.D. students from various Business Schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dry weather in hilly areas to prevail

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Friday predicted that mainly dry weather is expected over most districts of the province, while cold in the hilly areas.

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

During the last 24 hours cold and dry weather occurred in most districts of the province, Rainfall recorded (in mm) during the last 24 hours at different stations of KPK was nil. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar 27/10, Chitral 24/02, Timergara 27/07, Dir 25/02, Mirkhani 24/03, Kalam 18/-02, Droshe 20/08, Saidu Sharif 25/05, Pattan 28/09, Malam Jabba 15/04, Takht Bhai 27/08, Kakul 22/05, Balakot 25/06, Parachinar 22/04, Bannu 29/10, Cherat 19/09, DI Khan City 29/13. The lowest temperature recorded in the province was -02°c in Kalam.

FIA arrests 2

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: FIA Cyber Crime Circle Abbottabad arrested two accused involved in online harassment.

According to FIA officials, the nabbed culprits shared objectionable videos of a woman through whatsapp. The detainees often used international whatsapp numbers for sending threatening messages.



PESHAWAR: KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with members of Dosti Peshawar Women Literature Festival at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University.

PGCEP commits climate adaptation in Pakistan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The governments of Pakistan and Germany committed for climate adaption to counter global warming by pre disaster management by several means like afforestation and recycling projects across the country.

Realizing the increasing vulnerability of Pakistan to climate change, the German Government has been supporting the Government of Pakistan in the field of climate change adaptation under the Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP) through various projects, including the KfW (German Development Bank) Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project (BTASP) and the GiZ Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience Project.

To showcase what work is currently being carried out on the ground in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership hosted an event held in Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar, aligned with the visit of a high-level delegation from the German Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), KfW German Development Bank and GiZ. Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah Additional Chief Secretary, P&D Department KP, Syed Nazar Hussain Shah, Secretary Climate Change Forestry Environment & Wildlife Department, Helmut Fischer, Head of Division Afghanistan, Pakistan German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ali Asghar, Chief Economist P&D Department KP, Junaid Dayar Project Director Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project KP Forest Department, Khadija Bano Advisor, SAR Project GiZ Pakistan and Asif Rafique Minister agriculture, Livestock, Food & Environment addressed to the Climate Adaptation Forum.

While talking to the forum, Helmut Fischer said that the Germany is supporting Pakistan in developing and implementing national climate targets, expanding the use of renewable energies, analyzing climate risks, developing strategies for adapting to climate change, gaining access to international climate financing and in climate change adaptation. He said, in 2021, Germany and Pakistan agreed on a climate and energy partnership.

He said, it includes the commitment to a continuous political dialogue, the strengthening of bilateral development cooperation and the involvement of the private sector, scientific institutions and civil society organizations in the sense of a broad-based dialogue on climate change. He said, with its climate partnerships, the BMZ supports selected partner countries in achieving their climate goals in a socially just manner. These partnerships combine climate policy with economic development and poverty reduction.

Project Director 10BTTP Junaid Dayar said that the event brought together Government partners, project implementing partners and international experts by providing a platform for a mutually beneficial exchange on the topic of climate change adaptation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said, the livelihoods of the poor population in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are threatened by the high rate of deforestation in recent decades, which contributes to climate change.

PD said, in response to the "Bonn Challenge", the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa launched the "Billion Tree Afforestation Program" (BTAP) in 2014. In 2018, Prime Minister of Pakistan announced a five-year nationwide (follow-up) program, the 10 Billion Trees Tsunami Programme (TBTTP), which has now

been renamed to "Green Pakistan". He said, KfW is financing this government initiative through the Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project (BTASP) on behalf of the German government.

He said, the aim of the project is to ensure that the restored forest landscapes of the TBTP are managed in a participatory and sustainable manner, thereby improving the livelihoods of the people in the project areas. He said, to this end, local people are actively involved in the planning and management of the forest areas.

Khadija Bano Advisor, SAR Project GiZ Pakistan said, the Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience- SAR project covers all aspects of climate risk management, from preparing climate risk assessments and profiles, improving planning and budgeting capacities to developing innovative financial instruments and ensuring better access to international climate finance.

She said, SAR is mainly active at provincial level (P&D Departments KP and Punjab), but also works closely with the MoCC and other federal institutions such as the Planning Commission. She said, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the project recently set up a designated "Climate Change Cell" in the P&D Department and members of the provincial government took part in intensive training sessions on climate finance. She said, SAR works with local implementation partners, such as Lasoona, to mainstream climate change into various aspects of society and raise awareness of local population. Syed Nazar Hussain Shah, Secretary Climate Change KP also presented the Forest Department gift hampers amongst the delegation from the German Government and other participants of the forum.

ANP chief pays homage to late Adeel

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP)'s chief Asfandyar Wali Khan has paid homage to late party stalwart Haji Muhammad Adeel, saying his constant political struggle is a beacon of light for political workers.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the 7th death anniversary of the late member of the upper house here on Frida, the ANP chief said that discussions with him were full of arguments, logic, facts and tact and hallmarks of his politics. He believed in the strengthening of democracy, the supremacy of the constitution and parliament saying the absence of the wise politician like Haji Adeel will always be felt.

Late Haji Muhammad Adeel had remained on various positions in the party and was elected member of the provincial assembly in three consecutive elections. He was also former Deputy Speaker of the KP Assembly and also finance minister. He was also known as an outspoken politician and champion of provincial rights. Asfandyar Wali Khan said that the deceased never compromised on his ideology and party stance and stood like a rock with the national movement in every difficulty.

He further said that whether it was provincial rights or net profit on electricity, Haji Adeel advocated Pakhtunkhwa everywhere. Late Muhammad Adeel had also played an unforgettable role in the presentation

of the 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. His hard work and foresight in the 18th Constitutional Amendment will always be remembered. He further said that Haji Muhammad Adeel was an important asset of the Awami National Party and the politics of Pakistan. His sacrifices for the subjugated nationalities, especially the Pakhtuns, are eternal and unparalleled. Be it parliament or practical field, Haji Adeel bravely fought for the rights of the nation

The deceased, he said inherited the spirit of serving the nation from his father, Hakeem Abdul Jalil. He not only raised his voice for the oppressed nationalities throughout his life, rather also fought practically.



PESHAWAR: A bull cart holder on way loaded with green fodder for selling purpose at local market.

Promotion of entrepreneurship vital to create employment opportunities

PESHAWAR (APP): The career options vary from person to person as per their choice as some would opt only for government jobs, others try their luck to get settled abroad and some would go only for entrepreneurship – to become job creators instead of job hunters.

Initially, it does not seem easy to launch a business as it carries the possibility of financial risks but it is also possible to generate handsome revenue as was true for Akhsaar Ali (38) who lived a satisfied life after entering the solar panels business in Peshawar where he employed six laborers for assistance. Known as Akhsaar Lala in the solar penal market at Dalazak Road, the motivated youth wakes up early in the morning and comes to his shop after performing fajr prayer and breakfast along with his two younger brothers: Tariq Ali and Younas Khan before going for installation.

"I entered the solar panel business in 2010 after my several applications were rejected by the public and private organizations owing to lack of professional experience, and rented a shop on Rs 1000 per month at Pabbi, Nowshera after seeing the people's positive response towards the instal-

lation of solar panels in the wake of long hours load-shedding in the peripheries of Peshawar and Nowshera districts," he told APP.

"Following the early death of my father Noorzada Khan, I left my education incomplete at graduation and knocked on the doors of different government organizations and NGOs for jobs but my applications were not considered due to lack of professional experience. Keeping in view the financial constraints of my family, I immediately started sale and purchasing solar panels at a small shop in the main bazaar of Pabbi tehsil of Nowshera district to support my widowed mother and meet education expenses of my two younger brothers who were under the heavy loans burden due to expansive treatment of my ailing father," said Akhsaar, while loading solar panels in a pickup brought by his brothers, Tariq and Younas from Karkhano market, a hub of solar and electronics goods in Peshawar.

"In recent years, the demands for solar panels have increased manifolds due to the widening of the demand-supply gap of electricity as 650-watt panel was being sold at Rs 50,000, 610 watts on Rs 47,000, 550watt on

Rs 40,000 and 450 watt on Rs32,000 in Karkhano market," he said, adding that earning in every business was primarily depended on timely actions and initiatives besides required surplus money. In summer, he said solar penal business shines while in winter's profit is comparatively low due to its lesser demands.

Akhsaar is planning to expand its business to Punjab, Dubai and Afghanistan due to its huge market demands' there. "Pakistan's industrial future is linked with solar and wind energy and the time has come to divert financial resources to bolster these renewable energy resources to create jobs for youth," said Zilakat Khan Malik, former Chairman of, the Economics Department, University of Peshawar while talking to the news agency.

He said that Pakistan has several well-known wind corridors with average wind speeds of 7.87 m/s in about 10 per cent of its windiest areas most suitable for energy generation. He said one of the reasons for the high rate of unemployment and lack of businesses growth was the shortage of energy in Pakistan, adding by utilizing just 0.071 percent of the country's area for solar photovoltaic

(SP) power generation besides Karachi and Balochistan coastal areas, wind could meet the country's growing electricity demand easily.

"The significance of solar and wind energies has increased in Pakistan after its energy shortfall touched a record 8500 MW this year, necessitating urgent expansion of solar and wind power to at least 30 percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity by 2024, which is equivalent to around 24,000megawatts." Dr Zilakat Malik said that the expansion of renewable energy resources would not only make electricity cheaper but also achieve greater energy security, and reduce carbon emissions helping Pakistan to save up to USD 5 billion over the next 20 years.

Dr Malik said that the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy 2019 report of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has confirmed that Pakistan's target to increase Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) to 30 per cent of its electricity by 2030, magnifying higher penetrations of solar and wind energies would be economically beneficial in terms of job creation and overall production of industrial units. He said

that work on all ongoing energy projects should be expedited after the World Bank commitment of about \$425 million in financing to the National Transmission Modernization Project aimed at increasing the capacity and reliability of selected segments of the national transmission system in Pakistan and modernizing key business processes of the NTDC.

He said the National Solar Energy Initiative was approved in September 2022 by the then government to produce 10,000 megawatts of electricity through solar energy projects that would help reduce the import bill of costly diesel and furnace oil besides meeting the country's utility and business sector requirements. The SMEA spokesman said that over 400 pre-feasibility studies were prepared to bolster self-employment and bolster SME sector in the country including KP.

Besides preparation of National SME Policy 2021, he said that about Rs 89.24 million were allocated for pre-feasibility studies of air conditioner and generator rental service centres, Rs7.94 million for bread and biscuit manufacturing units, Rs51.75 million for dairy farms beneficiaries

having 25 cows helping them establishing environmentally controlled shelters and Rs166.64 million for siting up of shelters of dairy farms with 100 cows to bolster milk and dairy business in the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Javed Khattak, Chief Executive Officer, of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) said that the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) has been completed under CPEC before six months of the scheduled time aimed at promoting business and employment besides turning KP into a hub of trade and investment.

He said Phase I of RSEZ encompassed 247 acres of modern facilities designed to attract domestic and foreign investors besides spurring economic growth and job creation for a skilled workforce. Phase I housed 18 zone enterprises with seven being under construction mobilising an estimated investment of Rs85 billion. Khattak said different projects were launched in the second phase of RSEZ that would generate approximately 250,000 jobs for the youth of KP.



In brief

Demolition of structures flayed F.P. Report

H A F I Z A B A D : President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Hafizabad Salahay Muhammad Ranjha, Senior vice president Shafaqat Hussain Tarar and vice president Abdul Jabbar Ansari have condemned illegally demolition of buildings of citizens by Municipal Committee Hafizabad. MCCI claimed that some officials of the Municipal Committee were spreading terror among people under the shield of encroachments which could not be tolerated at all. They alleged that staff of the Municipal Committee was involved in making money on the name of encroachments and legal buildings of the citizens were being demolished without any planning. We would be met to Chief Minister Punjab, Chief Secretary and Commissioner to inform them about factual position for containing unjustified committing by the MC staff in the city, they added. Meanwhile, a constable and a member of drug peddlers injured in alleged police encounter near village Vinni in the premises of Kassoki police station. According to details, Kassoki police raided in village Vinni for arresting Mehboob alias Booba, Amjad and Mujahid etc. involved in dozens of cases belongs to notorious drug peddlers Gonga gang. As soon as police reached in the village, accused opened indiscriminately firing on police, as result of which, a constable Rustam injured critically.

Two men killed in road mishap

SARGODHA (INP): Two persons were killed in road mishap in Mianwali under the jurisdiction of Piplana, here on Friday. Police spokesperson said that Muhammad Ikram (45) and Shahid Islam (53) were heading to Mianwali on their motorcycle when all of a sudden their bike collided with a speeding van near Sargodha road and they both died on the spot. Police concern reached the spot shifted the bodies to hospital for autopsy.

Youth killed, another hurt

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): A youth was killed while another sustained injuries as a mini oil tanker hit a motorcycle near Chowk Godar. According to Rescue officials, a mini oil tanker carrying 30,000 litres oil was going to Multan from Karachi and hit a motorcycle near Chowk Godar in which 22 years old youngster named Sajid s/o Ghulam Sarwar was died on the spot. While Mujahid sustained serious injuries and was shifted to the district headquarters hospital. Chowk Qureshi police have registered the case and started legal action into the incident.

Woman gives birth to quadruplets

KHARIAN (INP): A woman in Kharian has given birth to quadruplets, with all the babies in healthy condition, reported on Friday. The whole family was jubilant after the birth of two boys and two girls two years of the marriage. Mudassad said his wife was admitted to a private hospital in Kharian's suburban area of Bhagwal where she gave birth to four children. The doctors informed the family that all the children and their mother are healthy. It may be mentioned here that just two days ago another woman had given birth to quadruplets boys in Gujrat.

Admn commits to hold MDCAT free and fair on 26th

F.P. Report

MARDAN: To ensure transparency in the MD CAT test to be held on November 26, Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai along with Deputy Commissioner Abdur Rehman visited the examination center established at Abdul Wali Khan University. On this occasion, Additional Assistant Commissioner Headquarters and Focal Person of MD. CAT Test Junaid Khalid, Traffic Incharge Irshad Khan along with university administration officers were present. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Mardan informed the Commissioner Mardan in detail about the point selected for the MD CAT test. The Deputy Commissioner said that

various activities have been banned under Section 144 to avoid incidents of copying through electronic devices and others in the MD CAT test, more security and traffic plan will also be formed by the police. He further said that during the MD CAT test, no government officer or official will be allowed to enter.

Commissioner Mardan Division expressed confidence on the arrangements made for the MD CAT test and issued necessary instructions to the Deputy Commissioner and other officers.

AWKUM employees strike continues on 10th Day: Abdul Wali Khan University (AWKUM) Employees Union's negotiations with the university administration failed. The protest in favor of the demands of the employees has entered the tenth day. According to the details, the employees of Abdul

Wali Khan University are on a strike against salary increase, illegal demotion, transfers to timergara campus, alleged corruption and corruption in the university, the university's pro-chancellor Sultan Ayaz and registrar Hassan Khan called on the employees Union President Adnan Saeed and Chairman Muzamil Khan met a delegation of striking employees and discussed the Charter of Demand with them.

Adnan Saeed, President of the Employees Union, told the media that the university administration is not serious in solving the problems of the employees, the vice chancellor is crying because of lack of powers. The governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has asked for time to meet and will inform him of all his concerns and the corruption in the university and our protest will continue until the demands are resolved.

ANP to establish district finance commission following govt: Aimal

F.P. Report

BUNER: Awami National Party (ANP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Aimal Wali Khan claimed that establishment of district finance commission for remote development as well as provision of free higher education and industrialization for employment would be top priority following taking power in the province.

This he said while addressing workers convention in Buner and added that ANP is only representative platform for protection of constitutional rights of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. ANP general secretary Sardar Babak NA 10 candidates Haji Rouf Khan PK 25 candidate Afsar Khan PK 26 candidate Qaisar Wali Khan and former MNA Istiqbal Khan also addressed workers convention at Gadezai playground in Pir Baba.

The ANP PK 25 workers in thousands were there to accord warm welcome and listen their leaders. The ANP KPK president Aimal Wali Khan general secretary Sardar Babak in their speeches bitterly condemned the PTI rulers both and Pervaz Khattak and Mehmod Khan who were enjoyed KPK chief minister-ship turn by turn and sold out Pukhtoon vote to Imran Khan at the cost of Pakhtun rights over their soul and resources.

The speakers also criticized the Jamaat Islami, Jamiat and PPP for deceiving Pukhtoon over the slogans of Roti Kapra Makan and Islam for years long but never addressed the core issues of Pukhtoon. They claimed of striving for the rights of Pukhtoon since the era of Bacha Khan and its continuation by Khan Abdul Wali Khan Asfandiar Wali Khan and at the fourth gen-

eration by Aimal Wali Khan.

They asked Pukhtoon to forge unity among ranks and cost their vote in favour of ANP nominated candidates Haji Rouf Khan Afsar Khan Qaisar Wali Khan and Sardar Babak in Buner so ad to sent them into National and provincial assemblies for strengthening the ANP in parliament to effectively fight for their die rights of Gas Electricity forest marble and tobacco royalties and employment for educated youths and industrialization for creating jobs for uneducated elders to so as able them of earning lively hood within Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and never have to left for abroad anymore. They promised of progress prosperity and peace in Pukhtoon soul in future if Pukhtoon cost their vote to ANP in the coming general elections scheduled on 8th february 2024,they concluded.



DERA GHAZI KHAN: Brig. (ret'd) Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, Chairman PMIC along with others being briefed about national routes of Kachhi Canal Projects.

Navigating the landscape of climate mitigation: Carbon credits, greenwashing and pursuit for genuine sustainability

Adnan Shafqat

IN the relentless battle against climate change, the concept of climate mitigation has become a focal point in global dialogues. The deployment of carbon credits has emerged as a mechanism to incentivize industries to reduce and diminish carbon footprint, however with it comes the lurking shadow of greenwashing—a practice that threatens to undermine the authenticity of these initiatives and poses a challenge to the authenticity environmental efforts.

In Pakistan, a country witnessing a growing evidence of climate change effects, the discourse on climate mitigation has taken center stage. The utilization of carbon credits, while offering a potential avenue for sustainability, raises questions about the prevalence of greenwashing—a concern that may undermine the sincerity of environmental initiatives in the country.

Climate mitigation refers to the strategies and actions implemented to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases, thereby mitigating the impact of climate change. It encompasses a wide range of initiatives, from transitioning to renewable energy sources to enhancing energy efficiency and implementing

sustainable land-use practices.

Pakistan, like many other nations, faces the severe consequences of climate change, including rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns and the increased frequency of extreme events. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the country has once again committed to meet ambitious climate mitigation goals by 2030, seeking to reduce carbon emissions and foster sustainable development.

The Utilization of Carbon credits has emerged as a promising mechanism for Pakistan to offset its carbon emissions. Projects spanning from renewable energy initiatives to reforestation programs contribute to the generation of carbon credits, enabling the country to manage its environmental footprint while concurrently fostering economic growth. Pakistan intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of an overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with a 15% reduction from the country's own resources and a 35% reduction subjected to the provision of international grant finance.

One of the key tools in the climate mitigation toolbox is the use of carbon credits. These credits represent a quantifiable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, often achieved through projects that contribute

to sustainable development or the removal of carbon from the atmosphere. Companies can purchase these credits to offset their own emissions, effectively neutralizing their carbon footprint.

Various projects contribute to the generation of carbon credits, such as renewable energy projects, afforestation initiatives, and methane capture programs. The concept is that by investing in these projects, companies can offset their emissions, resulting in a net-zero or potentially even a carbon-negative impact.

As Pakistan adopts carbon credits as part of its climate mitigation strategy and the concept of carbon credits appears promising, however, its increasing popularity may bring forth the looming specter of greenwashing. The risk becomes apparent when companies and industries, in their pursuit of an environmental and greener image, engage in symbolic carbon credit purchases without tackling the root causes of their emissions. This not only undermines the effectiveness of climate action but also raises questions about the authenticity of sustainability efforts implementing substantive changes in their operational practices within the region.

Greenwashing can take various forms, including vague or misleading advertising, unsubstantiated claims of carbon neutrality, or the selective highlight-

ing of environmentally friendly practices while neglecting harmful ones. In some cases, companies may invest in carbon credits without disclosing the full scope of their emissions or the methodologies used to calculate their carbon footprint.

Various projects in Pakistan contribute to the generation of carbon credits. From the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind and solar power, to afforestation initiatives in vulnerable regions, these projects aim to align economic development with environmental sustainability.

Transparency emerges as a crucial element in the fight against greenwashing. In order to navigate the challenges posed by greenwashing, Pakistan may increasingly emphasize transparency and accountability in its climate mitigation initiatives. Stricter regulations, coupled with the development of clear reporting and verification mechanisms, are being considered to ensure that carbon credits purchased and utilized in the country genuinely contribute to sustainable development goals.

Companies engaging in climate mitigation through carbon credits must be forthcoming with data, methodologies and progress reports. Third-party verification and certification agencies play a pivotal role in

ensuring the credibility of carbon credits, assuring stakeholders that purchased offsets genuinely contribute to global sustainability goals.

In the effort to counteract greenwashing and guarantee the credibility of carbon credit utilization, there is a mounting demand for standardized reporting and verification procedures. It is crucial to establish clear criteria for the creation and certification of carbon credits, along with transparent disclosure of methodologies. Industry-led initiatives and public-sector regulations are being considered to set the standards necessary to separate authentic climate action from deceptive greenwashing.

A key aspect of sustainability lies in the involvement of local communities. Educating consumers about carbon credits and greenwashing tactics empowering them to make informed choices. As awareness grows, consumers can scrutinize companies' claims, demand transparency and support businesses that exhibit a genuine commitment to sustainability. Pakistan is recognizing the importance of engaging communities in the planning and implementation of carbon credit projects, ensuring inclusive benefits aligned with the unique needs and circumstances of each region.

Educating stakeholders, from

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Local residents of the Thall Kumrat on Friday lauded the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for constructing 750 feet long protection walls, restoration of irrigation channels and establishing a community center in the flood affected area of Upper Dir.

Talking to local journalists at Dir Khas, the residents said that in August 2022, flash floods badly affected the valley of Thall Kumrat and washed away agricultural land, dozens of houses, bridges and other infrastructure.

They said the UNDP then launched its Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (Glof-II) project and initiated the flood rehabilitation work in Thall Kumrat valley. The residents said that damaged water channels, protection walls and houses were rehabilitated under the Glof-II project due to which the affected communities took a sigh of relief.

Rashid Khan, a representative of the Glof-II project, who was also present, told reporters that the Scaling-up Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (Glof-II) in Northern Pakistan initiative was implemented by the UNDP with the financial support of the Green Climate Fund through the Ministry of climate change.

He said that under the project, 750 feet long protection walls, 4 irrigation channels and one community center in Thall Kohistan. The Glof-II representative said that the Early Warning System (EWS) instruments would also be installed in all the target areas of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the collaboration of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, to provide

early warning to the people living in the valleys under the glaciers.

The local residents while thanking the UNDP said that a three hundred-year-old historic Thall mosque in the Kumrat valley was also protected from the flood threat in future.

Biosafety workshop:

The Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU) Sheringal, Upper Dir arranged a day-long biosafety and bio-safety workshop for students, lab staff and research scholars on Friday. The trainers including Dr Abidullah, Dr Zul Kamal and Dr Allah Ditha informed the participants about the risk, its mitigation, lab work practice, event management and biological waste management. The sessions were coordinated by Dr Hamid Khan Afridi.

Speaking on the occasion the Pharmacy department chairman Dr Shujaat Ahmad termed the workshop a fruitful exercise and appreciated the organizers. The guests distributed certificates among the participants at the conclusion of the event.

Protest rally: The Islami Jamiat Tulba (IJT), University of Malakand (ANP) central spokesman and party nominated candidate for NA 7 Zahid Khan has said that his party would launch an agitation movement if any kind of tax is imposed in Malakand division. He was talking to a group of local journalists at his residence at Odigram area of Lower Dir district. ANP spokesman said that his party was not in the favour of banning any politician to take part in elections. He said that Malakand division was a tax-free zone and the caretaker government lacked the mandate to impose taxes therein. Rejecting the preliminary delimitation of constituencies he said that it was not more than a joke with the voters. He said that the ANP had successfully completed the awarding of tickets and he was grateful to the party chief for awarding him a ticket for the national assembly from the Lower Dir. He said that he would soon start his electioneering in the area. He said the ANP would never tolerate setting up a temporary office of the excise and taxation department.



ABBOTTABAD: KP IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur inaugurating Command and Control Centre in Police Lines.



Finland to shutter border crossings with Russia to deter asylum seekers

FINLAND: Finland says it will close four of its eight border crossings with Russia where it has seen a surge in asylum seekers, accusing Moscow of turning a blind eye to undocumented people from mainly Africa and the Middle East to destabilise the country. Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said that the border crossings in the south-eastern regions of Vaalimaa, Nuijamaa, Imatra and Niirola would close on Saturday morning.

The crossings are normally the busiest points of travel between Russia and Finland with about 3,000 people using them per day. Asylum seekers arriving via Russia will from Saturday have to turn in their applications at two northern border crossings, the government said. The border closures

come amid growing tension between Russia and Finland, which share more than 1,300km (830 miles) of border, over Helsinki's defence cooperation with the United States. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year, Finland abandoned its decades-long policy of military non-alignment and joined NATO in April. Russia said it would take unspecified "countermeasures" in response. Finland's Border Guard has since tracked an uptick in undocumented arrivals, mostly from Africa and the Middle East. Finnish officials believe Moscow is encouraging people to go to the Finnish border, where they can apply for asylum. "It is clear that these people get help to get to the border. This seems like a very conscious decision", Prime

Minister Petteri Orpo said on Tuesday. Rantanen surmised: "Maybe [Russian officials] are annoyed by something in Finland's activities." The Kremlin, reacting to earlier reports that Finland was mulling a closure, put the blame on Helsinki for deteriorating ties. "We deeply regret that the Finnish leadership has chosen to deliberately move away from what used to be good relations," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. Finland is constructing a 200km (124-mile) fence on a section of the border, due to be completed by 2026. At present, Finland's borders are secured primarily by light wooden fences, mainly designed to stop livestock from wandering into the neighbouring country. — Aljazeera

Sanchez wins backing for new term after Catalan deal

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has won parliament's backing for a new term in office after striking a controversial deal with Catalan separatists. In exchange for supporting Sanchez's Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), nationalists from the Spanish region of Catalonia secured a commitment from the PSOE leader to pass an amnesty law that would pardon those linked to the botched Catalan bid for independence six years ago. More than 300 people accused of crimes in relation to Catalan independence between January 1, 2012, and November 13, 2023, could benefit from the legislation. Those episodes included crimes during the unsanctioned October 2017 referendum, which Madrid met with a heavy police crackdown. Sanchez – prime minister of Spain since 2018 – lost out to the centre-right Popular Party (PP) in the general election four months ago. But unable to form a government, PP was forced to concede to the PSOE which has enlisted the support of Catalan and Basque nationalists and other regional parties in its bid to govern. The lower house voted him in as prime minister again, but by a small margin. Sanchez's decision to court the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) and the centre-right Junts per Catalunya – parties which support independence for Catalonia – has

outraged Spanish conservatives, who decried the amnesty bill. This despite one minister in the Spanish government, presidency minister and PSOE senior official Felix Bolanos, hailing the legislation as a way to "heal wounds and resolve the existing political conflict in Catalonia". Indeed, following news of Sanchez's decision to pursue legislation intent on pardoning Catalans accused of political sedition, thousands of protesters took to the streets of Spain on Sunday to express their opposition. Alberto Nunez Feijoo, the leader of PP, appealed to the European Union itself to intervene, calling the proposed law "an unprecedented situation". He complained that "the amnesty [bill] is a direct payment for the votes needed for the [PSOE] to form a government. And who pays for that? The Spanish people, but also, in my opinion, Europe, because the deterioration of a democracy like Spain's ... will obviously have consequences for European institutions". Among those who could be pardoned is former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, the leader of Junts and the brains behind the illegal referendum, who today lives in exile in Belgium. Public hostility towards the amnesty bill is suggested by a recent poll which indicated that 70 percent of the Spanish electorate opposes

the legislation. The judiciary, too, has signalled its opposition, meaning that simply passing the bill in parliament might not be enough for Sanchez to fully make good on his pledge. However, on the international front, a newly re-elected Sanchez is unlikely to soften his criticism of Israel's military action in Gaza. The leftist leader condemned the Jewish state for its "indiscriminate killing of Palestinians" in the enclave – and promised to "work in Europe and in Spain to recognise the Palestinian state". In contrast to the likes of the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany, Sanchez also called for an end to Israel's bombardment of Palestinians in Gaza where more than 11,300 people have been killed by Israeli air strikes following Hamas's deadly attack on southern Israel on October 7. "We demand an immediate ceasefire on the part of Israel in Gaza and strict compliance with international humanitarian law, which today is clearly not respected," he said. Andrew Dowling, a reader in Hispanic studies at Cardiff University and author of the 2022 book, Catalonia: A New History, told Al Jazeera that a second-term Sanchez government would also continue to be part of a "mainstream Europe" which has sought "to isolate the far right". — Aljazeera

Myanmar mily admits facing 'heavy assaults'

YANGON: Myanmar's military regime has admitted it is facing "heavy assaults" by anti-coup forces who began a coordinated offensive at the end of last month, claiming to have taken control of several towns in border areas and dozens of military outposts. Spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said troops were under "heavy assaults from a significant number of armed rebel soldiers" in Shan State in the north, Kayah State in the east and Rakhine State in the west. Anti-coup fighters were using "hundreds" of drones to drop bombs on military posts, and some sites had to be evacuated, he added. "We are urgently taking measures to protect against drone bomb attacks effectively," he said in a statement. Myanmar was plunged into crisis when the generals seized power from the elected government of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a coup in February 2021. Millions took to the streets to call for the restoration of democracy. But when the military responded with force, some civilians took up arms, joining forces with ethnic armed groups who have long been fighting for self-determination. At least 4,185 civilians and anti-coup activists have been killed in the violence since, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a Myanmar non-profit tracking the crackdown. The new offensive, code-named Operation 1027, began in Shan State near the border with China on October 27 under the Three Brotherhood Alliance, a grouping of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA). Its aim is to eradicate "oppressive military dictatorship" and fighting has since spread to other areas of the country, including western Rakhine and Chin states, bordering Bangladesh and India. More than 200,000 people have been displaced by the fighting and at least 75 civilians, including children, have been killed, according to the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "deeply concerned by the expansion of conflict", spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement, adding that fighting had forced more than two million people from their homes. — Aljazeera

Escape from al-Shifa: How a Gaza medic dodged Israeli patrols, snipers

GAZA STRIP: Jawdat Sami al-Madhoun could hardly believe it when he saw the gates of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital appear in front of him. The 26-year-old doctor's assistant had managed to leave the besieged al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and walk the 16km (10 miles) to Deir el-Balah. Jawdat had spent the previous 25 days volunteering at al-Shifa's emergency department, struggling along with the rest of its staff to help the injured as best they could, often without the most basic medicines and supplies. "We couldn't help the wounded," he told Al Jazeera on Monday, looking away as his voice broke. "They were dying! We couldn't do anything to save them. We would just watch them die. There are hundreds of bodies in the hospital's courtyard. We couldn't even bury them." Al-Shifa has been besieged by Israeli forces since Friday, with nobody allowed in or out of the compound of Gaza's oldest and largest hospital. Israeli forces raided it, claiming that there was a Hamas fighters' command centre within. That claim has not been proven to date. The hospital lost its electricity supply entirely on Saturday, bringing all its medical devices to a stop and endangering 39 premature babies whose incubators stopped working. Since then, seven babies have died, a toll that is rising as the hospital remains offline. Staff at the hospital have interred at least 179 dead bodies in the courtyard. Even moving between the medical buildings on the compound, Jawdat said, was a matter of life and death because Israeli snipers targeted anyone moving. "I was a volunteer," he said. "I would receive people, triage some cases, and bandage up anyone I could help. I'm not a fully trained nurse, but I studied it for about a year and a half, so I wanted to do something, anything, to help. "One day, four beautiful little girls came in, the oldest was about 13 years old, only one of them was injured... they came in with their dead family, father, mother, brother, we did what we had to do and buried them," Jawdat stopped again, lowering his head and sobbing. "The injured little girl looked at me and said: 'Please, Uncle, let me die with them. I don't know how I would live without my parents and my brother.' "Another day, we received a 12-year-old boy, badly injured in an attack that had killed his family. Whenever he saw me, he would say: 'Can you either make me better or let me go [die] with them?' "I don't know where we got the energy to do this work. God must have given all of us the strength to keep going. The doctors were working in a frenzy. They were willing to work for three, four days in a row without sleeping, to do anything if they could just save one more child, one more person. "I have a friend, Islam al-Munshid: I was surprised to find him in the reception area one day, badly injured. Turns out he had been hurt in the Israeli attack on al-Shifa gate the day before, and I hadn't seen him in the



middle of all the injuries that were coming in. I asked the doctors how he was doing, and they said: 'He's brain dead, but his body is still breathing. Pray for him to rest in peace.' "Three days, 72 hours, I would go and check on him every hour to see if he was still breathing or not until finally, he died. "There was nothing we could do. If we had the least bit of equipment, maybe we could have helped him, but we had nothing, so we could do nothing. His skull was broken in two places, and he would have needed urgent surgery to save his life, but we couldn't." Jawdat and his wife, May, like many families in Gaza, had decided to stay in separate locations in the hopes that as many people as possible would survive the relentless Israeli bombing and could reunite later. May, 23, was also in Gaza City, but Jawdat was unable to reach her because of tanks, snipers and random explosions on the streets. Talking about May, Jawdat's fear got the better of him, and he broke down in tears again at the thought that he may never see his wife again. He knew that there was no way he could have reached her in Gaza City, but the fact that she had only received one of his messages in several days and he had heard nothing from her for three days overwhelmed him. Desperate to be with his family, his mind turned to Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, where he had finally managed to convince his mother to move on Friday. "My mother has kidney ailments, but she was adamant that she would never leave her city. She would tell me: 'If we, the people of this land, leave it, who will be left to take care of it?' "But her continued presence there was such a danger to her life and her." Without his family, he felt lost, and al-Shifa, he felt helpless. "We couldn't do much for the wounded. There's no gauze, no oxygen, no supplies. All we could do was clean their wounds. Some of those who died, ... all they needed was a little oxygen." The only respite, he said, was when the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was able to

help them move the premature babies, all bundled up tightly to keep them as warm as possible without their incubators. "The ICRC [got] us one hour to move the premature babies from the maternity ward to the reception hall," Jawdat said. "They also told us to stay away from the windows lest we get shot. We were, of course, so very 'grateful' to them for that warning," he said wryly. Jawdat left the hospital with a group of displaced people who had been sheltering at al-Shifa, hoping to make it past Israeli soldiers, tanks and snipers all the way to the south. He knew the risks. "[Monday] morning, we received six cases in the hospital, all injuries. They had gotten shot after the Israeli army told them it was OK to leave the building they were in. As they left, they promptly got shot," Jawdat said. But he had heard that a previous group that left earlier in the day had made it through safely. "They said they were shot at, but they made it south. A little bit of courage, they said. It takes a little bit of courage." Jawdat and his companions were shot at three times, running on each occasion to try to avoid the snipers. Eventually, the group split up as the slower people lagged behind, and others split off at various intersections. At one point, Jawdat and a few others were stopped by Israeli soldiers, who made them stand with their hands up in the air, holding their IDs. One man scratched his head, Jawdat said, and was called over by the Israeli soldiers. He is not sure what happened to him after that. At another point, "they took about 20 men and stripped them naked, beat them, humiliated them, then released them. It's like whenever the soldiers get bored, they would pick one to bully and humiliate". That was not the worst of what Jawdat saw on the road. He said he ran past bodies, a little girl's severed foot and a woman in her 50s, still wearing her prayer clothes, lying dead on the ground. Jawdat made it to Deir el-Balah. He doesn't know how many more of those who also fled al-Shifa did. — Aljazeera

'The land is still alive': A Mapuche leader's fight for home in Argentina

BARIOLOCHE: Standing on the land she inhabited for five years, 22-year-old Betiana Colhuan scrolled through her phone's camera roll. The screen flickered with memories of home: an image of Colhuan sitting in a field of yellow flowers. Another of her small son standing in front of the white horse she kept as a pet. A snapshot of the medicinal plants in her orchard. But when she looked up, the ruins of her house lay scattered at her feet. Broken planks of wood were littered with old household items, including a tube of face cream, a broken mirror and a pink teddy bear. "It is painful to see this space like this," Colhuan said, her voice heavy. Colhuan belongs to one of Argentina's Indigenous peoples, the Mapuche. The land her community used to sit within falls under the administration of the Nahuel Huapi National Park, the country's oldest national park and a popular outdoor destination. But Colhuan and her neighbours were forcibly expelled in 2022. Now, they fear government inertia and the outcome of Argentina's presidential election on November 19 could permanently end their hopes of returning. "We are going to have to fight harder against some of [the politicians] who publicly express their hate against our people," Colhuan said. Though often associated with the neighbouring country of Chile — where they constitute the largest Indigenous group — the Mapuche predate national borders. Their ancestral territory includes the southernmost reaches of Argentina, part of a region known as Patagonia. But the Spanish conquest of the area, starting in the 16th century, led to bloody clashes with the Mapuche. By the 19th century, the newly established country of Argentina likewise endeavoured to remove the Mapuche through violence. One effort in the late 1800s became known as the Conquest of the Desert. Argentinian military forces are thought to have massacred as many as 20,000 Mapuche and Tehuelche people. Survivors were displaced and forbidden from living together in communities. "They had to disperse in order to survive," said Orlando Javier

Carriqueo, a spokesperson for the Mapuche Parliament. "The causes and effects of this genocide are very present in society, and not in a minor way." In 2006, however, Argentina's congress passed a law to prevent the further eviction of Indigenous people from their ancestral lands. It also offered official status to Mapuche communities seeking state recognition. Still, only 314 recognised communities exist today in Argentina. Colhuan is part of a new generation that is reclaiming the Mapuche identity, after centuries of bloodshed and displacement. Since she was a girl, Colhuan said she was trained by Mapuche elders to take on the role of a machi, a spiritual leader and healer. Most modern-day machi live in Chile. But Colhuan became the first to earn the title on the Argentinian side of the Andes Mountains in nearly 100 years. She had to travel back and forth to Chile to learn from machi across the border. She also serves as the head of the Lof Lafken Winkul Mapu community in Patagonia, made up of 15 families. Many of them used to live in urban settings in northern Patagonia, where their ancestors were relegated after they were forcibly removed from their lands. Colhuan herself was born in San Carlos de Bariloche, an alpine-style tourist town close to the mountains and glacier-fed lakes of the Nahuel Huapi National Park. The group formed naturally, with members flocking to Colhuan after she began to offer traditional medicine and healing. In 2017, Colhuan started living on a plot of land in the park, outside the village of Villa Mascardi. Colhuan said the land was the known location of an ancestral "rewe", a sacred space in Mapuche culture, one that had been abandoned for many years. Every machi needs to be close to a rewe in order to fulfil their sacred functions. Colhuan said that one of the machi who taught her had foreseen that the rewe in Villa Mascardi was to be hers. There, she could complete her training and start her spiritual practice. Located in a forest clearing, the rewe was grassy and open. Colhuan and her young community

set up a tall wooden sculpture with a carved face in the centre of the clearing. Around it, they placed branches from native plants, a traditional ceremonial adornment, renewed yearly. The rewe became a place for Colhuan and her community to live and practice spiritual ceremonies. "For five years, we were able to strengthen this ceremonial space together with other communities," she said. Fifteen traditional "rukus" — low wooden houses — were built on the land, together with a community centre to hold meetings. Colhuan and her neighbours did most of the building themselves, with tools and materials they raised money to buy. They also planted vegetable and medicinal gardens and kept various animals and pets. But in 2017, shortly after they moved in, members of the Albatross group, a special unit of Argentina's naval police, tried to evict them based on complaints from the park administration that they were "usurping" the land. The expulsion quickly turned violent. Colhuan's cousin, 22-year-old Rafael Nahuel, was shot dead by police in the altercation. The officers involved alleged that his death was the result of a crossfire with members of the community. "I was forced to use my weapon immediately on my assailant. I had no way out. I had to stop the aggression," the officer who pulled the trigger, Sergio Cavia, said during his trial. But the community has disputed that claim, saying only the officers fired their guns. Cavia has been accused of "aggravated homicide committed in excess of self-defence". The verdict in his case is expected on November 22. After Nahuel's death, tensions increased. Neighbours in Villa Mascardi, fearing the community would encroach on private lands, claimed the group threatened them with violence and accused the Mapuche of robberies, arson and vandalism in the area. Fifteen complaints are still being processed by a prosecutor. National headlines followed, chronicling the controversy. Colhuan said there is no proof that anyone in her group committed the acts detailed in the complaints.

The breaking point came when a nearby police post was set on fire — and the Mapuche community was blamed, though they deny any involvement. In the aftermath, a judge ruled that the Mapuche could be forcibly evicted. On October 4, 2022, the police moved in. Colhuan said the eviction was "violent and abrupt". "They pulled us out of our houses — our rukas — by our hair, with our children in our arms," said Colhuan, a mother of two. Their houses and orchards were destroyed, their tools confiscated and their animals disappeared. What followed was eight months of house arrest for Colhuan, three other women and their youngest children, as the adults faced charges of "usurpation by dispossession". "They humiliated us in the worst ways possible because they saw us as Mapuche women, as Indigenous women," Colhuan said of the police. She accused them of strip-searching and beating the women "as if we were terrorists". "The children are still scared to death when they see the police," she added. The police involved in the eviction did not reply to multiple requests for comment for this story. Alejandra Perez, an anthropologist from the University of Buenos Aires who specialises in Indigenous rights, said the controversy over the settlement reflected, in part, the rising land values around the national park. "These are all touristic areas, where the value of the land is much higher now with accessible flights," Perez said. "Millions of dollars are coming in from the tourism industry." Those profits are expected to go even higher. The city of Bariloche has experienced a surge in tourism in recent years. In 2022, it reported that 65 percent more tourists had arrived in the area than in the five years before the COVID-19 pandemic combined. For their part, leaders at the Nahuel Huapi National Park maintain the issue was a matter of legal status. Without the proper recognition and documentation, they could not allow the Mapuche community to remain. "These people are not a recognised community. It is a usurpation for us. It is a matter for the federal justice

system," said Soledad Antivero, who is charged with public space management at the Nahuel Huapi National Park. "The national park was dragged into it because it is our land." That question of ownership, however, is fraught. Some Indigenous advocates believe Indigenous land claims should supersede the park's authority. How to define ancestral Indigenous land has also been a thorny question for the Argentinian government. Some critics of the Mapuche settlement say there is no evidence of an ancestral presence in the Villa Mascardi area, but Colhuan and her fellow community members maintain their connection to the land is spiritual and deeper than documents can testify. "What is being fought for is a broader idea of people, the idea of an ancestral territory that predated the formation of the state," said Kaia Santisteban, an anthropologist from the University of Rio Negro who studies Mapuche epistemology. In June, Argentina's Ministry of Security reached an agreement with Colhuan and the other women under house arrest. The charges for usurpation were dropped, and the government committed to recognising the rewe and rebuilding three houses. The deal also stipulated that only Colhuan, her aides and close family could live on the land, and that the rest of the community would be relocated to another place, still to be determined. The national parks administration also signalled it was willing to work with Colhuan and her community once they received formal recognition from the state. It already co-manages land with several other Indigenous communities. "We are public servants. That's what we are there for," Antivero, the park administrator, said. On their end, Colhuan and her community have taken steps to be formally recognised by the Argentinian government, submitting personal documents to back up their claims and commissioning an anthropological study. But the government has yet to grant formal recognition or follow through with its commitments. And in October, a prosecutor from the Federal Court of Criminal Cassation launched an

appeal to repeal the agreement. He argued, in part, that the agreement was based on the idea that Colhuan's community was a legitimate one, which has yet to be established. A rightward shift in Argentinian politics could also endanger Colhuan's efforts to rebuild her community. One of the leading candidates in this month's presidential elections, far-right libertarian Javier Milei, previously supported a bill to repeal the 2006 law that allows Indigenous groups to seek formal recognition and reclaim land. That same law created the framework that Colhuan's community is following to gain state recognition. Milei's running mate, Victoria Villarruel, has also weighed in on the situation in Villa Mascardi. In an interview with the local outlet El Seis TV, she said the push to reclaim the land was "ideological" and that the community "pretends to build a Mapuche nation that never existed in the Argentinian republic". Ana Ramos, an anthropologist from the University of Rio Negro who works closely with the Mapuche community, said that this narrative "radically goes in the direction of a reduction of Indigenous rights". If Milei wins the November 19 run-off election, she added, the Mapuche "will not only be criminalised but also repressed". But that alone will not stop the fight to reclaim ancestral land. "Mapuche mobilisations will not stop," Ramos said. Colhuan, meanwhile, is now left to grapple with the uncertain fate of the community she built. On a chilly, clear day in late September, she walked through the overgrown trails that once connected the houses in her community. The rewe still lay in ruins. But then she pointed to the old-growth forest, towering behind the site. Her voice became resolute. "Although you can see how everything is destroyed and how sad it is, you can also see the land, the nature that is still alive," she said. "This is what keeps us going today. The land is still alive and is asking us to protect it, to fight for it, so that the connection between us and this land is not severed." — Aljazeera

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Biden-Xi Summit, confrontation and cooperation

PRESIDENT Biden and his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping met face-to-face in San Francisco on Thursday after a long pause of almost one year. Wherein the most contentious issues relating to bilateral relations of the world's competing superpowers, global politics, security and trade issues, particularly the Taiwan dispute, Chinese ingress in the South China Sea, the war in Ukraine, the Middle East crisis, North Korea and Iran, and Afghanistan came under discussions. The Biden-Xi summit has brought about two significant agreements, on curbing fentanyl production and on military-to-military communications between long-held adversaries.

Historically, the Biden-Xi summit was a long-awaited high-profile meeting between the top leaders of the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) that could only be possible as a part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. It was the first face-to-face encounter between President Biden and Chinese Strongman since the G20 meeting in Bali in late 2022. The summit aimed to establish a framework for healthy, competitive and stable relations between the two global powers amid rising tensions over issues such as Taiwan, trade competition, human rights allegations and the ongoing tussle in the cybersecurity domain. The major goal of the highly advertised Biden-Xi meeting was to reduce confrontation and increase cooperation between the global contenders, who aim at defeating each other but avoid direct clashes to preserve their energies for future interventions and global supremacy.

Over the past years, the US-China competition has increasingly expanded in multiple spheres from defence and security arenas to trade and tourism, from Space and cyberspace to technology, IT and manufacturing. At the same time, the competing nations are rapidly expanding their military and economic influence in various parts of the world from Europe to Solomon Islands, and from the Middle East to Latin America and Western Sahara. Washington's prickly politics on the issues of human rights, democracy and civil liberties has caused significant challenges for Beijing within its territorial jurisdiction concerning Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Meanwhile, the US has forged multiple alliances, partnerships and security mechanisms in East Asia that practically encircled China from all four directions. Ranging from military agreements with Australia and the Philippines, the Quad political partnership among the US, India, Australia and Japan, and defence and security ties with Seoul, Tai Pei, and Hunoi coupled with high-level US-India economic and strategic partnership. All those anti-Beijing arrangements together with sanctimonious trade and regulatory policies seriously undermined US-China relations and pushed both adversaries to the edge of a direct clash.

The Biden administration has resolutely haunted down its staunch enemy in all spheres but is scared of any confrontation or clash that might derail its strategy or vice versa. Owing to those concerns, US officials had been endeavouring to establish a channel of communication with Beijing on the government-to-government and military-to-military levels to avoid any misunderstanding and confusion. During the recent summit, both nations agreed to curb the production and supply of fentanyl, resumption of military-to-military dialogue and crisis communication mechanisms, affirmation of one-China policy and peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues, increase cooperation in climate change and remove unfair practices in the trade.

The American Strategists have tactfully bartered vital US interests in the ploy of a one-China policy. Meanwhile, Xi's aides could not get any assurances from Washington for not meddling in China's domestic affairs, unfair handling of Chinese businesses and tech giants, along harassing Chinese allies and partners in different parts of the world.

In fact, a stable and cooperative relationship between China and the US is vital for addressing global political needs, including economic stability, conflict resolution, and collective responses to global challenges, whereas, tensions between them can have far-reaching consequences for them as well as for rest of the world. Both adversaries are engaged in an open competition, and their confrontation and cooperation move side by side. Apparently, teamwork and competition are a necessity for both competitors to reach decisive victory.

Laadlas versus Jiyalas

CHAIRMAN Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari toasted his party workers that the nation and the PPP goes back three generations of their commitment and their relationship had strengthened throughout the past. While addressing a workers' convention in Abbottabad, Zardari appreciated his party's Jiyalas for giving a warm welcome to him and magnificent preparation to run the party's campaign in the upcoming election. Bilawal called the PML-N Supremo and criticized him for being Laadla, the alias he previously used for PTI Chairman Iman Khan in the past.

The Pakistan People Party (PPP) is nearly completing the seventh decade of its foundation and the third generation of the PPP's founding fathers is currently leading the legacy of their grandfather. Beginning with the slogan of Roti, Kapra, and Makkan which the party neither sold out successfully nor accomplished its manifesto despite governing the nation multiple times in the past. After facing staunch opposition from the adversaries, the incumbent PPP Chairman has currently transitioned the party's manifesto from Roti, Kapra and Makkan to raise in the salaries, Benazir Mazdoor card and Benazir Kisan card which clearly manifest the future narrative of the party and the vision of its leaders, which looks national growth in distribution of government resources among the public instead of the creation of jobs through promotion of agriculture, industry and IT and other sectors.

After successful accomplishment of Foreign minister's role in the coalition government, Mr. Bhutto was fully prepared to assume the responsibility of Primer-ship but the dove sits on the head of senior Sharif who is currently playing the role of a Laadla and ready to take responsibility for the fourth time. Although, change in the roles upset the young leader, yet Bhutto and his Jiyalas are ready to champion the forthcoming contest, whose victor would rule in the nation in the future.k

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Palestinian children in the West Bank are also under attack

Tony Greenstein

WHILE the world's focus is on Israel's genocidal siege and bombing campaign in Gaza, Israel is also inflicting terror on Palestinians across the occupied West Bank. At least 186 people, including more than 30 children, have been killed there by the Israeli military and settlers since October 7. And nowhere in the occupied territories has seen more military aggression than the Jenin refugee camp, which to all intents and purposes has become a warzone.

Since 2018, the Brighton Trust, an English charity that I am part of, has been helping fund the Al Tafawk Children's Centre in the camp. It is a place where children can go to learn, play and socialise. In recent weeks, many have sought refuge from Israeli bombing in the Centre, and have been sleeping there because their homes have been destroyed. Like every corner of the overpopulated camp, the Al Tafawk Children's Centre is currently under attack. In fact, it has been under attack for a long time.

In July this year, during their violent incursion into Jenin which killed 12 Palestinians, Israeli soldiers also raided the Centre and wrecked it. They not only destroyed all facilities and equipment, including children's books, but also punched large holes into the exterior walls of the building, leaving it barely habitable. Our charity, together with the British Shalom-Salaam Trust, had to raise money to repair the building and replace equipment.

Children eventually returned to the Centre, but it was clear that they were not safe there. The Israeli military was determined not to allow Palestinians in Jenin to have peace and quiet, even at a centre for children. And things got significantly worse since Israel responded to Hamas's October 7 attack with a genocidal bombing campaign in Gaza and increasingly aggressive and deadly military operations across the West Bank. A teacher at the Al Tafawk Children's Centre wrote to me in mid-October about the horrific situation Jenin's children have been in since the July incursion.

"We did not have one peaceful night since

[July]," she explained. "When the attacks on the Gaza Strip started, the attacks on the camp became even worse. Life got so hard that it feels like we can't breathe. The soldiers are threatening that they will do the same to us in Jenin, as they are doing to people in Gaza. Actually, they have already started doing it, but the world is too busy elsewhere, showing only the Israeli side of the story. We have only one wish today. To have just one peaceful night, without waking up with the news that a family member or an entire family got killed."

And things got significantly worse since Israel responded to Hamas's October 7 attack with a genocidal bombing campaign in Gaza and increasingly aggressive and deadly military operations across the West Bank. A teacher at the Al Tafawk Children's Centre wrote to me in mid-October about the horrific situation Jenin's children have been in since the July incursion.

She went on to tell me about the night soldiers entered her home and detained her family for hours as they tried to capture someone in the area. "They locked us up for three hours in the bathroom," she said. "Even my brother's baby, who is only 15 days old, was not allowed to get milk. These things start to feel normal here, but all the children are dying from inside. They don't understand why this is happening. We are screaming, but no one hears us." The same teacher wrote to me once again on October 27.

"Each night we lose people, children. We buried lots, but because they die after the attack, the news never mentions them! Even our cemetery was bombed." "Our Centre is in the middle of camp, the only lovely place for children. It is now very dangerous to reach, but the children find it the only place that can help them survive. I can't tell them we are really in danger [at the centre]!" The

media only talks about the Gaza Strip. But in the West Bank, the situation is very bad as well. Cities, villages and camps are all locked down and under near-constant attack. And everyone, including thousands of children, is at risk and suffering.

Israel's excuse for its murder and maiming of thousands of Palestinians, including children, in the Gaza Strip is that it is trying to "destroy Hamas". In the West Bank, Hamas is not in power, yet Israel is increasing the repression and the violence. It is doing so because its real objective,

homes and lands in the past four weeks. Six others have been partially evacuated after villagers have been told they will be killed if they refuse to leave. This is a pattern we have seen before. First, Palestinians in rural areas will be forced to leave their land and move into cities. Then, those in the cities will be pushed out into a third country. Israel has embarked on a second Nakba - not only in Gaza, but also in the West Bank.

On November 9, there was yet another attack on Jenin, the most serious yet. 14 Palestinians were murdered, mostly by drones. During the attack, Al Tafawk Centre was tear gassed with the children still inside it and, according to some reports we received, live ammunition was used. Most of the children were evacuated, but about 20, owing to the inhalation of gas, were unable to. Later the same day, the teacher I've been in contact with risked her own life and went into the Centre to check up on the children. She found some of the children unconscious. It beggars belief how a children's centre has become the object of a military attack unless the real goal is to destroy all Palestinian civil society organisations.

On November 13, we received a distressing message from the Centre's head teacher whose father has been arrested and beaten. She told us the Centre is barely operating because of the attacks of the Israeli army. People have no food, and many of the children don't know what has happened to their families.

The Al Tafawk Children's Centre, and the Palestinian children trying to find peace and safety there, are now under attack. Like others in the Jenin camp, across the occupied West Bank, and in Gaza, they are being targeted, threatened and traumatised for the crime of being Palestinian, and trying to exist in their ancestral lands.

They are telling us that "they cannot breathe". That they are screaming, but no one is listening. The world cannot continue to ignore their plight. We have to help the children of Gaza, and the West Bank. We have to demand an immediate end to Israel's brutal ethnic cleansing campaign.

Old rivalries continue to fuel internal displacement in Congo

Mohamed Chebaro

THE number of internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could be rising in the absence of real measures to address decades of violence and reprisals for political, ethnic or economic reasons. The latest figures from the International Organization for Migration warn that the recent eruption of violence has raised to 6.9 million the number of Congolese civilians displaced in the country. In the east, a Rwanda-backed militia, the March 23 Movement, has been responsible for attacks on towns and villages, leaving a weakened national army and UN troops unable to protect the innocent.

The outlook concerning the future of those displaced is grim, as more of the same is likely amid a regional void that is fueled by strains affecting multilateralism and the ability of international powers to drive a more peaceful agenda between the key players in the region. Neighboring countries have for years been orchestrating proxy wars, funding militias and shuffling the geopolitical cards to support their hegemonic interests, as well as to benefit from whatever can be squeezed out of the mineral-rich eastern Congo.

As a young journalist in the mid-1990s, I reported on the Rwanda genocide and witnessed, from Congo's east, the great return of displaced Rwandans to their country two years after the Rwandan Patriotic Front - an army of Tutsis and moderate Hutus led by current President Paul Kagame - seized the capital and took power following the genocide that killed 800,000 Tutsis in just three months.

The image of miles-long queues of people on the march home from eastern Congo (then Zaire) to Rwanda will never leave me. I naively thought at the time that it would never be witnessed again. But development over the last two decades point to further displacement and suffering. This is due to lingering ethnic and political tensions, but also maybe due to various countries vying for potential access to lucrative deposits of natural resources that Congo has been blessed with, but which are increasingly becoming a curse.

The departure of the Rwandan refugee population in 1996 did not end the suffering of eastern Zaire, which became Congo in 1997 after the ousting of Mobutu Sese Seko's regime. Neighboring Rwanda, Uganda and Eritrea then supported the Congolese rebel-turned-president Laurent Kabila and his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo. But that only resulted in a regime in Kinshasa that enjoyed intermittent periods of peace and order; it was never able to impose stability on all parts of this huge country.

Congo is the biggest country in sub-Saharan Africa, rich in resources like gold, diamonds, cassiterite, cobalt and uranium. It has, over the years, seen its enormous wealth attract many foreign powers and groups, all of which have exploited the country's weaknesses to plunder its natural resources.

Since its independence from Belgium in 1960, Zaire and later Congo has oscillated between nominal stability and chaos, as divisions and proxy conflicts have persisted, with regular confrontations between groups loyal to regional power brokers that

are interested in keeping a foothold in the country at the expense of the permanently weakened central government. It is home to one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the world, which has tried to keep the peace for the last two decades, costing the international community in excess of \$1 billion annually.

There has been a recent renewal in the fighting between Congolese national forces and the M23 rebel group, which is backed by the Tutsi-dominated government of Kagame in neighboring Rwanda. The latter's claim that Kinshasa has failed to honor a peace agreement reached more than 10 years ago to disband the M23 militia and incorporate its fighters into the Congolese army is only half of the story, since the M23 has proven to have been a potent force that previously occupied Goma, the key eastern Congolese city. Aid organizations and the UN have warned against further escalations and the displacement of larger numbers of civilians within Congo's borders, as their resources are already stretched.

Congo's eastern neighbors, particularly Rwanda and Uganda, have a long history of military intervention inside the country. These two countries invaded parts of eastern Congo in 1996 and again in 1998, claiming they were defending themselves against local militias that were allegedly mounting cross-border attacks.

The second of those wars ended after a peace treaty was signed in 2003. But in the years since, Congo's government, UN investigators and independent experts have accused Rwanda and Uganda of supporting militias inside Congo, including the M23. They say this support has been aimed at maintaining geopolitical influence and profiting from the extraction of the area's mineral riches. Both countries have repeatedly denied those charges.

The number of internally displaced persons worldwide has crossed the 62 million mark, according to the UN. Most of these people were displaced as a result of conflicts in countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and Congo. Congo's conflict is not unique, as its civilian population finds itself trapped in perpetual cycles of violence, conflicts and dispossession, with the international rule of law rarely visiting the edges of this vast nation. Congo is likely to continue as the focus of the appetites of nonstate and state actors because of its natural resources, which are increasingly in short supply. Many observers of the country have long held the view that, where displacement is recorded in the east, mining operations are likely to spring up afterward.

In a leaderless world and amid the increasingly conflictive nature of the relationships between the key superpowers, the broken but still viable international rule of law, as represented by the work of international organizations, serves as a sticking plaster to treat gushing wounds. Unified African and international efforts are needed to deal with the symptoms. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza - and the inability of diplomacy to bring them to an end - show how polarized our world has become and how poorly observed the tenets and values of international laws are. This will only increase the number of internally and externally displaced people in Congo, Africa and beyond.

What we must do now about the Rwanda plan

Priti Patel

WE are all frustrated, angry and disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision to rule out sending asylum seekers who enter the UK illegally to Rwanda to have their claims considered there. Some are feeling confused. People are understandably looking for quick solutions and debates have been sparked about changing laws and conventions to force this arrangement through. With the weight of public opinion firmly on the side of the Rwanda plan, the British people expect action from their Government.

In fact, while the public are angry, the only people celebrating the Supreme Court's judgment are the Labour Party, Left-wing activists and the vocal minority who oppose robust border controls. And, of course, the evil people smuggling gangs,

who show contempt for human life and who arrange the illegal small boat crossings that let thousands into our country, will be cheering this decision. When I negotiated the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda, I knew it would be challenged through the courts and face opposition from the liberal elite. Despite those challenges, I still pressed ahead as it is a necessary and vital measure to break the business model of the people smugglers and reduce illegal migration through small boats.

This partnership was one of many measures I put in place, and which have contributed to the reduction seen in crossings this year. Investment at the border, tougher laws on people smuggling and international cooperation tackling the criminal gangs are yielding benefits but the partnership is a key

measure to deter illegal migration which is why it must succeed. It is also a partnership that has formed a blueprint that other countries in Europe are following to tackle the unprecedented pressures caused by illegal migration and concerns over the asylum system being abused.

This is therefore a legal case we should have won and questions will be raised over how ministers prepared to fight the case and respond to the evidence critical of the partnership. The Home Office should have been able to repeal and address all the claims against it. But despite the disappointing outcome, there is still much in the decision that supports the arrangements with Rwanda and clues to how we can ensure these plans are lawfully implemented. The Supreme Court, like the Court of Appeal and High

Court beforehand, confirmed that it was lawful to have asylum claims processed in a safe third country.

It also confirmed that the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda was entered into in good faith, as were the assurances provided about the treatment of asylum seekers who are relocated to Rwanda. The only ground that the Supreme Court ruled against the Government on was the issue of refoulement - where the Court felt that there was a potential risk that an asylum seeker in Rwanda may be sent back to the country of their nationality where they could be at risk and around how claims would be processed.

It was disappointing to see the Court reach this conclusion when a great amount of work had been

put into developing the partnership, including conditions around refoulement and the treatment of asylum seekers in Rwanda. Firm guarantees were put in place in writing so I share the anger and frustration we all feel with this judgement. But with this legal challenge lost, we must now focus calmly and strategically on finding the solutions to make this policy operational. This will require the Government taking multiple actions and being prepared to dig in for further legal battles. The Prime Minister's plans for a treaty with Rwanda to add legal weight to the partnership and bring in emergency legislation are welcome.

But they may prove to be harder and longer to implement than suggested. Both those options risk being bogged down in Parliament, especially in the House of Lords, and again in the courts. Claims

of a quick solution are sometimes easier said than done, but will have my support in being pursued.

As well as pursuing these measures, the Prime Minister must also work closely with the Rwandan government to see what operational changes can be made within the existing partnership to address the Court's concerns. It may be possible to tighten up the current arrangements to deliver the policy without relying on new laws and treaties so this option must be fully explored. Rwanda is committed to this partnership and I know they will do all they can to make it succeed.

By working on all options to overcome the legal barriers raised, we can get the Rwanda partnership operational, deter illegal migration and deliver the strong border controls the public expect from a Conservative Government.

The Telegraph

Can the world order survive Israel’s war on Gaza?

Osama Al-Sharif

WHAT will our region and indeed the world look like once Israel concludes its war in Gaza? The statistics coming out of the beleaguered, narrow strip of land that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians - 70 percent of whom are refugees from previous wars - are staggering. In the first 36 days of the Israeli onslaught, under the guise of self-defense, more than 11,000 people were killed, with thousands more missing under the rubble, and 24,000 were injured.

Some 4,500 children have been killed, 40 percent of homes and towers have been destroyed or damaged and 30,000 tons of explosives have been dumped on what has become an unlivable wasteland. At least 50 journalists are dead - compared to the 63 who were killed in the entire 20 years of war in Vietnam. The list of unimaginable atrocities goes on and on. More than 1 million Gazans have been displaced. There is no water, food, medicine or fuel and no safe zone. This is truly a Palestinian holocaust.

Israel has rebuffed calls for a ceasefire and has failed to deliver humanitarian pauses to allow sufficient aid to reach Gaza. According to Israeli officials, international pressure on the country to stop the war will increase over the next two to three weeks. Tens of millions of people around the world have come out to call for an end to the war. Western officials refuse to listen.

In the eyes of many, this is no longer a war to destroy militant group Hamas, but a war of extermination. The appeals of UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Human Rights Watch and other nongovernmental organizations have been trashed. Israel is not only bent on revenge for the

atrocities of Oct. 7, but it also wants to implement a game-changing strategy that aims at bringing down the very foundations of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The goal is to go back to the 1948 Nakba and start again from there.

The far-right partners of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talk publicly about the need to reoccupy the Gaza Strip, forcibly transfer its inhabitants and make way for new Jewish settlements. They also say that what is happening in Gaza is a prototype of what will happen in the West Bank. Israeli analysts say Netanyahu is too weak to rein in his radical coalition partners. The religious Zionism movement is black-mailing Netanyahu as he tries to salvage his political career and establish his legacy. Arab leaders have been explicit about the war crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing being perpetrated by the invading Israeli army. They have also bluntly pointed to the double standards the West uses when applying international law. The US has hindered attempts by the UN Security Council to adopt a ceasefire resolution; not that Israel, with its dismal track record at the UN, would honor it anyway.

So, in reality, no one knows how the Gaza war will end. But it will at some point. Then, the international community will get a true look at what the Israeli war machine has done. The dead will be in the tens of thousands and the number of maimed and injured will be appalling. The level of destruction will resemble the post-Second World War German and Japanese cities. The humanitarian catastrophe will become a global nightmare for many years to come. Netanyahu and his partners are using the Oct. 7

attack by Hamas as a blank check to carry out a war of annihilation. There is no proportionality, restraint or adherence to international humanitarian law and the rules of war. For Israel's political establishment, all Gazans are complicit, including civilians. When Netanyahu resorts to uttering Talmudic verses that can only be interpreted as calls for genocide, one gets a sense of what his soldiers are doing. When US politicians say that this is a religious war, one can only feel a mixture of disgust and fear about what Israel and its fanatical supporters are willing to allow to happen to hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.

And we have seen more than our stomachs can take. So, the question arises: What will the day after look like? The war on Gaza has tested the 30-plus-year-old "new world order" that George H.W. Bush announced following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Back then, the US emerged as the world's sole superpower and it promised something different from the years of the Cold War. But under its rule, the world has suffered. The US launched two wars against Arab Muslim countries - mostly under false pretenses. It killed hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians and made the Middle East less secure and more polarized. Its policies unleashed sectarian and ethnic wars, emboldened extremists and left the region deeply scarred and divided. Its legacy in the region can only be described as toxic.

The miasma of despair has hounded the Palestinians for decades. The US allowed Netanyahu to pursue his destructive scheme of killing the last remaining hope: the two-state solution. The

impunity given to Netanyahu has become a curse not only for the Palestinians but for Israelis as well. The region and the world cannot continue with business as usual following the war on Gaza and its egregious outcome. The West says that, once the war is over, it will push for a two-state solution and a state for the Palestinians. This is a false and vacuous mea culpa and those who say this are either disingenuous or naive, or both. The Israeli political clique is vehemently and ideologically against such a proposal. The two-state option is long gone.

The rules-based order - the one preached by the West for so long - is in dire trouble.

It is sad that both China and Russia have contented themselves with paying lip service to the Palestinian ordeal when they could have done much more. We are yet to see Russian and Chinese relief convoys being sent to help Gazans. Both countries are missing a rare opportunity to confront the Western pro-Israel narrative and the West's bias in favor of Israel by supporting Arab and Muslim positions, as stated at Saturday's summit in Riyadh, as well as appealing to millions in the West who are anti-war and anti-genocide. The war on Gaza has become a rallying call against everything that is unjust; from globalism to the corrupt and Zionist-dominated Western political elite. Such popular momentum should not be ignored or sidelined. It should evolve into a mass call for a new world order, in which the law and culpability are implemented for all. The alternative looks frightening: a world where no one adheres to the law because of the Israeli precedent and long-time impunity. Such a scenario must never be allowed to happen.

Canada is a wholly owned subsidiary of Netanyahu and company

Andrew Mitrovica

SAVE for humane Ireland and Scotland, most Western diplomatic corps, including the banal dilettantes who staff Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa and beyond, are wholly owned subsidiaries of Benjamin Netanyahu and racist company. In the four weeks since the Israeli prime minister began the wholesale destruction of Gaza, Canada's emissaries - big and small - have been preoccupied with Israel's interests at the expense of Canadians they purport to serve at home and abroad.

Worse, several furtive and suddenly mute "media relations" hirelings have refused to answer detailed questions about whether Canada agreed to haul an untold number of Israeli reservists back to Israel on Canadian military aircraft, so they could, presumably, join in the genocide of Palestinians as well as the horror being endured by hundreds of besieged Canadians, who, since October 7, have tried to escape the murderous madness engulfing Gaza. Canada's glaring complicity with an apartheid state committing crimes against humanity rather than attending to the dire circumstances of Palestinians - including Canadians of Palestinian descent, such as Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish - rests with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who in a predictable, performative act of empty "solidarity" met recently with Palestinian Canadians in Toronto while his rank diplomats were gladly doing Israel's bidding. What a stain and disgrace. More than a week ago, I provided Trudeau's charges with a series of questions concerning the likelihood that - apart from his administration's rhetorical backing of Israel's killing machine - Canada had, at taxpayer's expense, flown Israeli soldiers (reservists) to Tel Aviv as a "courtesy" to Netanyahu and racist company. Before I decipher how Trudeau's equally cynical minions responded to my queries, it is instructive to set out the broader context, which reveals Canada's absolute subservience to Israel's needs and genocidal designs. My interest was piqued after I watched an October 13 press conference featuring two Canadian diplomats and a senior military officer in which the latter acknowledged that Canada had agreed to a "request from the state of Israel through Global Affairs Canada" to "action" the return of as many as 30 Israeli citizens from Athens to Tel Aviv on two flights on Canadian military planes. My interest was further piqued when the vice admiral was asked if the returning Israelis were "reservists". This was his curious reply: "I don't have the details, information on who they were. It was a request from the state of Israel which we got through Global Affairs Canada. We certainly actioned that." Of course, obedient Canada "actioned that". Still, in other words, the vice admiral said: Sure, our special Israeli passengers may or may not have been soldiers, but it wasn't our call. We just did what we were told to do because Israel told Global Affairs Canada what it wanted it to do and tout de suite. At the same time, much of Canada's prostrate media published glowing profiles of Israeli Canadian reservists already in Israel or itching to "report for duty in the Israeli military" and "go out and fight".

The propriety, let alone the legality, of Canadians suiting swiftly up with a foreign government's military potentially to maim or kill Canadians in occupied Gaza and the West Bank was never raised or considered by giddy reporters and editors blinded, as always, by their unequivocal approval of Israel's "right to defend itself" no matter the thorny ethical, moral or legal consequences. It's called the "establishment press" for good and ample reason. On merry cue, they rushed to anoint a pretend socialist turned the Liberal Party's in-house Jeeves - Canadian UN envoy, Bob Rae - a hero for delivering a historically illiterate screed blaming Iran and its proxies for the destruction of Gaza that could well have been written, verbatim, by his dear, grateful friends in the Israeli delegation.

Given his grovelling quest for honorary Israeli citizenship, Rae would, no doubt, have little if any trouble with his busy colleagues at Global Affairs Canada shouting, "Aye, aye, sir!" when Israel came calling for help to get its "citizens" home before they shepherded to safety traumatised Canadians stranded in the shattered remains of the dystopian hell known as Gaza. So did Canada enable Israeli soldiers (reservists) to join the "war" on Gaza? Here is the short, circumspect written reply I received four days later from Global Affairs Canada spokesperson Pierre Cuguen: "At the request of Israel, assisted departure flights between Tel Aviv and Athens transported 36 Israeli nationals back to Israel, including a surgeon and diplomats. ... None were explicitly reservists or military personnel." Please note Cuguen's use of the weasel word: "explicitly", which is nowhere near a firm denial despite another Global Affairs spokesperson telling me: "I'm sure we do know who they [the Israelis] are."

duty and responsibility as "public servants" and sincerely address a grave subject of serious concern to scores of Palestinian Canadians and their many allies. I attempted to contact Anabel Lindblad, director of media relations and issues management at Global Affairs Canada, several times to no avail. Lindblad - like the department, foreign minister and prime minister she works for - prefers, apparently, to satisfy requests from Netanyahu's rancid regime over entertaining questions posed on behalf of devastated Palestinian Canadians. What a stain and disgrace. One of the urgent questions Lindblad left, shamefully, unanswered was whether Global Affairs Canada was prepared to extend to Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish - a world-renowned humanitarian and Palestinian Canadian - the same courtesy and arrange for his safe travel to Gaza to comfort his bruised and bloodied 65-year-old sister, Yousra, and his surviving family members - 21 of whom were erased last week by Israel when it attacked the Jabalia refugee camp. This is not the first time Abuelaish has had to grieve the shocking loss of loved ones - victims all of Israeli

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happily, they did not tell. I asked Global Affairs Canada to confirm or deny that it had, in effect, adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards repatriating Israeli "reservists". No answer.

There was a slew of other prickly questions that Global Affairs Canada refused to answer, responses that would shed fulsome and necessary light on this outrageous business. What agency or department of the Israeli government made the request? No answer. Who was the original request directed to at Global Affairs Canada? No answer. When was the request made? No answer. What was the precise nature of the Israeli request? No answer. Who at Global Affairs Canada agreed to the Israeli request? No answer. Why did the government of Canada - through Global Affairs Canada - agree to Israel's request to fly its citizens back to Tel Aviv? No answer. How much did it cost to repatriate dozens of Israeli citizens? No answer. Why was it Canada's, and not Israel's, responsibility to repatriate its "citizens"? No answer. How many other times since early October has Ottawa received and agreed to requests from Israel to repatriate its "citizens" at Canadian taxpayers' expense? No answer. If so, how many other Israeli "citizens" have been repatriated to Israel via Canadian military aircraft? No answer. Who were those Israelis - reservists or not? No answer. If Canada has repatriated Israeli reservists to Israel using Canadian resources, why did the Canadian government - through Global Affairs Canada - agree and believe that was the right thing to do? No answer. In an effort to get Canada's diplomats to fulfil their

shelling. In 2009, three of his daughters and a niece were decapitated when two tank shells obliterated his home in Gaza.

Abuelaish discovered that his beloved and accomplished nieces and nephews and other relatives had been killed instantly or suffocated to death when a rescuer answered his sister's cell phone and described futile attempts to pull them from the rubble of a home where they had gathered together to pray for salvation and wait for the inevitable. "I will return when there is a ceasefire because I must," Abuelaish told me in an interview. "I need to be with my family in Gaza because every Palestinian is my family." Abuelaish was not among the Palestinian Canadians whom Trudeau chose to hear from in Toronto late last month in one of those choreographed "listening" sessions, meant, I suspect, to convey the hollow impression that their genocide-subsidising country cares about the fates of Palestinians in Canada and Gaza - while opposing an immediate ceasefire. Abuelaish remembers, as I do, when Trudeau lied to him and Canadians about supporting an initiative called Heal 100 Kids to get 100 Palestinian children - injured in body and mind - to Canada, where doctors, nurses and hospitals had volunteered to repair innocents who required repairing. Abuelaish has, instead, accepted an invitation from a committee of the Belgian Federal Parliament to appear this week to share his sorrow-saturated thoughts about the unfolding genocide and how to stop it. Meanwhile, Trudeau and his diplomats will continue to mollify, shield and defend Netanyahu and racist company. What a stain and disgrace.

Welcome to ‘dumb and dumber’ Congress

IN a Senate hearing Tuesday, Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma rose to challenge Sean O'Brien, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to a "stand your butt up" stand-off. On the House side, House Oversight Chairman Rep. James Comer called his Democratic colleague Rep. Jared Moskowitz of Florida a "liar" and a "smurf," while Moskowitz suggested Comer needed a "mental health day."

GOP Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene tweeted emojis of basketballs and baseballs to suggest what her Republican colleague, Rep. Darrell Issa, um, does not have (I think you get the picture).

And Tennessee Republican Rep. Tim Burchett accused former Speaker Kevin McCarthy of elbowing him with a "clean kidney shot," a charge McCarthy denies.

These events - all of which happened before lunch was over - are more and more typical of daily life in Congress. Apologies won't be forthcoming, as they could be portrayed as showing weakness. But whether silly or serious, these actions demonstrate why we've seen a dramatic uptick in another recent congressional trend: retirements.

Since last week's elections, more than half a dozen members of Congress and one senator announced their retirement. Some of this is natural. Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia headed for the exit, while Democratic Rep. Abigail Spanberger of Virginia announced her run for governor in 2025 in lieu of seeking reelection. Both faced exceedingly difficult paths to reelection. But more and more, we are seeing members, fed up with congressional shenanigans, pull the plug and

point the finger at their colleagues.

"Congress is not the institution that I went to 19 years ago. It's a very different place today. We're spending more time doing less and the American people aren't being served," New York Democratic Rep. Brian Higgins said earlier this week after announcing he's stepping down next February. "There was a time where leadership could discern what was serious and what was not. Unfortunately, those days are over." His Republican colleague Rep. Debbie Lesko of Arizona announced last month she won't seek reelection, saying, "Right now, Washington, DC is broken; it is hard to get anything done." Republican Rep. Victoria Spartz of Indiana, who initially announced her retirement a mere 25 months after taking office, last month released a statement teasing immediate retirement if no debt commission were formed by year-end, saying, "I will not continue sacrificing my children for this circus with a complete absence of leadership, vision, and spine," adding, "I cannot save this Republic alone."

Retirements happen in Congress usually for one of three reasons - a member thinks, after a long career, it's time; they're running for a higher office and/or announcing a retirement to avoid losing in what looks to be a wave year unfavorable to their party. Often these retirement announcements happen after Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays, when members have had time with their family (and away from Washington). This cycle, no electoral "wave" appears on the horizon to scare a large block of members from their seats like animals scurrying before an earthquake. No, their message is clear. More

Douglas Heye

members of Congress are simply saying, "Take this job and shove it."

The actions of the House of recent weeks - three weeks of stalled legislating because of multiple rounds trying to replace a deposed speaker surely play a role. The House's 10 consecutive weeks in session - which ended Wednesday in a whimper as a procedural vote to advance an appropriations bill failed and members were sent home - have surely raised political temperatures and tempers. But the reality is that Congress has become a terrible workplace, and members and staff are feeling those effects. As a former House leadership staffer, I remember well walking out of my office in the Capitol as fireworks went off at midnight and December 31, 2012, became January 1, 2013. We were trying, unsuccessfully, to pass an extension of the Bush tax cuts, with Republican infighting ensuring our own defeat. "I gotta get outta here," I sighed to myself.

Since then, it's only gotten worse, and every step of the way, the word "fight" was a rallying cry. We fought an impossible fight to end Obamacare in 2013, which led to that year's government shutdown and more losing by infighting. Then came Donald Trump, the ultimate "fighter," regardless of results. The Covid-19 pandemic, which further divided Congress. And the January 6 attack on the US Capitol. It's exhausting to think about, much less live, as a member of Congress. And when you talk to congressional members and staff, they're likely to be exhausted. And miserable.

Add to that a 15-round speaker vote in January (which nearly had its own fistfight) and all legislative activity put on hold for a political

vanity effort to depose a speaker for the first time in our nation's history for the unforgivable act of trying to keep the government open.

Commenting Tuesday on the day's events, Rep. and former Speaker Pro Tempore Patrick McHenry said, "There are dumb days on Capitol Hill and there are dumber days on Capitol Hill. And this is one of the dumbest I've seen in quite a long time." Is it any surprise members want to leave?

Worse? Their replacements. Recruiting quality candidates has become harder. People running to become famous as troublemakers are more likely to win. It's a bipartisan problem, but a much more acute one for Republicans. There's a political challenge here. It's massively easier to identify problems than solutions. And proposed solutions - changing our political and media incentive structure so new members do not become celebrities while hardworking members remain obscure (have you ever seen Florida Rep. Gus Bilirakis on TV?), improving how district lines are drawn and candidates chosen and turning state and local parties away from becoming baskets of extremism - seem unattainable. Far from being attacked, bipartisan answers, when possible, should be celebrated. For now, hopefully, there is a respite from the insanity. The House passed a stopgap bill Tuesday to keep the government open. The Senate will next need to approve the measure. Members can go home and temperatures can come down. Speaker Mike Johnson provided members of the Republican conference with wise counsel: "You have to be wise about choosing the fights." But don't be surprised if we see more congressional retirements in coming weeks.

CNN

No reason to be rivals

Fu Cong

THE world is undergoing profound changes and entering a new period of turbulence and transformation. Against this backdrop, China and the European Union are two major forces upholding world peace, two major markets promoting common development, and two major civilizations advancing human progress. This year marks the 48th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the EU, as well as the 20th anniversary of our comprehensive strategic partnership. We have reaped fruitful outcomes through exchanges in the past.

Since arriving in Brussels last December, I have talked to friends from various sectors and felt their enthusiasm for strengthening cooperation with China. And our relations have maintained the sound momentum of growth since the end of last year, which is something that both sides must cherish. In addition, the two sides held high-level dialogues on environment and climate, digital affairs, economy and trade, and the strategic dialogue, as well as dialogues on human rights, fisheries, ocean governance and energy. We also plan to hold the China-EU Summit in Beijing by the end of this year, which will provide strong political guidance for and inject new impetus into our relationship.

However, there are some challenges. In 2019, the EU designated China as a partner, competitor and systemic rival. And recently, the rivalry aspect seems to be more prominent in the eyes of some European politicians. From China's perspective, we disagree with this triple definition. We believe we are more partners than rivals. Of course,

economic competition is normal, yet attempts to decouple, even in the name of de-risking, serve no one's interests. China and the EU are far away from each other geographically. There is no fundamental conflict of interest. Instead, we stand to benefit from each other's development. In our view, we can cooperate and compete, but there is no reason to be rivals.

We have seen some negative developments that we are quite concerned about. In June this year, the EU listed Huawei and ZTE as high-risk vendors without giving any concrete evidence or going through any proper procedures. It recently initiated an anti-subsidy investigation into electric vehicles from China. And there are also reports that it may launch anti-subsidy probes into Chinese wind turbines, photovoltaic components and steel and aluminum industries.

We do hope that this is not a prelude to a trade war against China. We know that the EU wants to strengthen resilience, but the issue of dependency should be viewed objectively, and not exaggerated. Interdependence is a product of globalization and should be welcomed. What we really need is leveling upward in our relations, which is the right way to reduce risks.

On people-to-people dimension, we also face growing obstacles, as being tough on China now seems to become a politically correct thing to do. People-to-people exchanges are an important pillar of China-EU relations. So it is only natural for us to further our cooperation, both for the development of China and the EU and for the sake of the world, so that it does not fall into different blocs or

become fragmented. Actually, how the world will look like tomorrow will to a large extent depend on the choices that China and the EU make today. So looking forward, we need to first rebuild mutual trust and reduce mutual suspicion. With very different historical and cultural traditions, political systems and stages of development, it is nothing abnormal that we see things differently. The EU advocates unity in diversity while we believe in harmony without uniformity. This shows that we both respect and embrace differences. As a matter of fact, the common interests between China and the EU far outweigh differences. Therefore, we must not allow our differences to define our relations, or allow differences in one area to spill over into other areas. An important part of my job here is to improve the political atmosphere. It's my sincere hope that all of us can work together to enhance mutual political trust between the two sides.

Second, we need to pursue openness rather than restrictions. Despite a slowing world economy, China-EU trade hit another record high of \$847.3 billion last year, with a year-on-year increase of 2.4 percent. We are each other's second-biggest trading partners. The two sides trade goods worth nearly \$100 million every hour. During the 10th High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue held last month, we reached consensus or made progress on macroeconomic policy coordination, industrial and supply chain cooperation, the improvement of the business environment, World Trade Organization reform, financial sector openness and regulatory cooperation. The China-



RAWALPINDI: People busy in selecting second hand clothes from a vendor at Raja Bazaar.

Weekly inflation goes up by 9.95 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 9.95 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on November 16, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 309.09 points as compared to 281.12 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 41.90 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essen-

tial items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the low-est consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 6.63 percent and went up to 308.35 points from last week's 289.19 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 10.34 percent, 12.80 percent, 10.50 percent and 8.07 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 25 (49.02 percent) items increased, 13 (25.49 percent) items decreased and 13 (25.49 percent) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included electricity

charges (16.06 percent), tomatoes (11.16 percent), sugar (4.24 percent), diesel (2.15 percent), onions (1.49 percent), vegetable ghee 1 kg (1.39 percent), petrol (0.73 percent), cooking oil 5 litre (0.65 percent), rice irri-6/9 (0.42 percent), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.28 percent) and gur (0.27 percent).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (wow) basis, included gas (480.00 percent), tea packet (8.88 percent), pulse masoor (5.28 percent), chicken (3.99 percent), garlic (3.09 percent), salt powdered (2.93 percent), wheat flour (2.64 percent), tea prepared (2.07 percent), LPG (2.03 percent), potatoes (2.00 percent), and shirting (1.10 percent).

On a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the items that witnessed decrease in prices included tomatoes (14.02 percent), mustard oil (3.95 percent), vegetable ghee 1 kg (2.05 percent) and pulse gram (0.49 percent). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on YoY basis included gas charges for q1 (1108.59 percent), cigarettes (94.46 percent), wheat flour (86.41 percent), chilies powdered (81.74 percent), rice basmati broken (76.70 percent), garlic (63.56 percent), rice irri-6/9 (61.91 percent), gents sponge chappal (58.05 percent), tea packet (54.57 percent), gents sandal (53.37 percent), gur (51.01 percent), sugar (49.96 percent) and salt powder (46.37 percent).

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Lucky River and Maritime Nordic scheduled to load/offload Rice and Palm oil, berthed at Multipurpose Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile, five more ships to load/offload Rice, Cement, Wheat, LNG and Gas oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of five ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, a bulk cargo carrier after loading 31,500 tonnes of cement left the port on Friday. The cargo throughput of 56,355 tonnes, comprising 14,122 tonnes of import cargo and 42,233 tonnes of export cargo, was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

Gold rates up by Rs2,200 to Rs 216,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.2,200 and was sold at Rs 216,500 on Friday as compared to its sale at Rs 214,300 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,886 to Rs 185,614 from Rs 183,728 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 170,146 from Rs 168,417, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver witnessed no change in prices were were sold at Rs.2,550 and 2,186.21 respectively.

1,460 sugarcane growers trained against crop diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a strategic move to bolster the agricultural sector, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research has successfully conducted training sessions for 1,460 sugarcane growers across key crop-producing regions in order to enhance the per-acre output of the crop as well as to boost the overall farm income.

The farmers were provided training against sugarcane diseases and pest control under the crop enhancement project of the 'Prime Minister Agriculture Emergency Program' to implement advanced agricultural practices, ensuring a more efficient and productive cultivation process, told an official of the

Ministry on Friday.

By equipping growers with the latest techniques and insights, the Ministry aims to empower them to maximize their yields and contribute to the economic prosperity of the agricultural community, he added.

He informed that the crop productivity enhancement project was launched in 2019 as the government has allocated over Rs4.93 billion out of the total share of the federal government was comprised of Rs1004 million, the provincial governments' Rs 2.889 billion, while farmers and service providers have to contribute Rs1,044 million, respectively.

Under the projects, he said that 61 surveys for

insect pests, diseases, and nutrient disorders diagnosis were also conducted, he said adding that measures were also taken to enhance the capacity of existing biological pest control labs in the public and private sectors. Meanwhile, the DNA sequencing-based identification conducted of sugarcane hybrids and unveiled of ancestry relationship of 58 varieties, 35 trials of balanced nutrition of sugarcane were also conducted under the project to enhance crop output.

He informed that due to the efforts made under the project, the overall yield increased by 5.7 tons per hectare while only in Punjab it grew by 7.9 tons per hectare.

Stocks fall, oil slides as rally shows sign of fatigue

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): World stock markets mostly fell Thursday as investors took a breather after a recent rally following better-than-expected US inflation figures.

Slowing US inflation lit a fire under global equities this week, cementing traders' views that the Federal Reserve would no longer need to hike interest rates and even fueling talk of cuts next year.

Wall Street finished mixed after a meandering day, with the Dow weighed down by big drops in retailer Walmart and technology titan Cisco Systems.

London lost one percent

and Paris 0.6 percent although Frankfurt bucked the trend with a small gain.

Oil prices fell more than four percent meanwhile on concern about demand.

"The bounce in stocks has slowed dramatically, though the reasons to buy keep coming through," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at online trading platform IG.

"First it was CPI, then retail sales and PPI, and now comes a fresh fall in oil prices and yields, the two chief bugbears of stocks in recent months."

Company results also weighed on markets, with shares in Walmart tumbling 8.1 percent after the retail

giant narrowly lifted its full-year forecast but gave a cautious outlook on consumer spending.

Tech firm Cisco Systems slumped nearly 10 percent as it projected weaker-than-expected sales in the upcoming quarter.

Shares in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba also plummeted in New York after it said it would cancel the spinoff of its cloud computing arm because of US curbs on chip exports.

In London, Burberry shares tumbled more than nine percent after the British luxury fashion house warned over future profits as global demand for high-end clothing weakens.

Governor SBP unveils 5 year strategic plan 'SBP Vision 2028'

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Mr. Jameel Ahmad, launched SBP's strategic plan, SBP Vision 2028, for the period 2023-2028 in a ceremony held today at SBP Karachi, which was attended by the senior management of the Bank. SBP Vision 2028, the first plan after amendments in the SBP Act, highlights the central bank's vision, mission and key goals to be pursued over the next five

years. The strategic plan has been developed through a consultative and inclusive process with key stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor SBP highlighted that SBP Vision 2028 represents SBP's commitment to foster price and financial stability and to contribute in a sustainable economic development of the country. Mr. Ahmad added that evolving risks and challenges to the economy and financial stability, including climate change,

rapid digital innovations and disruptions, and growing cyber security threats, have also been kept in perspective while developing the plan.

Governor SBP elaborated that the SBP Vision 2028, revolves around six strategic goals that include maintaining inflation within the medium-term target range, enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, fairness and stability of the financial system, promoting inclusive and sustainable access to financial services, transforming to a Shariah-com-

pliant banking system, building an innovative and inclusive digital financial services ecosystem, and transforming SBP into a high-tech, people-centric organization. These strategic goals are built to cover five cross-cutting themes, including: strategic communication, climate change, technological innovation, diversity and inclusion, and productivity and competitiveness.

SBP Vision 2028 can be accessed at SBP website at: <https://www.sbp.org.pk/spd/Strategic.pdf>

FBR establishes District Tax Offices all across the country

F.P. Report

LAHORE: As part of restructuring measures, Federal Board of Revenue has established 145 District Tax Offices which will focus on bringing 1.5 to 2 million new taxpayers into the tax net till June, 2024. The Prime Minister has stressed the importance of revenue and increasing the existing number of tax filers during recent meetings.

Federal Board of Revenue today notified the establishment of these offices, a new initiative that will help broadening the tax base and ultimately raising tax-to-GDP ratio to a desired level. These offices

would be headed by District Tax Officers entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing Income Tax Returns from non-filers and stop filers.

Establishment of these offices heralds a new chapter that would expand tax net to fill a critical tax gap on the path to bring all potential taxpayers into the tax net. These new offices would be headed by dedicated Inland Revenue Officers in BS-17/18 which would obtain and utilize third party data acquired from multiple departments and agencies that hold critical information regarding investment in assets and incurring of huge expendi-

tures by potential taxpayers who till now have managed to escape and stay away from the taxation system including registration and filing of tax returns.

One of the tools to be utilized for this purpose would be invoking recently introduced section 114B in the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 which authorizes the department to disconnect utility connections including electricity and gas connections and blocking of mobile sims, if return is not filed in response to notices issued.

Federal Government is committed to utilize all measures and provide assistance to FBR. A new Documentation Law is also

being introduced to obligate various agencies / departments to provide data to Federal Board of Revenue through automated common transmission system. Collaboration and assistance from National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has also been sought. Chairman NADRA has assured Federal Board of Revenue for its assistance for widening of tax base through Data Integration.

The initiative would not only strengthen FBR capacity to enforce tax laws but will also facilitate taxpayers in filing tax returns by establishing dedicated offices.

Planning Minister chairs BoD meeting of P3A

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed held on Friday chaired the 32nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A).

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Ministry Awaiz Manzur Sumra and private members of the board, a news release said.

The meeting agenda,

meticulously curated to address crucial matters concerning sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, was deliberated upon with precision and dedication.

The discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, reflecting the comprehensive approach adopted by the P3A in fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors for national development. Key discussions centered on fortifying the sustainable PPP regime for driving economic growth. The board further focused on refining

project preparation, appraisal, and development guidelines to align with international standards, emphasizing transparency and efficiency. The Environmental and Social Management Systems were highlighted as integral to PPP projects for upholding sustainability and social responsibility. The board addressed internal organizational matters to streamline processes, optimizing P3A's functioning and reinforcing its role in promoting public-private collaboration.

The Planning Minister

appreciated CEO of P3A Malik Ahmad Khan and his team for working with dedication.

SSP Traffic assures to address traffic issues in business areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday urged for forming citizen-police committee in order to control the traffic issues in the Capital as well as curb increasing road accidents and protecting precious human lives.

Demand to this effect was made during the visit of SSP Traffic Police Islamabad Muhammad Sabir Virk to ICCI, said a press release.

The SSP Traffic along with SP Chaudhry Abid and DSP Tariq Mehmood visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed vari-

ous options with the business community to control the traffic issues in the Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President ICCI said that traffic accidents are increasing, so a police-citizen committee should be formed to work together to address this issue.

He said that appropriate measures should be taken to tackle the issues of over-speeding and violation of traffic rules. Minor children should be banned from driving, seat belts should be strictly enforced, one-wheeling and other violations of traffic rules should be curbed, which

will reduce accidents and improve the traffic system in the city, he added.

The President ICCI said that Islamabad was expanding rapidly and the current traffic police force was proving insufficient and urged IG Police Islamabad to increase the strength of traffic police to control the traffic issues in business areas and other busy places. He highlighted the need of improving the traffic system at the entrances of Islamabad like Rawat, Tarnol, Bara Kahu as the business hubs located in these areas are facing the worst traffic problems.

COURT NOTICE
In the court of Junaid Akbar Marwat Assistant commissioner/Assistant collector Grade-I tehsil kabal Swat. Case No.34/AC/kabal. Institution 30/10/2023. Next Hearing date 21/11/2023. Abdul Hameed khan etc. Notice to respondents 2) Kamal Akhtar 3) Naem Akhtar 4) Rahim Akhtar 6) Amir zeb ali khan 7) yousaf Ali khan son's Badi al zaman khan r/o laura Daolai (presently) America/ new jersy fetterson 10) Gul Naz bibi d/o Badi al zaman khan laura daolai (presently) England 11) Noor Shida d/o Badi al zaman khan r/o laura Daolai (presently) America new Jersey o fetterson (Subject. Application for personal partition property under the land Revenue Act 1967) Whereas the above named cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 21/11/2023. at 9.00 am Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. Seal of the court.
COURT NOTICE
IN the Court of Salma Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar/Case No.143/1. Institution. 19/4/2023 Date of hearing. 30/11/2023. Mst Zaibunisa VS Nazer Ahmed etc.. Notice to no 4/3. Suhail s/o Shamsad resident of Topai tehsel Chaghorzai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 30/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

In the Court of Jehangir Khan Judge Banking Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 111/1 Next Date 11-12-2023 Suit for recovery of Rs. 6,30,000/- NBP Saddar Road Branch Peshawar Vs Ms/Hasnain Steel. Notice Versus: 1)Ms/Hasnain Steel Through Proprietor Naseeb gul S/o Hazrat wali R/o Lacky Dheri Road Gul Bahar No.4 Peshawar. Where is the plaintiff Banb has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.6,30,000/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial institiouts (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are herby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an exparte decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jan Gul Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Begum Jahan citizen number 1220118238840 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Yasmin Bibi (Daughter) 2.Dilshad Bibi (Daughter) 3.Shareen (Daughter)4.Hamish Gul Khan (Spouse)5.Irman Gul (Son)6.Jar Gul Khan (Son) 7.Faizan Gul Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Adil Kamal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nabeed Zahra citizen number 1720121193956 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Yasmin Bibi (Daughter) 2.Dilshad Bibi (Daughter) 3.Shareen (Daughter)4.Hamish Gul Khan (Spouse)5.Irman Gul (Son)6.Jar Gul Khan (Son) 7.Faizan Gul Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU	INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Adnan Habib with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Niaz Habib citizen number 2240121605185 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Kainat Niaz (Daughter) 2.Maryam Niaz (Daughter) 3.Ayesha Niaz (Daughter) 4.Saima Begum (Spouse) 5.Adnan Habib (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Waqas Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Taj Muhammad citizen number 1720121163683 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Falak Naz (Daughter)3.Asia Naz (Daughter)4.Samina Taj (Daughter)5.Rozina Taj (Daughter)6.Tajwar Sultan (Spouse)7.Naveed Anjum (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU	INCHARGE SPU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Faheem with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Saleem Nawaz citizen number 1220109470231 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Salma Saleem (Daughter) 2.Zahida Parveen (Spouse) 3.Kaleem Ullah (Son) 4.Muhammad Faheem (Son) 5.Muhammad Vaseem (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Faheem with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Saleem Nawaz citizen number 1220109470231 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Salma Saleem (Daughter) 2.Zahida Parveen (Spouse) 3.Kaleem Ullah (Son) 4.Muhammad Faheem (Son) 5.Muhammad Vaseem (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU	INCHARGE SPU, NADRA BANNU-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Waqar Ali Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Bushra Begum citizen number 1720120623446 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shirah Begum (Daughter) 2.Naseema Begum (Daughter) 3.Shahzad Begum (Daughter) 4.Saima Begum (Daughter) 5.Nusrat Begum (Daughter) 6.Touseef Iqbal (Son)7.Asil Iqbal (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Qaiser Shah citizen number 1430185002899 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Hashma Bibi (Daughter) 2.Shazia Naz Khalid (Daughter) 3.Shafqat Begum (Daughter) 4.Saima Begum (Daughter) 5.Nazma Begum (Daughter) 6.Naseem Naz (Daughter)7.Rohi Naz (Daughter)8.Hamid Ali (Son)9.Ishrat Ali (Son) 10.Kashif Ali (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU	INCHARGE SPU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jawad Ali Shah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mudassar Shah citizen number 1620209736147 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Syed Shazia Liqat (Daughter)2.Saira Shah (Daughter)3.Nazgul Shah (Daughter)4.Ayesha Shah (Daughter)5.Bibi Seida (Daughter)6.Noshan Shah (Daughter)7.Bibi Majida Batool (Spouse)8.Syed Ehsan Ali Shah (Son)9.Syed Zia Hussain Shah (Son)10.Syed Fawad Hussain Shah (Son)11.Jawad Ali Shah (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Farah Mansoor (Daughter) 2.Mommal Mansoor (Daughter) 3.Saima Mansoor (Daughter) 4.Shaheen (Spouse)5.Naqash Mansoor (Son)6.Daniash Mansoor (Son)7.Amir Mansoor (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA SWABI-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Adil Kamal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nabeed Zahra citizen number 1720121193956 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Yasmin Bibi (Daughter) 2.Dilshad Bibi (Daughter) 3.Shareen (Daughter)4.Hamish Gul Khan (Spouse)5.Irman Gul (Son)6.Jar Gul Khan (Son) 7.Faizan Gul Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.
INCHARGE SPU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU



Djokovic beats Hurkacz at ATP Finals, reaches semis with Sinner win

TURIN (Reuters): World number one Novak Djokovic beat ATP Finals alternate Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(1) 4-6 6-1 in their Green Group clash on Thursday and advanced to the semi-finals after Jannik Sinner edged Holger Rune 6-2 5-7 6-4 in the evening match.

Djokovic's dropped set against Hurkacz, who replaced the injured Stefanos Tsitsipas in Turin, confirmed Jannik Sinner's spot in the semi-finals - making him the first Italian in the tournament's 54-year history to reach that stage.

Home favourite Sinner also clinched top spot in the group with a 3-0 record after his big win over defending champion Djokovic 7-5 6-7(5) 7-6(2) on Tuesday.

Playing with nothing to lose, Poland's Hurkacz was a force to reckon with on serve -- firing 24 aces in the match -- but he ran out of steam in the final set as Djokovic converted break points for the first time in the contest.

Despite Djokovic notching his 15th victory over a top-10 player this year, equalling his best record since 2018, the Serbian was clearly frustrated after the win when asked why he looked upset when things went awry during the second set.

"Why was I upset? For what? I lost the set, so it's normal ... Good win, good win," he said in an interview that lasted less than 20 seconds before he walked off the court.

Break points were in short supply in an absorbing first set as Hurkacz made things difficult for world number one Djokovic when he opted to serve first and began with a series of unreturned serves in the opening games.

Hurkacz is the only player on the ATP Tour with over 1,000 aces in 2023 and the 26-year-old was aggressive with his approach on a lightning-quick surface.

But at 6-5 down, Djokovic switched gears and won 10 points in a row to take the contest into a tiebreak, setting up six set points in the blink of an eye.

Although Hurkacz saved one set point, the Serbian closed out the set to take the upper hand.

However, the Pole stormed back into the match in the second set with the crowd firmly behind the underdog while Djokovic seemed distracted, handing Hurkacz the first break when he made a double fault.

Hurkacz nearly handed back the advantage on serve when leading 4-3 with Djokovic going 40-15 up, but his powerful serve came to the rescue once again to deny the Serbian a break before he served out the set to force a decider.

However, that was all Hurkacz had to offer as his unforced error count continued to climb. Although the Pole hit more winners than Djokovic, he also made 41 unforced errors which proved to be the difference.

Sinner, enjoying the best season of his career, reached 60 victories in 2023 after a fierce battle against world number eight Rune.

The Italian needed only 32 minutes to clinch the first set courtesy of a strong serve and two early breaks, looking on course for a smooth victory.

But the feisty Dane rallied to hold his serve and take the second set by capitalising the fourth of his break chances against a diminished Sinner, who constantly grabbed his lower back in apparent pain.

Down 4-3 in the decider, Sinner saved a crucial break point thanks to an ace, then struck in the next game to break serve and seal his first win over Rune.

Wahab named chief selector of Pakistan men's cricket team

E.P. Report

LAHORE: Former Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has been appointed as the chief selector of the national men's selection committee. His first assignment will be the selection of the national men's squad for the three-match Test series against Australia from 14 December to 7 January in Australia and the five-match T20I series against New Zealand from 12 to 21 January in New Zealand.

Wahab, who made his international debut in 2008, represented Pakistan in 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is picking up 237 wickets and scoring 1200 runs across the three formats. He

was Pakistan's second-most successful bowler in World Cups, registering 35 wickets across three editions of the marquee event.

Wahab Riaz: "I am honoured to assume the role of chairperson for the national men's selection committee and I extend my gratitude to Chairman PCB Management Committee, Mr Zaka Ashraf, for entrusting me with this responsibility. The decision to involve former players in cricketing matters is commendable and I am willing to work for the betterment of Pakistan cricket.

"Heading a selection committee is a challenging task. We have a significant Australia tour coming up

that is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle and a T20I series against New Zealand that will allow us to develop a formidable unit leading up to the ICC T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies in June next year.

"I have a good rapport with the Pakistan Men's Team Director Mohammad Hafeez and we will be working closely for the success of Pakistan cricket. My primary goal would be to give weightage to the top performers in domestic cricket and announce well-rounded squads equipped with the necessary skillsets. I will always be available to the players for feedback and advice."

Australia to donate part of Palestine match fee



KUWAIT CITY (Agencies): Australia will donate part of the match fee from their World Cup qualifier against Palestine to humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

The Socceros' five-figure donation will be matched by Football Australia. Australia coach Graham Arnold said preparations for Tuesday's fixture have been "quite stressful" against the backdrop of the Israel-Gaza conflict. The match was scheduled to take place in the West Bank but officials switched the venue to Kuwait.

More than 1,200 people have been killed in a series of attacks launched by Hamas in Israel with around 240 taken

as hostages, while Gaza health authorities say more than 11,000 have been killed in the territory. Palestine played their first match since the start of the conflict on Thursday, a 0-0 draw against Lebanon in Sharjah.

The last time Palestine played at home was against Saudi Arabia in 2019. Arnold called the conflict "horrific" but stressed his team must focus on the football. "With everything that's going on in the Middle East at the moment it's been quite stressful for me and just making sure that everything [preparation] is great," he said.

"What we do have control over is our performance

and playing against Palestine and going out and getting the job done for Australia. "Obviously we are very sympathetic for everyone with what's going on, but again, it's a game of football and that brings a lot of joy to everybody."

Australia, ranked 27th in the world and fourth in Asia, sit top of their qualifying group following a 7-0 win over Bangladesh on Thursday while world number 96 Palestine are third.

Leicester defender Harry Souttar, who opened the scoring for Australia against Bangladesh, said the team must be professional in Kuwait and put aside their emotions.

"Obviously we know kind of what's going on for both sides, it's horrendous," said Souttar. "I'm not going to stand here and give a political view, but all I can say is we will be going into that focusing on purely the game and nothing else."

"We know that Palestine are going to be right up for it. We know that they're going to be playing for a lot more than just football."

Tegball Club inaugurated at Peshawar

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: November 17: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tegball Association established Tegball club at Bloomfield Hall School Peshawar on Friday, aimed to promote the game among School Children. Senior Vice President, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tegball Association, Zia-ul-Haq formally inaugurated the club in a ceremony.

School Principal, Faculty and students attended the ceremony. CEO Tameer Pvt Ltd, Mian Absar Ali (Founder Tegball Pakistan), Hayat Nazir, Kyokushinkan karate

Branch chief Pakistan, Akhtar Rasool, Vice President KP Tegball Association, Dr. Mudassir Khan, Project Director Hayatabad Heights also

attended the ceremony.

On this occasion an exhibition match was played between top ranking players Hidayat-ur Rehman and Jalal-ud-Din. Both players would represent Pakistan's team in the forthcoming World Tegball Championship 2023, at Thailand in December this year. Besides them, Shal Akbar will also represent Pakistan in the World Championship.

Founder of the Tegball in Pakistan, Mian Absar Ali will lead the squad in the World event. Tegball was declared as fastest growing sports of the World four years back, and still considered the fastest growing sports at World level.

Pakistan Tegball Federation and Tegball circles in Pakistan adopted same pattern and worked hard to develop and promote the game all over the

country, which yielding results in all province, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Zia-ul-Haq said this was the third Tegball club in the provincial metropolitan Peshawar, besides clubs in remote districts of the province to promote the game, train players and provide them with world level coaching adding "KP Tegball Association has already established two each club in Khyber and Swat, one each in Mardan, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan".

Mr. Zia announced a comprehensive equipment package for players and holding of School competition in mid of December and assured that KP Tegball Association and Tameer Group will continue supporting BHS Tegball Club to promote the game and bring forward top level players.

Pakistan coach opens up after loss against Saudi Arabia

AL AHSA (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan football team's head coach Stephen Constantine said that his team conceded goals at the wrong times, leading to them losing with a big margin of 4-0 against a dominant Saudi Arabia in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

Pakistan football team were thrashed by Saudi Arabia 4-0 during the first match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, courtesy of Saleh Al-Shahr'i two goals in the early minutes of both halves.

"It was always going to be a difficult game for us. Considering where we were two months ago, we didn't deserve to lose 4-0. I conceded at the start of both halves, which is probably the worst time to concede goals," Constantine said during the post-match press conference.



"If you face a team as good as the Saudi team, you must always be focused. We have players whose primary sport is not football. Some of them do not remember the last time they played this game."

"Saudi Arabia is one of the best teams in Asia, so I asked the players to play without fear. Our chances are not easy, especially as we face strong teams, and we must prepare well for the Tajikistan match."

This was the first time Pakistan played in the second round of FIFA World Cup qualifiers, after defeating Cambodia in the first round. Pakistan last played against Saudi Arabia in 1978 at the latter's home and suffered a 6-0 thrashing.

Besides Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, placed in Group G, will face Jordan and Tajikistan. Each team will take on the rest of the teams twice on the basis of home and away leg.

The top two teams from the qualifying round will progress to the third round, in which 18 teams will be divided into three groups.

Whereas, the bottom two sides will advance into the third round of the 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers. Pakistan's next FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier is scheduled against Tajikistan in Islamabad on November 21.

"Babar Azam made the right decision," says Kamran

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former cricketer Kamran Akmal backed Babar Azam's decision to resign as Pakistan's all-format captain on Friday during a private event at Rashid Latif Cricket Academy.

Kamran Akmal, while talking to the media praised Babar Azam for his decision, and also showed faith in the newly appointed Test captain Shan Masood.

"Babar has made a very good decision to quit captaincy in all formats," said the former wicket-keeper.

"Shan Masood has the potential to lead Pakistan. We have a new captain, but the core players are the same, we should perform at our best."

Upon being asked about getting a role in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), he clarified that the board has made no contact with him, however, he expressed his desire to work at the grassroot level and help develop players in age-group cricket.

"I haven't been contacted by the board [PCB]. Yes, I want to work for Pakistan, but do not want to be directly associated with the Pakistan team," said the former wicketkeeper.

"I want to work at the grassroot level and with the age group cricket teams," he added. Kamran Akmal also shed light on the importance of domestic cricket and urged that the best performers in domestic cricket should be given the opportunity in the national team.

"I have been saying this for the last five or six years, that players should play more domestic cricket," said Akmal.

"Earlier, a player used to be selected in the Pakistan team after playing two to three domestic seasons, but things have changed now."

"Players who regularly perform in domestic cricket should be given maximum opportunities," he further added.

Kamran Akmal has represented Pakistan in 53 Test, 58 T20I and 157 ODI matches, scoring over 6000 runs across three formats.

Master Paints and Remounts score commanding victories

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Teams Master Paints and Remounts asserted their dominance with commanding victories over their opponents during the Patrons 47th Aibak Polo Cup 2023 matches at Lahore Polo Club grounds on Friday.

The opening match of the day showcased Master Paints' skillful play as they outpaced FG/Din Polo with a final score of 9-6. The standout performance came from Iranian player Amirreza Bebhoudi, who showcased excellent polo skills, contributing impressive six goals to secure victory for Master Paints.

Teammates Agha Musa Ali Khan and Chaudhry Hayat added two and one goals, respectively.

On the opposing side, Juan Cruz Gregual led the scoring for FG/Din Polo with four goals, while Mian Abbas Mukhtar converted a brace. In the second match, Team Remounts dominated the field with a commendable 10-6 victory against Team Barry's.

The hero of the day for Remounts was Abelenad, who not only displayed outstanding polo skills but also contributed four crucial goals to his team's triumph. Omar Asjad Malhi hammered a hat-trick and Swr.

Mohammad Naeem scored a goal for Remounts. Raja Jalal Arslan played well for Team Barry's, contributing three goals, while Maissam Haider and Nafees Barry converted two and one goal, respectively.

Both matches drew enthusiastic spectators, including Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, executive committee members, players, and their families, all of whom enjoyed the thrilling displays of skill and sportsmanship at the Lahore Polo Club grounds.

Ahmed Nael loses in ITF Pakistan J30 World Junior C'ship



ISLAMABAD (APP): Japan's Yoshito Oda beat Pakistan's Ahmed Nael Qureshi in the Boys Singles final to lift the ITF Pakistan J30 World Junior Tennis Championships-II 2023 title at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Friday.

The highly talented Pakistani rising star, who had outwitted top seed

Tadpong Kamonpanyakorn of Thailand in a thrilling three-set semifinal on Thursday, went down fighting hard against his Japanese opponent 6-4, 6-2.

In the Girls' Singles final, Viktoriya Sedova of Russia beat Saajida Razick of Sri Lanka. She lost the first set but came back strong 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 to win the title.

In the Boys' Doubles

final, Thailand's Thanathip Poti and Kamonpanyakorn Thadapong beat Japan's Toki Adachi and Yoshito ODA 6-4, 7-6(3) and annexed the title.

In the Girls Doubles final, Russian pair of Victoria Sedova and Anastasia Melnikova beat Bihar Kilic of Turkey and Saajida Razick and of Sri Lanka 6-2, 2-6 (10-6) and won the title.

Fatima Sana returns to Pakistan women's squad for New Zealand tour

LAHORE (APP): Fatima Sana, Omaima Sohail and Shawaal Zulfiqar have staged a comeback in the Pakistan women's team as the national selection committee, headed by Saleem Jaffar, announced a 17-member squad for the New Zealand tour, scheduled to take place later next month.

The side will play three T20Is in Dunedin and Queenstown from 3-9 December, before taking on New Zealand in three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 ODIs from 12-18 December in Queenstown and Christchurch.

Iram Javed, who was part of the 15-member squad for Bangladesh tour this month, was omitted from the squad and the experienced Omaima Sohail comes in the side after an all-round performance in for Pakistan A in the recently held T20 tri-nation series and bilateral series at home.

The 17-member squad will assemble in Karachi on Saturday, 18 November and will undergo a four-day camp in Karachi at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre.

The team will depart for New Zealand from Karachi via Dubai in the wee hours of 24 November.

Chief Selector Saleem

series against Bangladesh due to injury, has recovered and is available to the side for the six white-ball matches.

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

Player support personnel: Nahida Khan (manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Saleem Jaffar (bowling coach), Tauseef Umar (batting coach), Muhammad Asfand Yar (strength and conditioning coach), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager), Rifat Asghar Gill (physiotherapist) and Zubair Ahmed (analyst)

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The team will depart for New Zealand from Karachi via Dubai in the wee hours of 24 November.

Chief Selector Saleem

Jaffar: "Given the challenges our batters faced in Bangladesh, the selection committee have made strategic changes for the New Zealand tour. Omaima Sohail and Shawaal Zulfiqar's consistent performances for Pakistan A recently have earned them a well-deserved spot in the squad, addressing the concerns we identified in the previous series in our batting department.

"Looking at the conditions in New Zealand, we have also focused on strengthening our fast bowling department. With the return of Fatima Sana, we are hopeful her experience and skill set will be invaluable, particularly in the challenging conditions we expect in New Zealand."

Series schedule:
3 Dec - 1st T20I, Dunedin
5 Dec - 2nd T20I, Dunedin
9 Dec - 3rd T20I, Queenstown
12 Dec - 1st ODI, Queenstown (ICC Women's Championship)
15 Dec - 2nd ODI, Christchurch (ICC Women's Championship)
18 Dec - 3rd ODI, Christchurch (ICC Women's Championship).

Karachi Whites beat Multan to set up Pakistan Cup final clash with Peshawar



RAWALPINDI (Monitoring Desk) : Karachi Whites defeated Multan Region by 43 runs in the second semifinal of the Pakistan Cup and will now face Peshawar in the final.

The match was ended due to poor light and the result was decided by the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method. Multan openers Zain Abbas and Sharjeel Khan fared poorly with Zain being caught out after making six off 13 and Sharjeel being ducked off eight balls.

Left-handed batter Haseebullah however, delivered a powerhouse innings making 106 off 108 deliveries with 12 fours and two sixes and continued to play until the last ball.

Sohaib Maqsood made 32 off 35 before being caught by Sarfaraz Ahmed off the bowling of

Nauman Ali in the 15th over.

Sharoon Siraj lost his wicket via a run-out at seven off 15. Muhammad Shehzad and Muhammad Imran ended their runs at 26 (31) and 28 (25) respectively.

Sohaib Khan registered a four-fer claiming the scalps of Imran, Zahid Mehmood, Faisal Akram and Mohammad Sadaqat while conceding 44 runs.

Ghulam Mudassar claimed two wickets and conceded 31 runs. Noman Ali and Asad Shafiq took one wicket each.

Earlier, the partnership between Karachi Whites openers Shan Masood and Saim Ayub had managed to yield a collective score of 106 runs.

Shan Masood's wicket fell earlier in the 15th over and he ended his run at 41 off 38. Saim Ayub became

Karachi Whites' highest run-getter with 95 off 86 deliveries featuring 12 fours and one maximum.

He continued to play till the 26th over and lost his wicket to Zahid Mehmood.

Right-handed batter Habibullah managed to pull off 40 off 45 deliveries before losing his wicket to Muhammad Imran.

Asad Shafiq registered a dismal performance and was sent to the pavilion after scoring only four runs off eight deliveries.

Danish Aziz managed to make 33 off 42 before being sent back in the 41st over. Sarfaraz Ahmed amassed 28 off 27 deliveries and lost his wicket to Tahir Hussain while Anwar Ali managed 22 off 14 before being bowled by Mohammad Sadaqat.

Multan's Imran claimed the scalps of Shan Masood, Habibullah and Azam Khan while conceding 58 runs.

Faisal Akram and Mohamad Sadaqat claimed two wickets each while Tahir Hussain and Zahid Mehmood bagged one wicket each. Karachi Whites made 280 runs, losing all their wickets in 44.3 overs setting a match-winning target of 281. They will now take on Peshawar in the final of the Pakistan Cup at Pindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.



In brief

IRSA releases 90,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 90,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 47,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1509.15 feet and was 109.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,000 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.95 feet, which was 137.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,800 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,900, 41,200, 45,600 and 9,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ANF recovers 260 kg charras

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a major operation near Gwadar beach managed to recover 260 kg charras. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the ANF raiding team in an operation carried out at a distance of six kilometers from the beach in Balochistan, Gwadar near the Arabian Sea managed to recover over 260 kg charras.

Ombudsman to take action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, has taken notice of thousands of complaints being lodged against the Passport Office, for undue delay in printing of their passports. Federal Ombudsman has constituted an inspection team led by Senior Advisor to visit the office of the Directorate General of Passport, to identify the causes underlying these complaints and recommend remedial measures. In addition, the inspection team members will also provide a hearing to the complainants on the spot and will meet with the Administration of the Directorate General of Passport to ascertain steps being taken to address the public grievances, said in a Press Release issued here on Friday. The complainants while lodging the complaints in the Federal Ombudsman Office stated that they were experiencing serious difficulties even in the renewal and urgent fee Passports. Sources have revealed that around 4 lac Passports are pending with the Directorate.

Rs 317,000 fine imposed

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Health Authority (DHA) in collaboration with allied departments had fined Rs 317,000 and lodged three FIRs on violations of anti-dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Friday said that the health department in collaboration with allied departments had issued tickets to four and sealed one premise during the last 24 hours. Presently, the health officer informed that 47 patients were admitted to different district health facilities, of which 32 were confirmed cases while 2,570 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad added that with the arrival of three more cases during the last 24 hours, the district's total tally had reached 2,604 confirmed cases.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kenya in Pakistan, called on Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Pak, Kenya resolve to strengthen health sector cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kenya on Friday agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the health sector.

This was decided in a meeting held between the Ambassador of Kenya and the Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Both sides agreed to ensure signing of MoU for cooperation in health sector between the two countries on a speedy basis.

The MoU will include the promotion of laboratory

medical tourism in the pharma sector, health systems integration and emergency response.

The minister said that the Global Health Security Summit is being held in January. He presented an invitation to the Ambassador for his participation in the Summit.

He said that the aim of the conference was to prepare low-income countries to face the next global pandemic. The minister said that health was the basic right of every human being.

We have to create such a system that no one is deprived of this right, he expressed.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the access to fair distribution of vaccines should be made possible. He said that developing countries would have to work together so that vaccines are not manipulated, adding that Pakistan had shown excellent performance in the Corona epidemic. The international organizations should benefit from our experiences, he added.

AC Pothohar crackdown on overpricing

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a stern crackdown on overpricing and illegal refilling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), the Assistant Commissioner of Pothohar subdivision Nahel Hafiz, has arrested two individuals and imposed a fine of Rs 13,000 on violators.

Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, the Assistant Commissioner, along with a team of officials, conducted surprise inspections of various LPG filling stations in the Pothohar area. During the inspections, they discovered that several establishments were flouting government-mandated rates and engaging in unsafe refilling practices.

Swiftly taking action, the Assistant Commissioner apprehended two individuals involved in these illegal activities.

Additionally, a fine of Rs 13,000 was imposed on the errant filling stations.

The Assistant Commissioner also issued stern warnings to other violators, emphasizing that strict action would be taken against those who continue to disregard regulations.

This decisive action by the Assistant Commissioner sends a clear message that the authorities will not tolerate any irregularities in the LPG industry. The safety of citizens is paramount and the government was committed to ensuring that LPG was handled and dispensed in a responsible and compliant manner.

Web-based App for Bilingual Idioms launched at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its innovative Web-based App for Bilingual Idioms and Proverbs. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the launching ceremony while Deans, Directors, and principal officers of the university were also present at the event. During his inaugural speech, Dr. Nasir Mahmood highlighted the crucial role that technology plays in promoting linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. He stressed that the younger generation cannot be complete without technology and this web-based app will help facilitate language learning for them.

Shah, Iranian ambassador inaugurate Palestine themed poster exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day Poster Exhibition themed "Palestine: Oppression, Resistance, Victory" was inaugurated at Lok Virsa Art Gallery by Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah and Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam, the Ambassador of Iran in Pakistan.

The exhibition was organized by the Cultural Consulate Embassy of Iran in collaboration with the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage- Lok Virsa.

Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan Ramez Alraee, Ehsan Khazaei the Cultural Counselor Embassy of Iran, Adviser National Heritage and Culture Division Muhammad Kashif Irshad, Executive Director Lok Virsa Muhammad Uzair Khan were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition, Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said the Palestinians are valiant people and they will succeed in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said responsibility rests with the world community and the United Nations to play their role to stop the Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

The Minister for National Heritage regretted that the cowardly Israel has been targeting armless Palestinians and their schools and hospitals. He said Israeli forces are not even sparing the children.

He expressed his deep empathy for the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people. Additionally, he emphasized that Pakistan, in its stance, does not acknowledge the state of Israel and consistently advocates for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state according to "internationally agreed parameters."

Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam,

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan expressed his condolences to the Palestinian nation for the martyrdom of more than 10,000 innocent men, women and children.

"I would like to appreciate the government of Pakistan for the strong positions taken by the high officials and different authorities, scholars and individuals other walks of life for supporting the innocent people of Palestine and against the atrocities and genocide committed by the Zionist and fascist regime of Israel," he added. He said that the fact is that the Zionist regime broke its records of barbarism, war crimes and genocide.

Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam said that the crimes which are committed by the Zionist regime against the civilians men, women and children of Gaza, are shocking along with the deafening silence of the Westerners. He said that one of the duties of the Muslim world and all the free thinkers around the world should be to show to the people of the world what's happening in Palestine and Gaza.

He suggested that, in the current status quo, the Muslim world should take meaningful and tangible measures. First, it should ensure a ceasefire and open a humanitarian corridor to Gaza. Then, it should unite to exert effective leverage against the Zionist regime. Finally, the Muslim world should guarantee the right to defense and the right of self-determination for the original people of Palestine through a free election. He thanked the organizers of this exhibition, the participants and all those who somehow contributed to holding this event. Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan Ramez Alraee, Ehsan Khazaei the Cultural Counselor Embassy of Iran and Executive Director Lok Virsa Muhammad Uzair Khan also spoke on the occasion.

CDA seals various illegal buildings in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Building Control South and North Directorates of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Friday sealed an additional 17 buildings in various areas of the federal capital.

On the directives of Chairman CDA Capt (R)

Anwar ul Haq for curbing encroachments and illegal constructions in Islamabad over the past two days, a total of 28 structures have been sealed across different zones due to violations against the building

bylaws, said a news release.

According to details, the Building Control Directorate has conducted the operations in collaboration with the Enforcement Directorate with the support of the local administration and Islamabad police.

They took stringent action against 17 buildings in the Multi-Professional Cooperative Housing Society, Sector B-17, which were under construction without CDA approval. The notices have

also been issued to the owners. It is noteworthy that on Thursday, 10 buildings in Jinnah Town and one unauthorized construction in Aghosh Housing Society were sealed, and owners were served notices.

The CDA administration emphasizes that the implementation of the master plan for beautifying Islamabad will be ensured, and the crackdown against building bylaws violations will continue in a systematic manner.

Passing Out parade of lower class course held at Police Lines

RAWALPINDI (APP): The passing out parade of lower class course was held here on Friday at Police Lines Headquarters while 332 trainees from Gujranwala, Attock and Rawalpindi passed the examination of four months course.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali attended the Passing Out Parade as Chief Guest. The Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema and senior officers of security agencies also participated in the passing out ceremony. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani, SSP Patrolling Mohammad Bin Ashraf, SSP Bilal Iftikhar, Principal PTS Rawat, SSP Operations Hafiz Kamran Asghar and other senior

police officers also participated. 332 officials including five lady police officers completed the training at Police Lines Headquarters Rawalpindi. The trainees were given practical field training, quarter combat and tactical raids training along with academic courses. A total of 50 percent of the officers passed the exam with A+ while 45 percent with A grade. The final exams were held at the Police College, Sihala. Five out of six prominent positions in the course were obtained by Rawalpindi Police. Constable Waqas Mehmood of Rawalpindi secured overall first position and first position in syllabus exams. Constable Arfat Zahid secured overall third position. Constable Ibrahim Akhtar stood at the first position in the parade.

Constable Rizwan Shaukat secured the first position in the firing test.

The RPO congratulated all the successful trainees and their families and also awarded certificates and prizes to the trainees who secured the positions.

According to the vision of IG Punjab, the process of promotion of the officers is going on, the RPO informed. Training courses are also a continuation of the development process, he said. The RPO said, "You all have to work with more responsibility, hard work and dedication."

Syed Khurram Ali said, Rawalpindi CPO and Police deserve appreciation for conducting the best training course. The CPO presented a commemorative shield to the RPO, Syed Khurram Ali.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs the 32nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A) at (P3A) Office.

Locals welcome resumption of Sibi-Harnai train service

ISLAMABAD (APP): Residents in the vicinities of Sibi and Harnai districts in Balochistan province expressed a collective sense of relief following the restoration of train services connecting these twin cities after a 17-year hiatus.

The restoration of this vital transport link has been warmly received by the local community, heralding the resurgence of economic activities and offering prospects for enhancing the standard of living. The renewed accessibility provided by the Sibi-Harnai train service is anticipated to not only catalyze commercial endeavors but also foster avenues for the locals to elevate their socio-economic conditions.

"The long-awaited railway line, traversing rugged and perilous terrains, including mountainous regions, has been hailed as a vital transportation link in the province by Muhammad Asfand Khan, a local resident who spoke to APP. He highlighted the restored railway track's significance, providing an affordable travel alternative and a catalyst for economic growth in the area. Originally established during the late 18th century under British rule, this railway section was deemed instrumental in Balochistan's development. However, in 2006, a banned armed organization orchestrated bombings that extensively damaged

bridges and tracks along this line. Hikmat Khan Bugti, another resident, emphasized the absence of proper roads, making train travel a much-needed alternative. The reopening of this railway track drastically reduces the travel distance between Harnai and Sibi, eliminating the necessity for a 330-kilometer journey to Quetta.

"Prior to the track's restoration, our travel between Sibi and Harnai cost us Rs 1500 to Rs 1800 by bus. Now, we reach our destination for just Rs 220," he added. Harnai, previously part of Sibi, became a separate district in August 2007. Despite its predominantly Pashtun population, it is home to Marri tribes linked to Kohlu and Sibi's mountainous regions.

Sarzameen Marri, a local landlord, welcomed the decision to revive the railway service, believing it would benefit over one million residents in the Sibi division. "With the train service resuming, the scenic journey through picturesque landscapes is expected to attract tourists, showcasing the region's beauty," he added. Local traders anticipate significant reductions in travel distances, with a projected 300-kilometer decrease in journeys due to the restored train services. During the restoration process, approximately 50 small and large bridges were reconstructed in challenging mountainous terrain between Sibi and Harnai.

Mitra wins Adelbert Von Chamisso prize

KABUL (Agenices): An Afghan poet, Maryam Mitra, has been awarded the Adelbert von Chamisso Literary Prize in Germany for her work "Life on the Margins." German media reported that this award will be presented to Ms. Mitra in a special ceremony on the 19th of November. The Adelbert von Chamisso Prize, known as the Adelbert-von-Chamisso-Preis in German, was established in 1985 as a prestigious literary award in Germany.

Afghans should improved security

KABUL (TOLOnews): The deputy special envoy for Afghanistan, Markus Potzel, in a meeting with the Panjshir governor Mohammad Agha Hakim said that the "people of Afghanistan should be given the choice and opportunity to decide how they want to live." "And [I am] pretty sure they don't want the war aspect," he said. Potzel also underlined that there have been some positive improvements including in the security situation and reduction of corruption.

Guterres stresses roadmap for intl reintegration of Afghanistan



KABUL (TOLOnews): The third recommendation of the assessment of the situation of Afghanistan to the UN Security Council by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, called for a roadmap for reintegration of the country into the international system. In a document seen by TOLOnews, Guterres made four recommendations including building confidence by addressing the immediate needs of Afghans, continuing cooperation on key security, regional and political issues and a roadmap for reintegration of the state of Afghanistan into the international system as well as mechanisms to support engagement.

engagement should be pursued through a performance-based roadmap," the document stated. The document also stressed the need for international obligations of the State of Afghanistan with suggested benchmarks to indicate progress in meeting them, and a call for an intra-Afghan political process that will build toward inclusive constitution-making. "Progress in both of these components will build toward an end state of the international community's normalization of relations with the State of Afghanistan," the document reads. Torek Farhadi, a political analyst, told TOLOnews that there has not been development in important issues. "This is an independent assessment and the message for the interim government is that there has not been breakthroughs in important issues such as

girls' schooling, women's integration in society and work as in other Islamic countries, the constitution and people's role in the government," he said. "The question is that this roadmap, which is the will of the people of Afghanistan -- will this roadmap be implemented by the interim government?" said Suraya Paikan, a women's rights activist. Guterres underscored a set of obligations for Afghanistan, saying that founding principles of the UN Charter, as set out in its preamble, are to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights. He said that the de facto authorities in Afghanistan have asked to be recognized as the governing authority for Afghanistan but doing so comes with acceptance of their obligations and commitments in international conventions, and good faith measures to

comply with these through policy, legislation and in practice. "Afghanistan has committed to multiple treaties, including equal treatment of all citizens, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, identity or political opinion," he said. "Considering the specific policies on women and girls in place since August 2021, it is important to emphasize the commitments and obligations of the State of Afghanistan as a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as a party to the CEDAW, ICCPR, ICE-SCR." Islamic Emirate's spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, in reaction to Guterres' assessment, said: "There are various countries with various types of government in the world. Afghanistan also has a government of its own and no one should put these illegitimate conditions on the Afghans. If they do so, we can still live without being recognized by them," he said. The assessment called for pursuing intra-Afghan dialogue to achieve more inclusive governance, saying that there is a need to take steps towards an Afghan national dialogue that would establish inclusive governance and ensure sustainable peace and social, cultural and economic development after 45 years of armed conflict. The UN Secretary-General said that an inclusive governance and intra-Afghan dialogue would permit movement toward the end state of full normalization and integration of Afghanistan within the international system. Guterres made the assessment in response to resolution 2679 (2023), adopted by the Security Council on March 16, 2023.

80,000 expelled refugees treated in Torkham



Local officials of Nangarhar said that since the beginning of the expulsions of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, they have treated nearly 80,000 patients in the Torkham temporary camp. According to them, several health camps have been activated in Torkham for the refugees deported from Pakistan, where various health services are provided to the patients. Gul Insan, seven years old, who was forcibly deported from Pakistan together with his family, has been struggling with

severe diarrhea for several days, and a number of other children in this special camp for refugees are suffering from pneumonia and high fever. "My child was sick, we took him to this camp, they treated my child very respectfully," said Atif Ali, a patient's family member. "Almost 80,000 patients have been treated, including with obstetrics, surgery, and by other departments of internal medicine," said Quraishi Badlooon, the head of the information and public advertisement committee of Torkham camp.

A number of other expelled refugees from Pakistan and health workers in this camp say that as the weather gets colder, the number of monsoon patients has also increased. "Here is a tent and our children get sick. Cold, pneumonia, heartache and malaria are diseases here that are among people," said Noor Ali Shah, an expelled refugee from Pakistan. "We have been on this plain for 12 days and thankfully there are doctors who treat us," said Yar Mohammad, an expelled

refugee. "We provide services here, which include different departments such as OPD, vaccination and obstetricians and gynecologists, and we also provide basic services to patients in the trauma department," said Fazelhaq, an employee of the camp. After the announcement of the deadline by the interim government of Pakistan to expel illegal refugees from the country, an average of 400 families have entered the country through the Torkham crossing every day.

Afghanistan's North is threat to member countries: CSTO

KABUL (Agencies): A Russian Colonel-General has claimed that the north of Afghanistan is a threat for the members of the CSTO. Russia's TASS news agency quoted General Anatoly Sidorov as saying that the members of the Joint Staff of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are voting to curb the threat of terrorism from Afghanistan. This official added that the current leadership of Afghanistan does not yet fully have the situation in the country under control. "As of today, there is no overarching problem regarding military security or military danger coming from the territory of Afghanistan. However, at the same time we realize that the current leadership of Afghanistan does not yet fully have the situation in the country under control, including in the northern areas that border CSTO member states. Therefore, certain measures are being taken," said Colonel-General Anatoly Sidorov, chief of the CSTO Joint Staff. However, the Islamic Emirate rejected this claim and said that northern



outside the territory of Afghanistan," Mujahid said. At the same time, a number of political analysts believe that the Islamic Emirate should make more efforts in providing security in order to solve the concerns of neighboring countries and the region. "The meetings held about Afghanistan are undoubtedly in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and everyone is looking for the interests of their country and they are waiting to see which bloc Afghanistan will join," Salim Paigir, a political

analyst, told TOLOnews. "These expressions of concern are political surfing ... Some people will turn against the government of Kabul in order to accommodate the strategic depth of their political interests in governance," said Mohammad Zulmai Afghanyar, another political analyst. This is while the countries of the world have always expressed concern about the presence of terrorist groups in the country, but the Islamic Emirate has always pledged that Afghanistan's soil will not be used against any country.

Special women's exhibition opens in Kabul amid women's restrictions

Tabasum Nasiry

The "Khadijah al-Kubra" inaugural national and international exhibition for women, designed to empower and build a trade network for entrepreneurial women, has encountered obstacles and low attendance due to economic hardships and challenges. Maryam Mohammadi, one of the participants in this exhibition, speaking with Khaama Press, mentioned that women from various provinces of the country, including Helmand, Nimruz, Herat, and Nangarhar, have come together to showcase their products at this exhibition. They have displayed various products, including handicrafts, clothing, food items, and other goods.

Mohammadi, the presence of people at this exhibition has been scarce in the past two days because only women are allowed to attend. Ms. Mohammadi adds that all the booths at this exhibition have had no sales so far, and due to the limited presence of visitors, some of the participants are considering closing their booths. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Taliban administration announced on Wednesday that the Khadijah Al-Kubra Exhibition will be held in Kabul from the 14th of November to the 20th of November in collaboration with the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The ministry emphasized that the Khadijah Al-Kubra Exhibition is being held to support children and mothers at the

central exhibition grounds of Afghanistan in the Chaman Huzori district of Kabul. Reports indicate that at least 850 entrepreneurial women have been allocated booths at this exhibition, where various products made by women from all provinces are displayed. Humaira, one of the visitors to this exhibition, expressed her appreciation for such exhibitions, especially for women, and emphasized that women should be able to actively participate in all sectors of society, especially in economic activities. She adds that while women have showcased their products in various corners of the country, their presence has been limited due to restrictions imposed by the Taliban administration and economic difficulties. She further emphasizes, "I have seen as a

visitor to this exhibition that very few women have made purchases, and they only bought essential items." Humaira considers the role of women in the country's economy to be crucial and calls on responsible institutions to create opportunities for women in trade and advancement. This comes as the World Bank had previously reported a reduction in the role of women in trade in Afghanistan, emphasizing that Afghanistan is among eleven countries in the world where women's trade and business activities have decreased. The bank cited changes in systems and restrictions on women's work and education, which have hurt their economic and psychological aspects, as the reasons for the decline in women's activities.



WHO warns of disease outbreak risk among returnees from Pakistan

KABUL (Agencies): The World Health Organization (WHO) says it needs \$10 million to provide essential healthcare services to 700,000 migrants and refugees who have entered Afghanistan from Pakistan. The organization stated on Thursday that an estimated 1.3 million people are expected to enter Afghanistan voluntarily or involuntarily from Pakistan. The sudden influx of this number of people into Afghanistan has raised concerns about the spread of diseases, including polio. The WHO has warned that the sudden arrival of this many people in Afghanistan has increased concerns about the outbreak of contagious diseases, including polio. The organization has



identified unfavourable health conditions in temporary camps for displaced migrants and refugees returning to Afghanistan, including malnutrition, physical and mental stress among returnees, especially among the elderly and pregnant women, and inadequate access to clean water as factors increasing the risk of

contagious diseases among returnees. The World Health Organization continues to warn that without timely assistance, there is a risk of increased mortality among patients with various diseases and a need for essential services among returnees. Dr Lo Dapeng, WHO representative in Afghanistan, stated, "It is

our collective duty to ensure that we have systems and resources in place to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health threats." The WHO has stated that it plans to establish temporary quarantine centres at three main entry points in Afghanistan and deploy teams for primary healthcare, safety, support, monitoring, and ambulances at these entry points. Meanwhile, according to the decision of the interim government of Pakistan, the country is determined to deport 1.7 million undocumented migrants. This process began intensively at the beginning of this month, and thousands of migrants have returned to Afghanistan voluntarily or forcibly during this time.

UN stops delivery of food, supplies to Gaza

Communications blackout hinders aid coordination

RAFAH: The United Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after Internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

The communications blackout, now in its second day, largely cuts off Gaza's 2.3 million people from one another and the outside world — and paralyzes the coordination of aid, which humanitarian groups were already struggling to deliver because of the fuel shortage. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, was unable to bring in its aid convoy on Friday, said spokesperson Juliette Touma. With no immediate prospect for Israel allowing in more fuel, it was unclear how long the situation would continue.

"An extended blackout means an extended suspension of our humanitarian operations in the Gaza Strip," Touma told The Associated Press. Israeli forces, meanwhile, have signaled they could expand their offensive toward Gaza's south even while pressing operations in the north. Troops have been searching the territory's biggest hospital for traces of a Hamas command center the military alleges was located under the building.

They have shown what they said were a tunnel entrance and weapons found inside the compound but not yet any evidence of the command center, which Hamas and staff at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital deny existed. The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel, in which the militants killed more than 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and captured some 240 men, women and children.

On Friday, the military said it found the body of another hostage, identifying her as Cpl. Noa Marciano. Marciano's body was recovered in a building adjacent to Shifa, the military said, like that of another hostage found Thursday, Yehudit Weiss. More than 11,400 Palestinians have been killed in the war, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to Palestinian health authorities. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, believed buried under rubble. The count does not differentiate between civilians and militants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

Since the war began, Gaza has received only 10 percent of its required food supplies each day, and dehydration and malnutrition are

Israel does not have the right to kill Palestinian civilians: Mahathir

RIYADH: Israel's military assault on Gaza is a disproportionate response, and the conflict can only be halted through negotiation with Hamas and by pursuing a two-state solution, according to Mahathir bin Mohamad, the former prime minister of Malaysia.

The veteran statesman, who held office from 1981 to 2003 and from 2018 to 2020, making him the country's longest-serving prime minister, has long been a staunch supporter of Palestinian national rights. Compared with the 1948 Nakba, or "catastrophe," that resulted in the creation of the state of Israel and the dispossession of millions of Palestinians, Mahathir believes the current conflict in Gaza presents an even greater threat and is more akin to an extermination. "This is worse than the previous Nakba because this is not war. This is, simply, a humanitarian oppression," he told Arab News. "We don't see soldiers fighting each other. We see, simply, Israeli soldiers killing civilians. That is not war. It is a humanitarian disaster." Israel launched its military assault on Gaza with the intention of eliminating Hamas after the Palestinian militant group mounted its unprecedented attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, which resulted in the death of 1,200 people, Israelis and foreigners, and the taking of more than 200 hostages.

The US and many other Western governments have repeatedly voiced their support for Israel's right to defend itself and broadly backed the aim of eliminating Hamas, which Washington and many European governments consider a terrorist organization. "It may have the right to defend itself but not to the extent of proposing to kill Palestinian civilians without any limit," said Mahathir. "Already, they have killed 12,000. — Arab News

growing with nearly all residents in need of food, said Abeer Etefa, a Mideast regional spokeswoman for the UN's World Food Program. "People are facing the immediate possibility of starvation," she said Thursday from Cairo.

The breakdown of the communications network only worsened the situation since it's needed for electricity generators that run everything from communication systems to water treatment plants and sewage pumps. Israel has barred fuel shipments into Gaza since the beginning of the war, but permitted a limited shipment to UNRWA earlier this week for trucks delivering food after the agency's fuel reservoir ran dry.

Speaking from Shifa Hospital on Friday, Dr. Ahmad Mukhalalti told Al-Jazeera television that there was no electricity to run ventilators to provide ICU patients with oxygen, and that of the 36 infants there, most are suffering from severe diarrhea because there is no clean water to give them. He added that Israeli troops, who stormed into the hospital on Wednesday, had brought food and bottled water, but that it had not been enough for the number of people in the hospital.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the troops searched underground levels of the hospital Thursday and detained technicians who run its equipment. Israel faces pressure to prove its claim that

Hamas set up its main command center in and under the hospital, which has multiple buildings over an area of several city blocks. The US has said it has intelligence to support the claims.

So far, Israel has mainly shown photos and video of weapons caches that it says its soldiers found in the hospital. On Thursday, the military released video of a hole in the hospital courtyard it said was a tunnel entrance. It also showed several assault rifles and RPGs, grenades, and ammunition clips laid out on a blanket that it said were found in a pickup truck in the courtyard. The Associated Press could not independently verify the Israeli claims. The allegations are part of Israel's broader accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields across the Gaza Strip, contending that is the reason for the large numbers of civilian casualties during weeks of bombardment.

Following the surprise attack by Hamas, Israel has focused its air and ground assault on northern Gaza, vowing to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities. In recent days, Israel's military has indicated it could expand operations in the south, where most of Gaza's population has taken refuge.

"We are close to dismantling the military system that was present in the northern Gaza Strip," Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said Thursday. — Arab News



NEW YORK: People holding Palestinian flags and banners demonstrated to show solidarity with Palestinians in United States.

Dietary crucial to prevent diseases, says President

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed preventive rather curative approach to prevent cardiovascular diseases and said that dietary and lifestyle changes hold key importance in this regard.

In his video-link address to the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar on Friday, he said preventive measures not only decreased the risk of disease but also reduced the burden on the national healthcare system.

Dr Arif Alvi said cardiovascular diseases were also being diagnosed in young people and mentioned that the lengthy treatment and surgery of cardiac diseases became unaffordable for the patients. Therefore, he said, consuming a healthy diet and quitting a sedentary lifestyle and smoking had positive effects on the control of cardiac diseases. He recalled that the country made relentless and coordinated efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic extremely well. He emphasized adopting similar passion and targeted action to prioritize the prevention of CVDs.

The president stressed investment in the training and professional development of healthcare practitioners specialized in cardiovascular and thoracic care. He highlighted the importance of telemedicine and technology to facilitate remote consultations, diagnostics, and monitoring. This, he said, would be especially crucial for patients in remote and rural areas of the country who faced challenges in reaching out to healthcare facilities.

CJP reconstitutes NJAC

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Esa has reconstituted the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) to improve the efficiency of the judiciary in Pakistan.

The Committee will be led by Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, another judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, will also be a member. Judges from the High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court will also be part of the committee.

The National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) will work towards the digitalization of the court's processes and records, introduce mobile applications for better access to justice and improve case management. The Committee aims to automate and integrate the judiciary and also introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal processes and research. It will prepare a national plan based on technology and AI to improve the efficiency of service delivery of the judiciary. Justice Mansoor Shah believes that the justice sector in Pakistan should take advantage of the new developments in technology.

Bilawal: PPP to address unemployment, price hike

E.P. Report

MARDAN Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday said that it was only the PPP which could steer the country out present critical juncture- being faced by Pakistan internally and externally. The PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed those views while addressing a workers' convention in Mardan held inside the hujra of late senator Muhammad Ali Khan.

On the occasion, he said that he was grateful to the hosts, divisional and provincial organisations of the Party, as well as the office-bearers and workers for making this convention a success. Chairman Bilawal said that it is his promise to return to the Mardan division to hold public gatherings as per the demand of the Jiyalas once the election schedule is announced.

Chairman Bilawal said that we have to remind the people of Pakistan, especially those of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that the PPP has always served the people of the country, especially the downtrodden masses. The PPP has served the people and represented them in every era. The people supported Quid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and in return, he gave them their voice through the right to vote. He not raised the slogan of 'Roti, Kapra Aur Makaa', but implemented it during his tenure.

He gave the common man ownership of his land. He struggled for the sake of the people and accepted martyrdom after which Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto held the torch of the Party and strived for the rights of the people for three decades while combatting two dictators. It is with the help of the people that one unarmed woman faced General Zia and General Musharraf but never backed down.

President Zardari restored democracy in the country and chased Musharraf out, all while giving identity to the people and restoring the Constitution of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The people were given ownership of their resources through the NFC award. It is during his time that we initiated



ated the revolutionary, internationally-acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme to combat poverty and empower the poorest of women financially. We have to expand the same programme to maximise the benefits given to the people.

The people are aware of the financial quagmire that the country is in, leading to historic price-hike, poverty and unemployment. There is only one solution for all of this, and that is to make the PPP victorious in the upcoming elections so that the 'rule of the people' can be established, a government of the farmers, labourers and youngsters can be established. We will help the country emerge from this crisis. The onus is on my brothers to let everyone know that the real adversary of the country is the traditional politics that has been going on for seven decades, Chairman Bilawal said. Our politicians are stuck in the past and neither think of the present nor of the future.

Chairman Bilawal said that the PPP is not stuck in the past, rather looks towards the present and the future. There are certain fundamentals that are imperative for a political party. These include the manifesto, ideology and discipline. It is apparent to everyone that PPP will be triumphant in the upcoming elections. The PPP's only competition is the PPP itself. We need to forget our conflicts for the next few months, and unite under the flag of the PPP and move ahead, and no other political party can compete with the Jiyalas of the PPP.

The PPP aims to put an end to the politics of hatred and division. It wishes to establish new traditions that allow for the country to progress and prosper.

Chairman Bilawal said that as long as the people are with him, no power in the world can hinder the journey of the PPP. Our fight is not with any other political party, but poverty, price-hike and unemployment. The PPP will derive solutions for these with the people by its side. The next government will be of the PSF, PYO and the Jiyalas.

It is not in the PPP's principles to look left and right, it only looks at the people for guidance. It is the sole prerogative of the people of the country to decide who should serve and represent them. The Party is ready to accept the decision of the people. We are going to complete the incomplete mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, he resolved. The PPP is a party of the people, and today too, advises all political parties to trust the people and their politics and manifesto. They should not look left and right, but ahead.

The people of Pakistan will bear the burden again if a selection takes place. They have suffered through a selected regime in the past and are not willing to do so again, Chairman Bilawal said. The right to vote has been gifted to the people by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and it needs to be used in a manner that ensures that the future of the coming generations is bright and the country can thrive on an international level as a modern country. Those who are still engaging in the ways of the past are looking for 'electables'. There was a time when this manner of doing politics would work, electables today too hold importance but those who join the Pakistan Mehengai League would no longer remain 'electable'.

Fair polls: PTI plea in PHC for judicial intervention

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) approached Peshawar High Court (PHC) in a writ plea seeking equal opportunities like other political parties for election campaign scheduled on 8th February 2024 announced by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

The writ filed Shumail Ahmad Butt in which Federal's government, CEC, provincial's government, Federal Interior Minister and President Peshawar Club along with others are made respondents in the plea.

The writ pleaded that other political parties had initiated their election campaigns after announcement of schedule by CEC for general election to be held on 8th February 2024. But different hurdles are created to stop PTI from political activities in wake of general election which is unconstitutional.

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is working unconstitutional because

Constitution of Pakistan bars caretaker government from more than 90 days, the petition stated. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had acted beyond his jurisdiction by calling former Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and Former Opposition leader Iqram Durrani for nomination of caretaker Chief Minister after departure Muhammad Azam Khan, the writ argued.

The indulgent of Law Enforcement Agencies in election processes isn't fair and violative of their oath as declared by Supreme Court of Pakistan in Mirza Aslam Baig's case, the petition added. The writ argued for judicial intervention in current situation by nominating Returning Officers (ROs) as CEC has been cornered.

The appointment of ROs from other departments as per directions of Election Commission of Pakistan will create problems because they wouldn't provide equal opportunities to PTI for general election campaign scheduled on 8th

February 2024, the writ pleaded.

The provincial caretaker government involving PTI's leadership in fake cases and arrest of former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser by Anti-corruption is evidence of the manipulation, the petition stated. It is high time for Supreme Court of Pakistan to appointment ROs from judiciary to ensure free and fair elections because Article 218 directs CEC for consultation with Chief Justice of Pakistan for appointment of ROs, the writ stated.

It is clear that caretaker government is supporting one political party before election as some steps were taken for favoritism which is evident from appointment of Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the writ pleaded. The writ pleaded for provision of equal opportunities to all political parties fundamental constitutional rights of everyone to ensure implementation fundamental rights.

Former govt responsible inflation: JJ

E.P. Report

LAYYAH: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq voicing concern over the long-standing influence of feudal lords and waderas in southern Punjab has held them responsible for the plight of the people of the area.

Addressing a women's workers convention on Friday, he said some political parties are functioning as familial entities and believed that governing the nation is a divine right for them and their descendants. Emphasizing the need to challenge the entrenched influence of waderas and dynastic politics, Sirajul Haq underscored the pivotal role of women's votes in dismantling the corrupt system. He urged the public to cast their votes in favor of JI in the upcoming elections.

He outlined the JI's commitment to addressing gender disparities, vowing that, if in power, the party would ensure women receive a fair share of property and would eliminate outdated customs. He pledged to provide interest-free loans to women, support small industries, and extend loans for the education of their children.

The JI chief emphasized his party's determination to take stringent measures against crimes targeting women and children, making perpetrators exemplary figures in society. The JI, under his leadership, would establish women's education universities and introduce separate buses for their transportation. He asserted the JI's stance against the interest-based economic system, considering it a primary cause of the national economic downturn. Holding the former government responsible for the common man's plight, inflation, and unemployment, he stressed the need for honest and dedicated leadership to harness the country's abundant resources effectively. Siraj criticized the silence of Islamic world leaders, especially those in Pakistan, regarding Israeli atrocities in Gaza. He highlighted the JI's ongoing efforts to champion the cause of Palestine, organizing rallies and marches nationwide to awaken leaders who, out of fear or appeasement of the US, refrain from speaking against Israel.

Food security & climate change joint fronts: Blome

Saqib Mushtaq

BAHAWALPUR: United States of America (USA) Ambassador Donald Blome visited South Punjab Secretariat on Friday and met Additional Chief Secretary Saqib Zafar while showed commitments for food security and countering climate change.

During the visit Consul General Christin Hawkins, Public Diplomacy Officer Karl Rogers, Economic Officer Douglas Justin, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Maher Muhammad Hayat Lak, Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Secretary Specialized Healthcare Afzal Nasir Khan were also present in the meeting.

The Additional Chief Secretary briefed US Ambassador about the profile, issues, history and culture of South Punjab and the objectives of establishing the South Punjab Secretariat. He told that the establishment of the Secretariat has accelerated the pace of development in

the region but still there was a long way to go. He said efforts are on to increase the standard of living and literacy rate of the people and to eradicate poverty.

Additional Chief Secretary Saqib Zafar said that South Punjab is an important region in terms of food security and measures to increase agricultural production are yielding excellent results. He said South Punjab has vast potential in agriculture and livestock sector.

The Additional Chief Secretary said launch of Green Book in schools on climate change and establishment of transgender schools are distinctive initiatives of the Secretariat. He holding of School Olympics games among schools has gained a lot of acceptance and it has become a very popular event in the region. Saqib Zafar also told about the first rowing competition in the history of South Punjab held in Bahawalpur and said next boating competition will be held at the level of Punjab Province.

He informed that a plan has been drawn up to restore the historic forts located in Cholistan to their original shape. Saqib Zafar also briefed about the Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally and Thal Jeep Rally. American Ambassador Donald Blome declared the launch of Green Book about climate change in schools and the establishment of transgender schools as a wonderful initiatives. He said Climate change and food security are international issues and collective efforts are required to overcome on these issues. He further said Pakistan has the capacity to meet the food needs of the world.

The American Ambassador expressed his happiness on visiting the historic city of Multan and thanked the administration for hospitality. On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel gave a detailed briefing about the steps taken in the agriculture sector. The Additional Chief Secretary also presented a commemorative shield to the US Ambassador.

CM inspects services delivery outlets in Swabi

E.P. Report

SWABI: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Friday paid a surprise visit to district Swabi, and inspected various public services delivery outlets including Bacha Khan Medical Complex, Government Higher Secondary School Kunda, City Police Station and Patwar Khana Shah Mansoor.

During his visit to Bacha Khan Medical Complex, he went around various sections of the hospital including OPD, Emergency, ICU, Medical Wards and Laboratory. He also met with patients one by one and enquired about their health and facilities being provided by the hospital.

The chief minister was briefed about the develop-

ment activities being carried out within the hospital. Syed Arshad Hussain Shah expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the hospital and said that providing health care facilities in an efficient manner was the top most priority of the provincial government, adding that availability of medicines and other allied facilities in the hospitals be ensured at all costs for this purpose.

Later on, the chief minister visited Government Higher Secondary School Kunda where he inspected the ongoing construction and renovation works. He expressed displeasure over the poor performance, and issued directives to immediately suspend the principal, and to initiate inquiry against all the negligent officials.

Similarly, the Chief

Minister during his surprise visit to Shah Mansoor Patwarkhana, expressed his displeasure over the poor performance of Patwari and other staff for non-completion of land records and ordered suspension of the patwari on desecpencies in Kharsa Girdawri register. He made it clear that the staff posted in Patwarkhanas should maintain records complete in all respects, and ensure the provision of services to the people in a transparent and efficient manner; no negligence would be tolerated in this regard, he directed. Syed Arshad Hussain Shah also visited City Police Station Swabi. The Chief Minister was given a detailed briefing on the security arrangements of the police station and other related matters.