

**Fazl calls on Nawaz**  
**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: PML-N supremo, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, along with his brother and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held meeting with Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence. During the meeting of the PML-N top leaders with the JUI-F, they discussed the prevailing political situation of the country.



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIX

No. 304

Regd. No. 241

JAMADI-UL-AWWAL 06 1445 -- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 2023

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

# No peace sans settlement of J&K issue: PM

**F.P. Report**

RISALPUR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said peace in the region could not be guaranteed till the resolution of the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir between Pakistan and India.

"Let me make it clear that there can be no peace without the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue," he said in his address at the graduation ceremony of the officers here at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan. PM Kakar said Pakistan was a peace-loving nation and wished to maintain friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbours. He, however, categorically stated that the country's desire for peace "must not be understood as weakness".

The prime minister strongly condemned the ongoing grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan, he said, would not indulge in any arm race but would continue to enhance its capability in line with evolving technology to deter any aggression.

The prime minister highlighted that the rapidly changing geo-strategic environment had a profound impact on Pakistan and rest of the region. "Therefore, the situation demands advancements in space networks, cyber technology, nano technology and artificial intelligence," he said. He expressed satisfaction that PAF modernized itself though smart induction of cutting-edge niche technology and achieved great progress in cyber space and non-contact warfare through indigenous means.

PM Kakar termed the armed forces of Pakistan as professionally competent and well-trained to cope with all internal and external challenges. "The nation holds our armed forces in high esteem for the sacrifices they rendered for national defence and for their contribution towards nation-building," he said. He mentioned that the country's brave armed forces always showed great courage during testing times to keep the national flag high.

"I assure you that as a nation we have surmounted challenges in the past and Insha'Allah, we will do so in future and

make the country prosperous," he said. The prime minister congratulated the cadets graduated from the colleges of flying training and aeronautical engineering and expressed confidence that they would give their best professional performance with commitment and diligence.

"Being the custodians of the PAF, you carry the hopes of this nation and must work hard to keep abreast with modern technology and trends related to modern warfare," he told the graduates. The PAF graduates included 148 General Duty Pilots, 94 Aeronautical Engineers, 104 air defence and 130 of combat support course officers. Earlier, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu received the prime minister on the venue.

Bugles were blown when PM Kakar as chief guest of the ceremony entered the arena. The prime minister onboard a PAF jeep inspected the formation of the smartly turned out contingents of the PAF falcons. He awarded the prestigious Quaid-e-Azam Banner to the Champions No. 3 Squadron on its consistently best performance in all semesters.

The prime minister also pinned badges on the professionally distinguished graduating cadets. The Chief of the Air Staff trophies for best performance were given to Muhammad Moosa Jawad (best pilot), Muhammad Ali Gohar (general aviation), Sajid Sikandar Abbas (air defence), Syed Saad Ali (combat support) and Sohaib Saeed (aeronautical engineering). The Swords of Honour were awarded to Aviation Cadets Ahmed Malik (flying) and Sohaib Saeed (engineering). The prime minister witnessed a thrilling fly-past of the formations of PAF jets including Mirage, F-7P, JF-17 Thunder and J-10C.

Meanwhile, the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar expressed grief over the death of the mother of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

"We share the grief with the family of Mr. Khalid Maqbool and offer condolences to them," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office. The prime minister prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved family.

## IHC hears Nawaz's appeals

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) resumed hearing of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's pleas against convictions in Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases on Tuesday. His pleas against convictions in accountability references were earlier restored for hearing by the court.

Pakistan Muslim League-Naqa (PML-N) supreme leader, who has returned from self-exile in London on October 21, was reached to the courtroom accompanied by party leaders Marriyum Aurangzeb and Ishaq Dar. A high court division bench headed by Chief Justice Aamir Farooq resumed hearing as Sharif's lawyer Azam Nazeer Tarar approached the rostrum.

NAB's deputy prosecutor general Naeem Tariq Sanghera, prosecutors Afzal Qureshi and Rafay Maqsood were also present in the court. "How much time you will take for arguments on both appeals," Justice Aamir Farooq asked Azam Nazeer Tarar. "We will first present arguments over appeal in the Avenfield reference".

"The court has already given decision over appeals of Maryam Nawaz and Capt. Safdar in Avenfield case," Amjad Pervaiz Advocate said. "The high court's decision in the case was not challenged thus the verdict has become final," Azam Nazeer said. "We have made preparation for the Avenfield appeal today," Tarar further said.

How much time you have required for arguments on the appeal, chief justice asked. "I have required maximum time of two hearings," Amjad Pervaiz replied. "It is not necessary that the arguments completed in two hearings, we have to look over the entire case," court remarked. "In my view the case has been maximum of six hours," Tarar said. "I have heard the appeal of the Avenfield reference and knows facts of the case. However, we both members of bench didn't hear the appeal in Al-Azizia reference," chief justice said.

"Do you require six to eight hours for arguments in Avenfield case," CJ IHC questioned the lawyer. "I think we will require four to six hours," Azam Nazeer Tarar replied. NAB Prosecutor said that he will require around half to two hours for arguments. "Is it means that the NAB has to say nothing," chief justice remarked.

"We are fixing the hearing on next Monday, if needed we will hear the case daily," the bench said. Tarar pleaded for daily hearing of the case, "We will not waste a minute" he further said. "We are fixing the hearing on Monday, the time will be conveyed to you," Justice Aamir Farooq said. "Are you representing Nawaz Sharif," Justice Miangul Aurangzeb questioned. "I will assist the court," Amjad Pervaiz replied. The court adjourned the hearing till Monday and will hear arguments on Nawaz Sharif's appeals on November 27.

## 3 terrorists gunned down in KP IBOs

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: Three terrorists were gunned down in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan and South Waziristan districts, ISPR said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the military's media wing said an IBO was conducted in the general area of Kulachi in the Dera Ismail Khan district following which two terrorists were killed in an intense exchange of fire on November 20, 2023. One more terrorist was executed during an operation in South Waziristan's Kot Azam general area, the ISPR stated. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from all three killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians," the ISPR stated.



RISALPUR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kar, awarding sword of honour for overall best performance at graduation ceremony held at PAF Academy, Asghar Khan.

# Cipher case: IHC nullifies Aug 29 notification for Imran's jail trial

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday nullified the notification for conducting former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's jail trial on charges of leaking state secrets — issued on August 29.

A special court has been conducting the trial in jail citing security concerns since Khan was indicted on the charges last month. The PTI chairman is currently in Adiala jail after he was indicted by the special court on October 23. "Islamabad High Court has declared illegal the notification for jail trial," said Naeem Panjutha, the lawyer, in a post on social media platform X. The ruling came as a division bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz announced the verdict it reserved earlier in the day on the intra-court appeal filed by the PTI chief against his jail trial. It seems like, after the order, the court proceedings that have taken place in jail have been nullified as a whole.

Allowing Khan's intra-court appeal, the division bench declared the law ministry's notification "to be without lawful authority and no legal effect". The IHC stated in the three-page short order that the jail trial can be conducted in "exceptional circumstances". "In exceptional circumstances and where it is conducive to justice, a trial can be conducted in jail in a manner that fulfills the requirements of an open trial or a trial in camera provided it is in accordance with the procedure provided by law."

The court also declared that the November 15 notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice after the caretaker cabinet's approval of the jail trial "cannot be given retrospective effect". It further stated that all the notifications issued by the ministry with regard to conducting the jail trial are of no legal effect for not adopting due procedure and non-fulfilment of requirements.

Moreover, the IHC also ruled on the designation of the special court judge and declared the appointment legal. "The designation of the Special Court (Anti-Terrorism-I) Islamabad, to try cases reported under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 through notification (F.No.40(64)/2023-A-VIII) dated 27.06.2023 issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice is valid and lawful," it read.

On August 29, the Ministry of Law issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of the former prime minister as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain. In a hearing on November 14, the high court suspended Khan's jail trial in the cipher case. This order came after the caretaker federal cabinet approved the jail trial of Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the case.

Previously, the deposed prime minister — who was ousted from office following a no-confidence motion in April last year — had moved IHC against the jail trial which was rejected by the court's single bench on October 16. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq's single-member bench ruled that there was no apparent malice behind conducting

Khan's jail trial in the cipher case. The court also directed him to approach the trial court if reservations persist.

Later, Khan filed an intra-court appeal against the single bench's decision. In August of this year, Khan and Qureshi were booked under the Official Secrets Act 1923 in the cipher case after the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) invoked Section 5 of the said law. The diplomatic cable reportedly went missing from Imran's possession. According to the former ruling party, the cable contained a threat from the United States to topple the PTI's government.

The former attorney general of Pakistan, Ashtar Ausaf Ali, told media that the law dictates that it is the trial court's prerogative to decide where it wants to conduct the trial. In this case, specifically, concerns have been raised regarding the suspect's security, and due to those, the decision was taken to conduct the trial inside the jail premises, he said.

Ausaf said jail trials aren't conducted just because the proceedings might be sensational and neither do they take place to punish a person. "The reason behind it is three-fold: security concerns, the safety of the witnesses and the records they might bring with them, and then there are some matters that aren't preferred to be made public, including matters related to national security."

In this case, he said, people will get more clarity once the order is released. But, he said, the court hasn't ruled out a jail trial, it has just said that the procedure adopted for the jail trial wasn't right.

# Hamas says Gaza truce deal 'close', raising hopes for hostages

## Saudi crown prince called on all countries to stop exporting arms to Israel

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia demands the start of a serious and comprehensive peace process to establish a Palestinian state along the borders of 1967, the Kingdom's crown prince said on Tuesday. Addressing a virtual summit of the BRICS group, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said there is no way to achieve security and stability in Palestine except through the implementation of international decisions related to a two-state solution. The crown prince added that the Kingdom rejected the enforced displacement of Palestinians and called on all countries to stop exporting arms to Israel.

"We demand an immediate halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza," he said. Prince Mohammed said the Kingdom had worked tirelessly since the beginning of the crisis to protect civilians in the Gaza Strip and demanded the immediate entry of aid into the territory. The Kingdom has so far sent 15 planes carrying various relief aid, including shelter materials, food and ambulances, to Palestinian people inside the Gaza Strip. It also set up a sea bridge to deliver aid to Palestinians last week. Meanwhile, the chair of the extraordinary BRICS summit accused Israel of war crimes and "genocide" in Gaza. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "The collective punishment of Palestinian civilians through the unlawful use of force by Israel is a war crime. The deliberate denial of medicine, fuel, food and water to the residents of Gaza is tantamount to genocide." — Arab News

children, would also be released from Israeli jails.

US President Joe Biden had said he believed a deal to free the hostages was close, as hopes grew for talks brokered by Qatar, where Hamas has a political office and which has behind-the-scenes diplomatic links with Israel. Separately, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday that its president had traveled to Qatar to meet Hamas's Haniyeh "to advance humanitarian issues related to the armed conflict in Israel and Gaza."

As well as spelling the release of hostages, the agreement could bring respite for Gazans who have lived for more than six weeks under Israel bombardment and an expanding ground offensive. Large parts of Gaza have been destroyed by air strikes that have numbered in the thousands, and the territory is under siege, with minimal food, water and fuel allowed to enter. According to the Hamas and Islamic

Jihad sources, the deal would also allow for up to 300 trucks of food and medical aid to enter Gaza.

Israel has been wary of allowing fuel into the strip for fear it could be used by Hamas in rockets or for other paramilitary means. Israel has vowed to press ahead with its offensive, pledging to crush Hamas and ensure the hostages are released. "We will not stop fighting until we bring our hostages home," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared after meeting relatives of those abducted. In Gaza, medics and patients were again caught on the front line on Tuesday, as Israel expanded its operation across the north of the territory. Officials in the Hamas-run health ministry said Israel struck the Indonesian Hospital on Monday, killing 12 people, before moving in ground forces. "The Israeli army is laying siege to the Indonesian Hospital," ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qudra said. — Arab News

# PPP to implement 18th amend and NFC award

## Bilawal says Benazir Labour Card to be extended to all provinces

**F.P. Report**

LOWER DIR: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zaradi has said the PPP will fully implement the 18th constitutional amendment and will further improve the national finance commission award if it comes into power.

He stated this while addressing a public gathering at the Dir Stadium in Upper Dir as chief guest here on Tuesday. A large number of party workers and the general public from different parts of the Upper and Lower Dir attended the event. The PPP provincial chief Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, former provincial chief Najmud Din Khan and others also addressed the gathering. The party workers warmly received Mr Bilawal on his arrival to the district.

Praising the people of Dir, Mr Bilawal said that his 'jiyalas' would never run away from the snowfall and cold. Bilawal said the Pakistan Tahreek Insaf chairman Imran Khan had destroyed the country and introduced the politics of hatred, disrespect and abuse. "The Khan is in jail, I don't like someone to be in jail as it is not a good omen", Bilawal said, adding it did not look like the Khan would have any role in politics in Pakistan anymore.

The PPP chairman took a dig at the PML-N for the current price-hike and termed it as 'Mehengaye League' and shuffled all the responsibility of the PDM failure on to the PML-N, though PPP was also part of it. "You saw the 'mehengaye league' face that has given nothing to people except inflation," he said as a charged crowd chanted pro-Bilawal slogans. "The lion turned out to be a cat," he jeered. Bilawal assailed Nawaz Sharif who returned last month to stage a re-entry to power in the upcoming national elections



without naming him and observed he did not understand what the old age politicians were up to.

He said the old age politicians turn political competition into personal enmity. He said political polarisation was not good for the country and added his party had no issue with any political party but those who were creating problems for the nation would be an issue for him. He said the politics of hatred had divided the nation into groups which must be ended. Without naming Mian Nawaz Sharif,

"We will neither play nor let others play, it is the politics of Lahore", Bilawal said, adding the nation made Mian Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister thrice but he did nothing for the people. He asked what he would do if he was made the PM for the fourth time. He said that they had formed an alliance to steer the country out of the crises and it did well in the start but its end was not well. He said the situation was becoming worse with every passing day. "I am now disappointed, the youth are now disappointed", he said, adding that now he would only focus on elections.

The PPP chairman asked the people of Dir to support his party in the next general elections. He said the PPP promised to change the fate of the people if it came into power. The PPP chairman said the floods had devastated the Upper Dir district like the districts of Sindh and his

party would rehabilitate the damaged areas. He said the PPP would maintain the tax-free zone of Malakand. He said that he would struggle for the people's rights with the public support. Mr Bilawal was of the view that PPP always represented rural and marginalized areas and the neglected class of society. He announced the introduction of the 'Sindh Card' in the entire country that benefited the poor segment of society.

He said the PML-N and PTI had never cared for the poor but they represented the elite class. He said the Sindh card was for poor peasants not for the landlords. He said the PML-N wanted to abolish the 18th constitutional amendment and national finance commission (NFC) award but the PPP wpromised to further improve the NFC award. He said the PPP would implement the 18th amendment in its real sense.

"The NIC Hospital in Karachi has become the biggest hospital in the world. The people of Dir living in Karachi know it better", he said, adding the PPP would spend the Rs 100 billion on the poor people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by implementing the 18th constitutional amendment if given the chance to rule the country. Later the PPP chairman also visited a local private school and met with its students. He also answered the students' questions during his visit.





## 'Owners to get plot possession in LDA City soon'

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner and Lahore Development Authority Director General Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Tuesday announced giving possession of plots to owners in LDA City soon.

A crucial meeting regarding the position of Block C in LDA City, Sector S, Jinnah Sector, was held here at LDA head office which was chaired by Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

The meeting presented an action plan for the possession of plots while City Director Khuram Yaqub and Project Director Osman Nazir briefed the meeting on ongoing projects.

In the briefing, it was highlighted that there are 150 plots in LDA City's C Block, ranging from 5 to 20 marlas and 1 to 2 kanals while sports complex in LDA City will be completed soon.

## MCL cleanup operation continues

LAHORE (APP): The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) carried out an anti-encroachment operation and demolished illegal structures in the provincial capital.

An MCL spokesperson told the media here on Tuesday that encroachment squad removed 240 encroachments from various locations of the city.

Seventy encroachments were removed from Data Ganj Bakhsh zone, 10 from Ravi zone, eight from Gulberg zone, nine from Aziz Bhatti zone, 18 from Shalimar zone, 21 in Nishtar zone and 10 from Wahga zone while the remaining were removed from other hotspots areas of the city.

## Phytosanitary won global acknowledgment

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Tuesday, said that effective and diligent Phytosanitary certification process of Pakistan had won global acknowledgment and over 130 countries were honouring our clearance certificates.

He presiding over a meeting at Department of Plant Protection (DPP), said that DPP was playing an important role in the economy of the country by properly regulating imports and exports of agricultural commodities particularly implementation of phytosanitary requirements of Pakistan and other countries where agricultural commodities and products were being exported or imported from. The minister expressed satisfaction over the digitization process which had enabled 100% efficiency of the quarantine facility for agricultural commodities and products at import and export stages and stated "DPP is shielding the plantation of the country through its quarantine facility so that no harmful insect or pest enters the country."

# CM calls for adhering to quality standards to export seafood

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday said that seafood products, ranging from fish and shrimp to crabs and squid, including frozen and fresh seafood, canned goods, and value-added items like breaded fish fillets, can find their way to international markets if we ensure our adherence to quality standards, and the integration of technology is ensured.

This he said while speaking at a seminar organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) to commemorate World Fisheries Day at Bahria University. He said that he was happy for the professionals and policymakers on this significant occasion of World Fisheries Day 2023, marked by the theme "Conservation through Collaboration: Developing Fishing Communities." Today, I am privileged to share this moment with you, a gathering that highlights the heartbeat of our celebration—the vibrant and resilient fishing communities along the Pakistan coast.

The CM said that the fishermen's communities were not merely guardians of the sea; they embody the essence of our cultural heritage, preserving traditions that have been cherished and passed down through generations. "As we come together to observe World Fisheries Day, it is only fitting that we shine a spotlight on these communities, placing them at the forefront of our discussions," he said. Baqar said that Pakistan was blessed with a coastline stretching over 1,000 km and an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 290,000 sq. km, including the extended continental shelf. "This endowment positions Pakistan with significant potential for the development of the Blue Economy," he said and added our marine fishing activities were concentrated along the coasts of

Sindh and Balochistan, constituting 30 per cent and 70 per cent of Pakistan's total coastal area, respectively. The CM said that for periods, fishing has been a vital source of sustenance for communities along the Indus River and the Arabian Sea. "Our waters harbour approximately 70 commercial fish species," he disclosed and said that the fisheries sector not only significantly contributes to our economy but also forms the backbone of livelihoods for our coastal communities. Baqar said that seafood products, ranging from fish and shrimp to crabs and squid, including frozen and fresh seafood, canned goods, and value-added items like breaded fish fillets, find their way to international markets.

"Our key export destinations include the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and South Korea. Remarkably, Pakistan's seafood export reached an all-time high, hitting \$496 million in 2022-23," he disclosed and added that the growth potential was substantial.

Access to international markets, adherence to quality standards, and the integration of technology such as fishing crafts equipped with modern fishing tools such as GPS tracking, sonar, and data analytics can enhance fishing efficiency, traceability, and resource management, the CM suggested. He added that investing in research and development for new species, improved breeding techniques, and sustainable aquaculture practices was paramount. CM said that there was ample room for expansion in the processing and value-addition sector, encompassing filleting, freezing, canning, and the production of various fish-based products. Pakistan's fisheries and aquaculture sector are pivotal in providing livelihoods for coastal communities and ensuring the nation's food security.

## Private universities announce tuition fee waiver for Danish schools

LAHORE (APP): Several private sector universities have allocated seats and allowed fee-waiver to the students of the Danish Schools on the instructions of Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

The universities include Gift University (Gujranwala Institute of Future Technologies), Qarshi University, The Green International University, University of Faisalabad and Superior University.

The Governor Punjab said that this initiative will provide opportunities to the intelligent and capable students of Danish schools to materialise their dreams and progress in life, adding that these children will not only change the destiny of their families but will

become an asset for the country.

He said that no child should be deprived of higher education due to poverty and lack of resources.

The Governor Punjab said the initiative of private universities is commendable. He further said that whether it is academics or extra-curricular activities, these children studying in Danish schools are not less than anyone in terms of abilities and skills.

He said that the children belonging to the most deprived sections in remote areas are being provided with opportunities for higher education through Danish Schools. He expressed hope that these children would play their role in the development of the country by getting education from Danish schools.

## Imran Ismail declares MQM to be key contender of IPP in Karachi

KARACHI (NNI): Former Sindh governor Imran Ismail has declared the political battle will be held between the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) for the Karachi seats.

Talking to the party workers, the IPP leader Imran Ismael also revealed plans for an alliance opposing the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Sindh, welcoming various parties, excluding the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), to join forces.

Expressing his aspirations for a united front against the PPP in Sindh, former

PTI leader Imran Ismail extended an invitation to Pir Pagara, expressing the hope that the influential leader would assume leadership of the alliance in Sindh.

Imran Ismail said that an alliance comprising various parties, except the PML-N, would better serve the interests of the people and challenge the political dominance of the PPP in the province.

He also expressed his disappointment over the May 9 events, considering the date a dark day in Pakistan's history.

Imran recalled the discussions in PTI committees that always leaned towards supporting the military.

## CTP take action against underage drivers

RAWALPINDI (APP): On the orders of Additional IG Traffic Punjab, City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi conducted a robust crackdown against underage drivers, motorcycle riders without helmets, and vehicles emitting smoke.

According to CTP spokesman, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan personally inspected various highways and reviewed the ongoing crackdown against the violators. CTO gave strict instructions to all circle officers and field

staff to ensure the rule of law and to maintain traffic flow.

Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated during the ongoing campaign, he added. During the campaign, City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi took strict action against 418 underage drivers and impounded 145 vehicles/motorcycles. Furthermore, FIRs were registered against 76 underage drivers. Whereas, in view of the safety of motorcyclists, challan tickets were issued to 235 motorcyclists without helmets.



ISLAMABAD: Shafqat Abbas Joint Secretary of I&B presenting a bouquet to newly appoint Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting Shahera Shahid upon her taking over charge of the office of Secretary.

## Education minister reaffirms commitment to quality education

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Rana Hussain Tuesday reaffirmed her unwavering commitment to quality education during the annual review conference on the Quality Assurance Framework of the People's School Program (PSP).

The conference was organized by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) held at the Futurum, Professional Development Center here. The minister shared the Sindh Textbook Board Jamshoro is set to hand over books to SEF on November 24.

The PSP, an initiative of the Sindh Education Foundation, has successfully operationalized purposefully built, state-of-the-art school buildings

across various districts of the Sindh province under the Sindh Education Foundation's Public-Private Partnership modality. Presently, 34 PSP schools are functional in diverse districts. In line with the completion of an academic year for these schools, the Annual Review Conference with Dr Fatima Dar aimed to assess the status of the Quality Assurance Framework and strategize a way forward to ensure the delivery of quality education in PSP schools.

SEF's partner organizations, including Iqra University, Indus Resource Center, Taleem Foundation, Moawin, Development in Literacy, Progressive Education Network, Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Water Coordination,

Chartered for Compassion, SZABIST, Sindh Madrasa, Green Crescent Center, and Ziauddin University attended the conference. The minister while emphasizing her commitment as an educationist, expressed the need for collective efforts to bridge gaps and improve facilities. She stressed, "Together we can bring about change." Abdul Kabir Kazi, Managing Director of SEF, highlighted the increasing enrollment and the pivotal role SEF plays. He acknowledged the challenges faced by schools and emphasized the importance of devising plans to address these issues, stating, "With positive indicators, we are confident that, over time, we will achieve our objectives."

## LESCO detects 363 power pilferers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 363 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 74th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 361 electricity thieves, out of which 234 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 21 accused have been arrested. Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations.

The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft.

The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

## Lost & Found

**I** Muhammad Haroon R/o of Kohat lost my 500 shares of KAPCO having Folio# 0186220 and my Son Muhammad Aqeel lost 500 shares of KAPCO having Folio # 0186210. If anyone finds please contact on 0332-9618658.

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER, BUNER CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the advertisement PID(P) # 450/23 published in The Frontier Post and other newspapers The telephone number of the District Election Commissioner, Buner may please be read as 0939-510283 instead of 0946-920081-82.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

**District Election Commissioner Buner**  
Tel: 0939-510283 PID(P) 450/23-A

## CORRIGENDUM

Reference to NIT published in daily newspapers vide INF(P) 2698/2023 closing and opening dates are hereby extended and may be read as 12/12/2023 instead of 22/11/2023. All other terms and conditions will remain same. Same NIT has been uploaded on KP-PPRA website.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
PHE DIVISION BANNU  
Ph: 0928-9270049

INF(P):  
2846/2023

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT Closure of Purchase Period For Buy-Back of Shares

In accordance with Regulation 10(g) of the Listed Companies (Buy-Back of Shares) Regulations, 2019

This is to announce the closure of the purchase period in relation to the buyback of shares by the Company, as approved by the members of Lucky Cement Limited (the "Company") in the Extraordinary General Meeting held on May 24, 2023. During the purchase period, the Company purchased an aggregate of 20,375,000 (Twenty Million Three Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand) ordinary shares of the company (Purchased Shares), representing approximately 6.50% of the issued and paid up capital of the Company. The purchased Shares shall be cancelled in accordance with applicable laws and Members' approval. Accordingly, in accordance with Regulation 7(2) of the Regulations, the purchase period stands closed/completed on Monday, November 20, 2023.

**FAISAL MAHMOOD**  
Authorized Officer /Company Secretary

Karachi: November 22, 2023

ORIENT/McCANN

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER, PESHAWAR No.F.5(5)/2023 Admn (DEC-P)

### TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF REFRESHMENT AND STATIONERY ITEMS

sealed Tenders/bids/rates are invited from the reputed registered firms 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.	Poling Staff	Day-I Biryani+Water Bottle+ 02 times Tea with Cookies	Detail 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, Notepad & Plastic Bag	Detail in Tender document
2.	Refreshment for trainings of Half Day Orientation Sessions	Biryani + Water Bottle	Detail in Tender document
	Stationery for trainings of Half Day Orientation Session	Ball Pen, Lead Pencil, Scale, Eraser, Marker, Sharpener, Notepad & Plastic Bag	Detail in Tender document

#### Terms & Conditions:

- 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.
- The bidders should submit a "Certificate" that the company has never been declared blacklisted or defaulter by any department of Government of Pakistan.
- Price should be quoted in Pak Rupees both in words and figures.
- 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.
- The price should include all the government taxes (Including GST if applicable), duties, delivery etc.
- 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 DDO.
- "Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained on written request from the office of the District Election Commissioner Peshawar latest by 5th December 2023 (Tuesday) till 11:00 AM against the prescribed fee of Rs.1,000/-(Rupees One Thousand) Only non-refundable, on any working day during office hours.
- 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 Peshawar situated at **Malak Plaza Opposite Gulshan Rehman Colony, Kohat Road, Peshawar** on or before tender's opening date i.e. 5th December 2023 (Tuesday) at 11:00 AM which will be opened on the same date at 11:30 AM in the presence of Tender Committee and bidders as may be present. Open, e-mailed or faxed bid will not be accepted. Any bid received by this received by this Office after the date and time of tender opening will be returned unopened to the bidder.
- Exact No of participants will be given at the time of work order.
- Training will be conducted in batches in different venues in **Peshawar City** and in its Tehsil level which shall be intimated accordingly.
- The firms/supplier shall provide refreshment/ stationery at different venues located across the District **Peshawar**.
- Quantity & Quality of food/refreshment will be checked and suitable penalty will be imposed on sub-standard quality.
- Payment will be made after completion of trainings and preferably after availability of budget.
- The procuring agency reserves the rights to increase or decrease the No of items being supplied/ purchased at any stage as per requirement.
- The District Election Commissioner, **Peshawar** Competent Authority reserves the rights to cancel/reject any Tender or all tenders in accordance with Rule-33(1) of PPRA Rules-2004.
- This advertisement is also available on the official websites of PPRA ([www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)) and Election Commission of Pakistan ([www.ecp.gov.pk](http://www.ecp.gov.pk))

**(HAYATULLAH JAN)**

**District Election Commissioner Peshawar**

PID(P) 453/23



LAHORE: President Clean City Labour Union, Malik Ijaz Amin and other union members protesting against GM HR LWMC, Muhammad Zulqurnain Khan at Shaheen Complex.





# KP govt, EVA join hands for promotion of E-vehicles

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and Electrical Vehicle Academy (EVA) Islamabad, a private company which is providing hands on trainings regarding electrical vehicles, have agreed to collaborate in training of skilled persons and technical students for the manufacturing of electric vehicles in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said an official hand-out issued here on Tuesday.

This initiative will help to promote the conversion of traditional vehicles towards electricity consumed vehicles in the province.

As per this collaboration, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Industries, Commerce and

Technical Education Department and EV Academy Islamabad will work jointly to provide the required training.

In this connection, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), a relevant subsidiary formation of the department will provide the space and required equipment for the subject training, while the training company will extend support in imparting requisite skill through their qualified and trained trainers to train the technical students and skilled workers from the same modern technology.

In this regard, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Co-

mmerce and Technical Education and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, met with relevant authorities of the company, (EV Academy), at Islamabad and discussed with them matter related to training of electric vehicles production/manufacturing in the province.

Similarly, the possibilities of mutual collaboration in this regard also came under consideration.

Directors of the academy Saad Elahi and Syed Amaar Hussain Jafari and Manager Operations Ikramullah participated in the meeting.

On this occasion, it was agreed to make jointly efforts for providing necessary training for the manufacturing/production of

electric vehicles in the province, while the caretaker minister termed this effort of mutual cooperation in the province very useful and said that the skilled trainers of the company, equipped with advance experience of the automotive industry of the US, will make possible to train the local technical students, skilled workers and trainers for promotion of electrical vehicles on local level.

It is merit to mention that the EV Academy provides training courses on the latest technologies in the automotive industry with professional technicians and trainers, equipped with US experience in the field of manufacturing electric vehicles.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah visiting Lady Reading Hospital.

## 229,560 persons repatriated

PESHAWAR (APP): The repatriation of undocumented foreigners continued through three borders point of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and till November 20 last, 229,560 persons repatriated to their home countries including Afghanistan.

According to a spokesman of KP Home Department, 225,795 persons were repatriated through Torkham border, 3,346 through Angor Adda Lower Waziristan and 419 through Khairpur tribal district from September 17 till November 20, 2023.

The resurvey regarding voluntary returns was under process by the deputy commissioners. A total of 846 illegal foreigners were deported through the Torkham border so far.

From Punjab province, 733 illegal foreigners were deported through the Torkham border. On November 20, 526 illegal foreigners were deported through Torkham border.

## Secretary hold meeting

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting, chaired by Dr. Mohammad Israr, Secretary Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperative Department, was convened on Tuesday here to address public complaints received through the Pakistan Citizen Portal.

Participants included Director General Livestock Extension Dr. Alam Zeb Mohmand, Director General Livestock Research Dr. Mohammad Ijaz Ali, Director General Fisheries Dr. Khuroo Kaleem, Cooperative Registrar Farhan Khan and relevant officers.

The meeting featured a comprehensive briefing on public complaints related to livestock, fisheries, and cooperatives received on the Pakistan Citizen Portal.

Dr. Muhammad Asrar, emphasizing the crucial role of cattle-rearing farmers in livelihood stability, urged officials to expedite the resolution of these complaints. He highlighted the government's commitment to addressing public issues and called upon all officers to utilize their capabilities for the prompt resolution of problems faced by the public.

## Dry weather predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Tuesday predicted that mainly dry weather is expected over most districts of the province, while cold in upper parts with isolated rain in Upper Chitral and Upper Dir during evening and night.

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.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar 25/09, Chitral 23/02, Timergara 24/06, Dir 23/01, Mirkhani 24/04, Kalam 18/-02, Drosh 24/07, Saidu Sharif 23/03, Pattan 24/08, Malam Jabba 14/04, Takht Bhai 26/07, Kakul 19/05, Balakot 23/05, Parachinar 22/08, Bannu 27/09, Cherat 21/09, DI Khan City 27/11.

# Secretary ordered for submission of reply

## Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique Shah ordered Secretary's Health for submission of reply for didn't release salary of class-IV employee at District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Mardan from last 13 months, on Tuesday.

The counsel Malik Shabbaz Advocate argued that Shah Zeb is recruited at

DHQ hospital Mardan as class-IV while performing his duties regularly but his salary isn't released from last 13 months.

The counsel argued that provision of compensation for delivery of services is obligation of government as per Article 11 of Constitution of Pakistan as well as under sections 6 and 53 of the concerned rules which is violated in the case.

The petitioner is performing his duties at the

concerned office and inquiry didn't concluded in this regard, the counsel added.

He argued for release of arrears and salary till decision of writ petition.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique Shah ordered for provision of reply as well as inquired that why inquiry didn't conclude within one year while adjourned further hearing till date to be fixed.

# Drive against polluting vehicles intensified

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Transport Department has increased efforts to clamp down on vehicles emitting harmful and environmentally detrimental smoke. Orders have been issued to collect documents from the drivers of numerous vehicles and conduct daily smoke checks. Station staff in collaboration with traffic police officers inspecting vehicles emitting hazardous smoke on various Peshawar roads, collecting

documents from drivers and issuing orders for further vehicle checks in the VETS mobile laboratory.

Transport authorities state that the VETS team, in coordination with traffic police, is actively conducting daily operations against smoke-emitting vehicles in Peshawar. Mobile VETS teams, stationed on different roads, inspect over three hundred vehicles daily, including auto rickshaws, taxis, and large vehicles, for emissions of toxic and polluting smoke.

During these operations, vehicle drivers are fined, and their documents are collected. They are directed to undergo smoke checks in the VETS mobile laboratory, and a regular certificate is issued. This crackdown extends beyond Peshawar to eight other districts in the province. The VETS team appeals to the government, the public, and especially drivers to contribute to pollution control efforts, emphasizing the importance of checking vehicles emitting toxic fumes.

# MMI Hayatabad hold funfair for students

PESHAWAR (APP): Mehboob Medical Institute (MMI) Hayatabad here Tuesday organized a colorful funfair and recreational event for students.

The event was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University, Dr. Zia-ul-Haq and Chairman MMI, Dr. Mehboob-ur-Rehman and attended by Registrar KMU, Dr. Inam, teachers and large number of students.

Various stalls were set

up by students displaying cultural food and traditional handicrafts representing cultural diversity of the province.

Dr. Zia-ul-Haq visited all the stalls and appreciated efforts and interests of students.

He also highlighted significance of co-curricular and entertainment activities for capacity building of students and providing them a chance to hone their innate capabilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of MMI, Dr. Mehboob said that institute has also arranged such events in past for improvement of students and to apprise them rich culture and traditions of KP.

He also lauded efforts of institute administration and said it is our objective to focus character building of students added that such kind of events would also be held in future for betterment of students.

# Power shutdown notified by Pesco authorities

PESHAWAR (APP): Pesco authorities have notified power suspension in various areas of provincial metropolis, Kohat and Abbottabad due to maintenance work.

According to Pesco, power supply will remain suspended from Sheikh Muhammadi Transmission line on 22 November from 9 AM to 4 PM resultantly consumers of Peshawar University and Peshawar Industrial grid connected feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from

Dalazak Grid Station on 24 November from 9 AM to 1 PM, resultantly consumer of Gullbela 2, New Gullbela, Lucky Star Floor Mill, Muhammad Zai feeders will face inconvenience.

Similarly, power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City Grid Station on 22 November from 8 AM to 12 PM resultantly consumer of Sethi Town feeder will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City Grid Station on 23 November from 8 AM to 12 PM resultantly consumer of

consumer of Islamabad feeder will face inconvenience.

Power Supply will remain suspended from Kohat Transmission Line on 22 November from 9 AM to 4 PM resultantly consumer of Ghumbat grid connected feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from Abbottabad Grid Station on 23 November from 9 AM to 5 PM resultantly consumer of Nothia Gali grid connected feeders will face inconvenience.



PESHAWAR: Visitors taking interest in display stuff during 1st Solar Exhibition 2023.

## Oath-taking ceremony Driver Association: Caretaker Minister emphasizes development and teamwork

PESHAWAR (APP): In a oath-taking ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, the Caretaker Minister for Finance, Goods, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, underscored the importance of development and economic stability for the province.

The participation of prominent figures including Minister for Planning and Development Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Minister for Local Government Engineer Aamir Durrani, President of the Driver Association Sher Zaman Mehsud, General Secretary Sardar Ali, and Chairman

Muhammad Ifthar.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ahmed Rasool Bangash highlighted the collective responsibility of steering the province towards progress.

He emphasized the need for unity and collaboration to achieve common goals, stating that every individual, regardless of their role, plays a significant part in the development of society and the state.

"We have not taken the province on the path of development alone; it is a collective effort," remarked Minister Bangash.

During the ceremony, the Caretaker Finance Minister administered the

oath to the officials of the Civil Secretariat Drivers Association.

He expressed his commitment to ensuring that the rights of officials and drivers from all departments are duly recognized and protected.

"We respect every individual, and our goal is to ensure that officials and drivers of all departments receive their rightful rights," he affirmed.

Minister Bangash further assured that practical steps would be taken to address and fulfill all legitimate demands presented by the Driver Association.

In recognition of his role, the supervising minis-

ter for finance, excise taxation, and narcotics control department, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, was honored with a shield by the President of the Driver Association Civil Secretariat.

The Association extended its gratitude to the Caretaker Finance Minister and other Caretaker Ministers for their participation in the swearing-in ceremony, acknowledging their support and commitment to the province's development and economic stability.

The ceremony served as a platform to reinforce the collaborative spirit required to propel Khyber Pakhtunkhwa towards progress and prosperity.

# Encroachments on 59 marla graveyard's land demolished

PESHAWAR (APP): District administration Peshawar demolished encroachments established on 59 marla graveyard land during an anti-encroachment operation carried out in various graveyards of the

city here on Tuesday morning.

Three people were also arrested for creating hurdles in the operation and making interference in the duties of the government officials.

On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Aafaq Wazir, the Administrator of Auqaaf Department, Hamid Gigiyani and Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC), Saleem Ayubi carried out operation against

encroachments erected on 59 marla land in graveyards at Berry Bagh, Beijo Graveyard and Zahidabad.

During the operation, encroachments erected on the land of graveyards were demolished while three people were also arrested for resisting the operation.

A heavy contingent of police was deployed to avert any untoward incident. According to DC Peshawar encroachments were established on the land of graveyards and people involved in the illegal practice were served with several notices to remove it voluntarily, but they failed, leaving the district administration with no other option than carrying out operation to demolish the encroachments and retrieve the land.

DC Peshawar has directed the officers of the district administration to inspect bazaars and other places on daily basis and send those re-erecting encroachments behind bars.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali listening people's problems at his office.

## General Elections-2024: Political parties eye on young voters to achieve victory

PESHAWAR (APP): Political parties have started eyeing on young voters to muster their support to achieve landslide victory in 2024 general election and serve them for next five years term.

The leaders of almost all religio-political leaders including mainstream PPP, PMLN, JUIF, PTI and ANP were trying to persuade a large number of young voters in all provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with catchy programs keeping in view of their 45.84 representation to form government in centre and four provinces after winning the General Election.

The Election Commission of Pakistan data has revealed that the total proportion of voters below 35 years of age was 45.84 per cent youth that would play a significant role in deciding the fate of political parties in 2024 election announced to be held on February 8 next year.

"The role of young voters in deciding fate of electoral candidates in 2024 election would be crucial and those parties that achieved their support

would easily form Govt in centre and KP, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan," said Professor AH Hilali, former Chairman, Political Science Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP on Tuesday.

He said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Asfandiyar Wali Khan and others were trying to get their support. In recent conventions, he said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari announced pro- youth and labour projects to achieve support of young voters, farmers and labourers. He said out of total 121 million voters, 55.57m voters are aged 18 to 35 years, whereas their number was slightly above 46m (43.82pc) in the 2018 general election. Hilali said among these young voters (45.84pc), 31.98 million or 26.38pc are in the age group of 26 to 35 years, while as many as 23.58 million or 19.46pc individuals are aged between 18 and 25 years.

He said 23.58 million young voters comprise 14.86 million male and 8.72 million female voters, many of whom will be first-time voters and were looking

towards parties' manifesto and past service records due to increased literacy rate.

Hilali said a province-wise analysis of these 23.58m young voters magnified that Punjab alone has 13.18 million voters (8.18 million male and over 5 million female); followed by Sindh with 4.71 million voters (over 3 million male, 1.71 million female); Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 4.41 million voters (2.84 million male, 1.57million female) and Balochistan with 1.10 million voters (around 737,000 male and 364,000 female).

Likewise, 175,411 voters aged less than 25 years including 98,105 male and 77,306 female voters are in the federal capital.

Dr Hilali said that young voters were the backbone of political parties whose role are the prerequisite of every democratic system.

"The success of political parties in general election largely depend on the political behaviour and psychological- economic factors, past service record and manifestos of political parties rather launching of personal attacks, blame games,

characters assassination of political leadership and dragging state institutions into politics," said Manzoor Haq, former ambassador while talking to APP.

He said the use of sarcastic, pathetic and wretched remarks against political personalities during election rallies and TV talks damages the political atmosphere and creates hatred among political workers besides creating political polarization and anarchy.

He said that unfortunately principles based politics was deteriorating because of the deep political polarization and wrangling among political forces for the sake of power.

He said a permanent political divide with no channel of communication and political intolerance retards the political and economic development, besides widening the economic gap between influentials and the underprivileged.

Manzoor said that issues based political debates help in broadening voters' understanding and resolution of socioeconomic and political issues besides promoting political harmony.





## In brief

## Blind murder case resolved

KHUSHAB (INP): Police resolved the blind murder case and arrested a girl over murder of father in jurisdiction of Nowshera police station in Khushawab. According to details, bullet riddled body of a man was found from a house in Sabharwal area a couple of days earlier and it was told the deceased had committed suicide over poverty. However, the police over suspicion held the daughter who during investigations confessed the crime. The girl identified as Mehwish said that she wanted to get marry with her neighbourer, Asim but my father was not in this favour. "To get rid of father for fulfilling my desire of choice marriage, I along with Asim served toxic pills to father before shooting him dead on late night," Mehwish told police. The police registered a case against the detainee and started raids to arrest her cohort.

## Three suspects arrested

SIALKOT (INP): Police arrested three suspects and recovered a significant amount of alcohol during a crackdown on illicit drug activities in the city on Tuesday. According to police officials, acting on a tip-off, a team of Bombanwala police station conducted raids in different areas of Sialkot, leading to the apprehension of the three individuals. The identities of the arrested suspects have been withheld pending further investigation. Upon searching the premises, the police recovered a substantial quantity of alcohol, indicating the suspects' involvement in a large-scale drug trafficking network. The seized alcohol is currently in police custody and will serve as crucial evidence in the ongoing investigation. Commenting on the operation, Sialkot Police Spokesman stated that the crackdown on drug dealers is a top priority for the police department. He emphasized that the police are committed to eradicating drug trafficking from the city and ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizens. Cases have been registered against the accused under the relevant provisions of the law, and a comprehensive investigation is underway to unravel the extent of their drug trafficking operations.

## Farmers advised

FAISALABAD (INP): Agriculture experts have advised farmers to start off-season cultivation of melons, water melons and vegetables of the summer in tunnels. A spokesman for the agricultural (extension) department said on Tuesday that progressive farmers were adopting tunnel technology and earning much money by cultivating off-season vegetables in low, walk-in and high tunnels. He said it was impossible for farmers to grow summer vegetables manually during the winter. However, summer vegetables like cucumber, tomato, sweet chilies, green chilies, pumpkin, sponge gourd, bitter gourd, vegetable marrow, red gourd, Brinjal, water melon, musk melon, etc could be grown easily and successfully in tunnels during winter, he added. The spokesman said tunnel-grown vegetables were covered by green fiber sheets to protect crops from severe cold and frost. With the intensive care, farmers could get early production of the summer vegetables and earn more income than seasonal vegetables, he added.

## Laptops among 40 position holders distributed

## F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: Secretary Sindh Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon said that we were currently passing through the era of digitalization and competition, and the whole world was a market for our graduates if they would make themselves skilled



and competent enough.

He was addressing as chief guest at the laptop distribution ceremony under Prime Minister Laptop Scheme, Phase III in the Senate Hall, Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, this morning. He said that there were solutions to the problems in the world's research, experiments, inventions and to access it, students should acquire skills in IT.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari while addressing the ceremony said that IT was now of great importance in the world, especially in agriculture, the

importance of technology could not be denied. He said that precision agriculture, climate smart agriculture, geographical information system, drone technology, digital marketing and information technology were prerequisites to achieve development adding that students of agricultural university will

have to adapt to information technology in this modern era. Higher Education Commission's Director of the Regional Training Center Javed Ali Memon said that HEC was providing modern facilities to the youth according their needs. He said that besides providing opportunities in education HEC was also providing opportunities to youth in sports as well.

Manzoor Ali Rand, Regional Director of the scheme Sindh said that laptops were being given to one hundred thousand students in this scheme, earlier in 2013, more than five

hundred thousand laptops had been distributed in first two phases in the Prime Minister Youth Scheme, while in the 3rd phase of the scheme a large number of students of Sindh would be benefited.

Later, Secretary Information Department Sindh Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon and Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri gave the laptops to 40 position holders students. Under scheme 1025 students of Agriculture University Tandojam would receive laptop from next Monday.

On this occasion, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Ejaz Ali Khonharu, Focal Person of Laptop Scheme of Sindh Agricultural University Dr. Barkatullah Qureshi, Dr. Farkhanda Warsi and Dean Dr. Ghiyasuddin Shah Rashidi also spoke on the occasion. Dean Dr. Manzoor Ali Abro, Principal ZA Bhutto Agricultural College Dokri Dr. Sultan Ahmad Mathlo, Registrar Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, Dr. Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar, teachers and others were present.

## Export, import suspend as drivers' entry restricts at border

## F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Import and export besides transit trade was discontinued at Torkham border when entry of Afghan drivers was restricted at the crossing on Tuesday without proper visa and passport.

It is to be mentioned here that after Army Public School on 16 December, 2015 mishap, passport and visa policy had been made compulsory at Torkham border; but the drivers had been exempted from proper visa but producing passport at the border was made compulsory for them.

As per border security and custom officials approximately 800 trucks daily cross the Torkham border in the form of carrying export or import goods. Assistant Director, Federal Intelligence Agency (FIA)

Torkham Yasir Arafat confirmed the news and said as per the government policy, besides general passengers, truckers had been asked to get a visa while crossing into Pakistan via the Torkham border.

Previously deadlines had been set for the truckers to acquire legal travelling documents but ironically the drivers did not take it seriously, he added. The custom official in Torkham said that because of the restriction, import stopped and in reaction, the Afghan border security officials suspended entry of export loaded trucks at Torkham crossing.

As a good gesture, the Pak officials granted permission to the fresh fruits loaded vehicles drivers to cross in, however the Afghan custom officials

denied their entry and asked for general permission to the other cargo drivers. Afghan border officials resented the visa policy for the Afghan drivers and said it will suffer bilateral trade at the border.

They maintained that the Pak embassy and councils didn't issue visas to the Afghan citizens including the drivers that multiplied their miseries. On the other hand, office bearers of transport association Torkham and other trade unions played the visa policy for the truckers and said it would certainly badly affect the business activities at the border. Because of suspension of export and import at Torkham crossing, long queues of loaded trucks could be witnessed at the roads on both sides of the border.



HYDERABAD: ASP Baldia Muhammad Dilawar briefing media persons about the arrest of robbers and recoveries.

## 7 outlaws arrested, hashish, weapons recovered

## F.P. Report

DI KHAN: Dera police during successful operations against criminal elements arrested seven outlaws, and recovered 1300 grams of hashish, seven pistols with 46 cartridges in the limits of the City police station on Tuesday.

According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, the City police Station under the supervision of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Arslan Khan Gandapur conducted indiscriminate operations in the various areas against the criminal elements and arrested Muhammad Saleem son of Ghulam Yasin and recovered one pistol with 05 cartridges from his possession. Another accused Muhammad Hasnain son of Muhammad Ramzan, resident of Gulzar City was arrested and recovered one pistol of 30-bore with 06 cartridges. Similarly, Ijaz

son of Wazir resident of Swat was arrested and police recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession.

Meanwhile, during another action Jameel Ahmed son of Israr Khan resident of Charsadda was arrested, and two pistols of 30-bore with 12 cartridges were recovered from his possession. Another outlaw Rajab Ali son of Abdul Hameed resident of Laghari Gate was arrested and police registered the case against him under the National Action Plan.

Allah Bakhs son of Muhammad Afzal resident of Basti Dhapanwali arrested and recovered one pistol of 30-bore with 18 cartridges while Shakeel son of Muhammad Ramzan resident of Bakhtawar Abad was arrested and police recovered 1300 grams of hashish, one pistol of 30-bore with 06 cartridges from his possession. The police registered separate cases against the arrested criminals and started further investigations.

## Marriage hall sealed

BAHAWALPUR (INP): The Bahawalpur district administration on Tuesday sealed and marriage hall besides imposing Rs50,000 fine for violation of rules.

The DC Bahawalpur has constituted teams comprising assistant commissioners and magistrates to conduct raids at marriage halls to check the implementation of rules and directions, said a press release. The teams of assistant commissioners and magistrates inspected 65 marriage halls and sealed one of them besides imposing a fine of Rs 50,000 against the marriage hall's management for violation of rules.

It was mentioning here that the district management of Bahawalpur through its orders had made the management of the marriage halls bound to serve only one dish instead of several dishes besides closing the hall by 10 pm.



ABBOTTABAD: Security personnel standing guard due to high security alert in the city.

## Three die as vehicle falls in gorge in Battagram

## F.P. Report

BATTAGRAM: At least three people were killed and 16 others injured when a passenger van plunged into a gorge near Alai in Battagram district on Tuesday.

According to local police, the ill-fated vehicle carrying passengers was on its way to Bannah area when it fell into a deep gorge. Police said the bad condition of the road and driver's negligence caused the mishap. Police further said that three people were killed on the scene while 16 others including women and a child were injured in the accident. The injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Battagram for treatment.

## Arms license dealers instructed to register

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Deputy Commissioner Mardan on Tuesday mandated arms license holder dealers to undergo registration through a newly introduced software for obtaining arms licenses.

According to a notification, the registration of these dealers is now compulsory through the new software. The Deputy Commissioner's Office, in a statement, has directed all arms license holders in the Mardan district to promptly contact the "Arms License Branch, District Secretariat Mardan" for the necessary registration on the new software.

## Rule of masses if PPP voted into power

HYDERABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) senior leader Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Tuesday said that PPP had been always striving for ensuring transparent elections for the sake of the country's political stability and for strengthening democratic system.

Talking to the pty news channel, he said that all political parties should contest elections based on their manifestos rather than using money and rigging in elections, he suggested. Replying to a query, he said that if the PPP is voted into power, then there will be the rule of the masses, adding, it is important to have the right manifesto and doctrine to lead the country to success. He also emphasised the importance of a level playing field for all political parties in the upcoming elections.

He mentioned PPP leadership had rendered great sacrifices for the cause of democracy in the country, adding, his party has always focused on serving the common man. "We will prove that PPP is the only party that is connected with the hearts of people, and my party has continuously strived to strengthen the common people, an example of which is the Benazir Income Support Programme through which the poor women of the country are able to benefit," he added.

## Why EIA compromised in Ayune Road extension?

## Nusrat Bibi

THE National Highway Authority (NHA) is working on a road extension project of Kalash valley, Ayun in which the original design of the road is modified to accommodate local demands and now the nearby most precious Botanical Garden and related plants and animals' life is in intense threat to be consumed in this road.

While the barren land on both side of the road belongs to a person who already has worked in the plants and animals saving department of Wildlife and Environment KP is not utilized to save this worthy garden and biodiversity. The NHA design mistake reflects the ignorance of initial EIA by both Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) and NHA in which the fragile garden and related biodiversity is in stake.

Although Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an integral part and parcel of the development programs/projects elsewhere in the world but in Pakistan neither it considered mandatory nor it conducted in a professional way and that's why we are facing environmental demolition everywhere in our country. The scenic values of our cities and villages are diminished and our worthy heritage and land are in intense threats from the development pressure. Our precious natural resources are endangered and suffering as a whole from the weaker policies of the government.

Our mountains are bulldozed to construct or extend roads and excavated to extract minerals and

other natural wealth due to which our mountains show the sick health syndrome and has been strayed from their primary functions of adjusting climate and weather. While our rivers are dredged to take out sand and stones which highly destroys the fish and other aquatic life habitats and causing mortality and economic loss as well as curtailing the functions of rivers in water cycle, irrigation and above all in buffering against the flood.

Trees and vegetation are cut down to construct homes and other infrastructure which not only deteriorates our genetic pool for biodiversity but also has seriously endangers our wildlife, water aquifers, water and air quality, increases heat and disturbs water cycle and cloud formation along with food chain disruptions.

## Under construction buildings inspected

## F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad visited under construction buildings of University of Hafizabad and District Headquarter Hospital to review pace of work on both mega projects being completed with the cost of billion of rupees for providing higher educational and better health facilities to the people at local level.

Deputy Director Development Tasawar Abbas, CEO Health Dr. Umer Sharif Rathore, Director Colleges

Gujranwala Division Zahid Farooq, Deputy Director Colleges Hafizabad Muhammad Azhar Janjua and other officers were also accompanied her.

DC directed the officers of the buildings department to expedite pace of work on these projects and complete construction work according to released funds.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Sundas Irshad said that provision of fertilizers to farmers at official process is top priority of district administration Hafizabad and no one would be allowed to sell fertilizers

on arbitrary prices at all whereas special teams consisting of district administration and agriculture departments are monitoring warehouses of fertilizer dealers to review stock and sale of fertilizers on daily basis.

Spokesman of district administration Hafizabad Anjum Sohail Ajum told that 4 cases had been gotten registered against fertilizer dealers and more than Nine Lakh and Sixty Two thousand of rupees fine had been imposed on shopkeepers for selling fertilizers on inflated rates in the district so far.

## Six wedding halls fined for violating one-dish rule

SARGODHA (INP): Six wedding halls in Sargodha have been fined a total of three lakh rupees for violating the Marriage Functions Act, which prohibits the serving of more than one dish at marriage ceremonies.

According to authorities, the crackdown on violators was initiated by the district administration, which checked 97 marquees and marriage halls. Three halls were fined 50,000 rupees each, while two others were fined 25,000 rupees each.

Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Shoaib Ali said that the monitoring process has been accelerated to ensure the ban on one-dish. He warned that violations will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The raids were conducted in all six tehsils of Sargodha district. A total of 37 wedding halls in Sargodha Tehsil, 8 in Silanwali Tehsil, 11 in Shahpur Tehsil, 9 in Kot Momin Tehsil, 19 in Tehsil Bhalwal, and 8 in Tehsil Bheera were inspected. The owners of the wedding halls have been warned that further violations will result in stricter action, including the sealing of their premises.

Six held, weapons recovered: Police on Tuesday after launching a massive crackdown against illegal weapon holders arrested six accused.

Police said officials raided at different localities and busted Muhammad Ramzan, Muhammad Zamaan, Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Ejaz, Khalil-ur-

Rehman and Gull Zamaan besides recovering three guns and four pistols.

Girl's rapist arrested: A three-year-old girl was raped in broad daylight. The suspect, a 15-year-old named Muhammad Waqas (also known as Kashif), has been caught, and an investigation is ongoing while he gets medical treatment. According to police, the victim, Halima Fatima, was walking near her home when she was abducted and assaulted by the 15-year-old. Her family acted quickly, and the suspect fled, leaving the child unharmed.

Halima was taken to DHQ Hospital for immediate medical attention, and a case was filed by her uncle. The Chief Minister of Punjab visited the victim in the hospital, offering support to the family and ensuring justice.

The Chief Minister gave a one-million-rupee check to the girl's mother. The child is receiving intensive care, and the police are actively investigating. The arrested suspect, Waqas alias Kashif, is undergoing medical treatment. The District Police Officer praised the police team for their quick action. He stressed the importance of parents in protecting children, and he assured that law enforcement is working hard to bring perpetrators to justice.

6 injured in road accident: At least six people got injuries in a road traffic accident in the area of Mansoorabad police station, here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 spokesman, a speeding truck hit a motorcycle rickshaw near Wazir Wala on Gattwala Road. As a result, six passengers including Khurram Shahzad (40), Hassan Ghafoor (24), Nasir Munir (24), Arshad Yaqoob (39), Imran (30) and Mohsin (28) received serious injuries. Rescue 1122 shifted them to DHQ Hospital (Allied Hospital-II) for treatment.

## Radio Pakistan marks its 53rd anniversary

MULTAN (INP): The Radio Pakistan Multan on Tuesday celebrated its 53rd anniversary. The Multan station of Radio Pakistan started its transmission on this day in 1970.

The institution revived the cultural traditions and civilization of South Punjab, introduced several famous singers and artists including Naheed Akhtar, Pathane Khan, Mansoor Malangi, Surayya Multanikar, Meena Lodhi, Naem ul Hasan Babloo, Sohail Asghar, Mohsin Gillani, Zahid Salim and many other big names.

The station produced kalam of Hazrat Khawaja Ghulam Farid RA and other Sufi poets in the form of Kafis. Recently, Radio Pakistan Multan has also started the use of social media platforms very well.





# Keeping Gaza online: Telecom heroes risk life and limb under Israel’s bombs

GAZA: It was a little after 10 pm when Ahmad\* was called by the Network Operation Centre at the Palestine Telecommunications Company (PalTel). It was the third week of Israel's assault on Gaza and the main data centre in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City had lost power, threatening to shut off all communications in the area.

To check on the centre, the PalTel electrician would have to make his way across the city during intense Israeli aerial bombardment, putting his life in danger. But he did not hesitate. He flagged down a passing ambulance, hoping it would provide him with a degree of safety from Israeli attacks. "I told the driver that if I could not restore the generator, people like him wouldn't be able to reach injured civilians. We are no better nor less important than medical staff - a phone call can save lives," Ahmad said.

Once at the centre, Ahmad set to work. By 2am, he had repaired the generator, allowing the telecommunications network to keep operating. He decided to stay in the building until dawn, slipping out around the freshly fallen debris to go home during a lull in Israeli bombing. "Thank God my family was OK and I lived to see another day, this is my work and my life. ... I do this every day," he said. Ahmad's tale has become almost routine among the 750 PalTel staff in Gaza who, despite living through bombing, displacement and death, risk life and limb to keep the telecoms network running.

The cost of keeping Gaza connected has been high. At least five PalTel staff members in Gaza have been killed in Israeli attacks while many other staff members have lost family members, including wives and children. Samir\*, one of the staff members killed, had spent 10 hours shuttling fuel between data towers before returning home. Just 15 minutes later, Samir and his brother were killed in an Israeli air raid on their building. Humanitarian workers and journalists have said the operation of communication networks in Gaza is essential for rescue services and for documenting the reality of conditions on the ground to the outside world. More than 13,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7. Videos of desperate family members and civil defence scrambling through the rubble of bombed-out buildings to rescue civilians trapped underneath have inspired shock and horror the world over.

On the first day of its offensive on Gaza on October 7, Israel cut electricity to the territory. Despite the lack of power and the constant bombing, Gaza's telecoms network

stayed operational for almost six weeks. The CEO of PalTel said this is because the company has been preparing for war for "over 15 years", embedding emergency contingencies in its Gaza infrastructure at every step. "We have faced a lot of different incidents during the previous wars. We're doing more protection than any other operator," CEO Abdul Majeed Melhem told Al Jazeera.

PalTel's Gaza network was built during Israel's siege of the enclave, which requires that each piece of equipment be approved by Israeli authorities before entering Gaza, making repairs difficult. Recurrent wars on Gaza and frequent bombing campaigns by Israel have damaged civilian infrastructure, so to brace itself for a sustained conflict like the current one, the telecoms network is built like no other. While most telecom networks bury their cables 60cm (about 2ft) underground, PalTel buries its cables up to 8 metres (26ft) deep. In case the Israelis cut off electricity, its data centres in Gaza also have three layers of redundancy: generators, solar panels and batteries.

The company has also developed emergency protocols to direct workers remotely from the occupied West Bank, and if severed communications make this impossible, Gazan staff are empowered to act autonomously. Despite all the redundancies and preparations, the sheer scale of bombings these past weeks has still crippled the network. About 70 percent of the mobile network has been taken offline. Solar panels have been rendered mostly useless either by being destroyed in attacks or covered in dust and debris. The relentless nature of the conflict is also weighing on staff, who are dogged by danger from their house to the field.

Rabih\*, a fibre optics technician, was called to repair a cable just metres from the border on October 15. Prior to going, he had to give an exhaustive list of the repair team's names, the colour of their cars and registration numbers to the Israelis, because "a mistake could be deadly". As Rabih and his team laboured for two hours to fix the cable, the buzz of a drone above him and the sounds of shelling intermingled with the sound of their excavator. "Any wrong move could mean being targeted. I cannot explain to my wife and kids why I do that or why I volunteer to go out during the war. My company doesn't oblige me, but if someone can do it, it has to be me," he said.

Staff in the West Bank watch their colleagues in Gaza from afar with bated breath, hesitant to ask them to check on damaged equip-

ment, knowing that a simple repair trip could cost them their lives. Gaza-based staff are under no obligation to go into the field, but most have been eager to volunteer despite the dangers. "It is very difficult to call my colleagues who are under bombardment and ask them to go out. I feel afraid that if one of them gets hurt, I will never forgive myself," said Mohammed\*, a worker in the Network Operation Centre in the West Bank.

Mohammed's role at the centre requires him to monitor problems in the network, ask workers to volunteer to repair them and stay on the phone with them to provide feedback on the repairs. The calls are nerve-racking, and both Mohammed and the worker in Gaza want the field visit to be resolved as quickly as possible. "I cannot imagine how these people have the courage to go out. Maybe if I were there, I wouldn't do it. I don't know if I would," Mohammed said. No matter how many metres deep they dig or the number of solar panels they install, Gaza's connections to the outside world ultimately relies on the Israelis. The cables that connect Gaza to the outside world run through Israel, and the country on at least two occasions has deliberately cut off the strip's international communications. "It's clear for us that it was cut off by a decision. What proves this is that we didn't do anything to get it back," Melhem said.

Israel also controls fuel to Gaza, allowing a small trickle into Gaza after weeks of pressure from the United States. Described as a "drop in the bucket" by humanitarian groups, Israel announced that 120,000 litres (31,700 gallons) of fuel would be allowed into the territory every two days for use by hospitals, bakeries and other essential services. PalTel will also be given 20,000 litres (5,283 gallons) of fuel every two days for its generators.

On Thursday, the company had announced it would go into a full telecoms blackout because its fuel reserves were exhausted for the first time during the current war. According to Mamoon Fares, the corporate support director at PalTel, the 20,000 litres provided "should be enough to operate a good part of the network". However, Gaza's telecoms network will still be at the mercy of Israel should it decide to cut off fuel deliveries or network services that run through its territory. Without the ability to communicate, the already dismal situation in Gaza would only further deteriorate. "No ambulances, no emergency services, no civil defence or humanitarian organisations can work without telecommunications," Melhem said. — Aljazeera



CAIRO: Egyptian medics stand by with incubators to receive premature Palestinian babies evacuated from Gaza to the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing.

## Taiwan’s top US diplomat registers for election

TAIPEI: Taiwan's outspoken former envoy to the United States, Hsiao Bi-khim, has formally registered her candidacy for vice president and the running mate of William Lai in the island's upcoming 2024 election. Hsiao, 52, a former Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) legislator, served as Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the US from 2020 until her resignation this week.

Her tenure in Washington, DC coincided with renewed US interest in Taiwan thanks to its early battle with COVID-19 and an ongoing standoff with Beijing at a time when US-China relations were souring. Hsiao, a self-described "cat warrior" who often poses with her felines, is also well-known for her active presence on social media platforms like X, where she has amassed 133,000 followers promoting the DPP's pro-Taiwan stance. "Back in Taiwan! Honored to join @ChingteLai on the ticket as VP for 2024. Tough road ahead expected as I shoulder a heavier burden. Taiwan's democracy deserves our best efforts," she posted on Tuesday.

Like Lai, the current vice president, Hsiao is despised by Beijing for her political stance on Taiwan and its relationship with China. In April, she was formally banned by Beijing from visiting China, Hong Kong and Macau after she accompanied President Tsai Ing-wen on her unofficial trip to the US. Beijing claims Taipei as its own territory and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve its goal. The DPP says only the people of Taiwan can decide their island's future. Despite earning the ire of Beijing, Hsiao is popular with younger voters and seen as a breath of fresh air compared with some of her counterparts. Reflecting the surge in Taiwanese identity across the island and diaspora, Hsiao uses the Taiwanese pronunciation of her name instead of Mandarin, the dominant language in China.

The media boost to Lai's presidential campaign comes with the opposition in apparent disarray just days away from the November 24 deadline for registration. — Aljazeera

## Ukraine sacks top cybersecurity officials

KYIV (AP): Ukraine fired its top two civilian cybersecurity officials as prosecutors announced an embezzlement investigation involving software purchases from 2020-2022 in which the head of the state intelligence service was allegedly involved. The sacked officials include Viktor Zhora, who is well-known internationally as the face of Ukraine's much-heralded, Western-aided efforts to defend against incessant Russian hacking campaigns.

Fired with Zhora was his boss, Yuriy Shchyhol, head of the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection service, a senior cabinet official, Taras Melnychuk, announced on Telegram. Neither man was named in a statement by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau,

which said the head of state intelligence and his deputy and "the general director and employee of a state-owned enterprise" were among the suspects and that the Special Communications service was involved in the scheme. Ukraine has been plagued by corruption scandals, mostly recently involving the firing of six deputy defense ministers. Government reforms, and tackling the widespread corruption that existed in Ukraine before Russia's invasion, are a key condition for obtaining membership in the European Union and NATO.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was elected in 2019 on an anti-corruption platform, and his aides have portrayed the recent firings of top officials, notably Ivan

Bakanov, former head of the State Security Service, as proof of their efforts to crack down on graft. Bakanov was fired in July 2022. In the embezzlement case, the alleged conspirators skimmed 62 million Ukrainian hryvni (currently \$1.7 million) from a no-bid contract by colluding to inflate the price of software and services purchased from abroad, the anti-corruption bureau said. It did not name the software purchased.

A statement on the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection website said all its procurement activities are subject to legislative requirements since 2020. It urged authorities to refrain from making accusations against individuals until the investigation is complete.

## Why N Korea’s satellite launches draw condemnation

SEOUL (Reuters): North Korea appears to be preparing for its third attempt this year at launching a reconnaissance satellite, a move that may prove as controversial as the nuclear-armed country's weapons tests. Earlier attempts on May 31 - North Korea's first such launch since 2016 - and Aug. 24 ended in fiery failures when its new Chollima-1 rockets crashed into the sea.

North Korea has notified Japan it plans to launch a satellite between Wednesday and Dec. 1, prompting criticism from Japan and South Korea who say it would violate a UN ban on Pyongyang's missile development. Here's what we know about North Korea's race for space, and why it's so controversial: Since 1998 North Korea has launched six satellites, two of which appeared to have successfully reached orbit, and the last of which was in 2016. International observers said that satellite seemed to be under control, but there is lingering debate over whether it had sent any transmissions. Experts said that North Korea had used a three-stage rocket booster such as the Unha-3 of previous launches, but that a new launch pad was clearly built for a larger rocket. A senior official at

North Korea's space agency said after the launch that it planned to put more advanced satellites into orbit by 2020 and eventually "plant the flag of (North Korea) on the moon".

During a party congress in January 2021, leader Kim Jong Un revealed a wish list that included developing military reconnaissance satellites. The Chollima-1 seems to be a new design and most likely uses the dual-nozzle liquid-fuelled engines developed for Pyongyang's Hwasong-15 ICBM, analysts said. South Korea has recovered some of the Chollima-1 wreckage - including, for the first time, parts of a satellite - but has not released detailed findings. Seoul has said the satellite had little military value. In September Kim toured Russia's most modern space launch centre, where President Vladimir Putin promised to help Pyongyang build satellites. South Korean officials have said the upcoming launch could incorporate unspecified technical assistance from Russia. The United States and its allies called North Korea's latest tests of satellite systems clear violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions, which prohibit any development of technology

applicable to North Korea's ballistic missile programs. North Korea has said its space program and defence activities are its sovereign right.

At the time of the 2016 space launch, North Korea had yet to fire an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The satellite launch was condemned by governments in the United States and South Korea as a disguised test of missile technology capable of striking the continental United States. Since 2016, North Korea has developed and launched three types of ICBMs, and now appears committed to placing working satellites in space. That would not only provide it with better intelligence on its enemies, but prove it could keep up with other growing space powers in the region, analysts said. North Korea could use such satellites to more effectively target South Korea and Japan or conduct damage assessments during a war, said Ankit Panda of the US-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. On the other hand, if North Korea can verify, with its own satellites, that the United States and its allies are not about to attack, it might reduce tensions and provide stability, he added.

# Climate on track to warm by nearly 3C sans aggressive actions

LONDON (Reuters): Countries' current emissions pledges to limit climate change would still put the world on track to warm by nearly 3 degrees Celsius this century, according to a United Nations analysis released. The annual Emissions Gap report, which assesses countries' promises to tackle climate change compared with what is needed, finds the world faces between 2.5C (4.5F) and 2.9C (5.2F) of warming above preindustrial levels if governments do not boost climate action.

At 3C of warming, scientists predict the world could pass several catastrophic points of no return, from the runaway melting of ice sheets to the Amazon rainforest drying out. "Present trends are racing our planet down a dead-end 3C temperature rise," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "The

emissions gap is more like an emissions canyon." World leaders will soon meet in Dubai for the annual UN climate summit COP28 with the aim of keeping the Paris Agreement warming target of 1.5C alive.

But the new UN report does little to inspire hope that this goal remains in reach, finding that planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions must fall by 42% by 2030 to hold warming at 1.5C (2.7F). Even in the most optimistic emissions scenario, the chance of now limiting warming to 1.5C is just 14% - adding to a growing body of scientific evidence suggesting the goal is dead. Global greenhouse gas emissions rose by 1.2% from 2021 to 2022, reaching a record 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The report assessed countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which they

are required to update every five years, to determine how much the world might warm if these plans were fully implemented.

It compares unconditional pledges - promises with no strings attached, which would lead to a 2.9C temperature rise - to conditional pledges that would hold warming to 2.5C. "That is basically unchanged compared with last year's report," said Anne Olhoff, chief scientific editor of the report. The anticipated level of warming is slightly higher than 2022 projections, which then pointed toward a rise of between 2.4C and 2.6C by 2100, because the 2023 report ran simulations on more climate models. However, the world has made progress since the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015. Warming projections based on emissions at that time "were way higher than they are now", Olhoff said.

# In Brazil’s favelas, activists find common ground with Palestinians

RIO DE JANEIRO: Cosme Felipe's nephew was 17 years old when he was killed by Brazil's military police in a Rio de Janeiro alley nicknamed the Gaza Strip. "Almost every favela in Rio has an area residents call Gaza," Felipe said, pointing to the bullet holes along the alley walls. Residents have used the name for at least 15 years, he added. "It designates the area where most of the gunfire is concentrated at any given time."

The neighbourhood where Felipe's nephew, José Vieira, died in 2017 is called Morro da Providência. It is one of hundreds of impoverished communities - or favelas - strewn across the city. Activists and residents say the violence they have seen in the favelas has given them unique insight into the urban warfare currently unfolding in Gaza, a Palestinian territory under Israeli siege. And the parallels they perceive are motivating them to take action.

"Militarisation, armed groups executing inhabitants - many things that happen in Palestine also happen in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro," said Felipe, a local politician and tour guide who specialises in Black history. Leftist groups, some of whom have ties to Brazil's favelas, have organised protests across the country since the Israel-Hamas war began on

October 7. In the weeks since, more than 13,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed amid an Israeli bombing campaign and a blockade that cut off essential supplies to the densely populated territory. About 1,200 Israelis were killed in the Hamas attacks that started the war. UN experts have warned that the Palestinian people are at "grave risk of genocide". Adriana Odara Martins, who lives in the Baixada Fluminense neighbourhood on the outskirts of Rio, was among the protesters calling for a ceasefire in front of the local United States consulate in October.

Her community, she explained, was frequently the target of police operations, and she found her experiences reflected in recent media coverage of Gaza. "We are here in solidarity because we have empathy. We know what it is like to live under violence," said Martins, who is part of the feminist group Articulation of Brazilian Women and a coordinator for the Unified Black Movement. Police in Brazil killed more than 6,400 people last year, 83 percent of them Black, according to the non-profit Brazilian Public Security Forum. The violence is particularly acute in the favelas, tightly packed urban environments where a majority of residents are Black or mixed race. Palestinians and residents of favelas

are commonly perceived as "racially subaltern populations", said Bruno Huberman, a professor of international relations at the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo.

They share a history of systematic repression, expulsion from their homes, confinement in segregated spaces, subjugation and exploitation, he told Al Jazeera. "Both populations are subjected to infinite wars: the Palestinians to the war on terror and the favela populations to the war on drugs," Huberman said. While hesitant to compare the violence afflicting the two groups, Fatima Ouassak, a French political scientist, author and activist, said she too had noticed similarities in how favela residents and Palestinians were treated in their respective homelands. "These populations are made to feel illegitimate where they live, as if they were not at home or welcome where they are," she told Al Jazeera. This feeling, Ouassak added, extended to other Arab and African diaspora communities in places like France. The perceived similarities have led some social movements in the favelas to identify explicitly with the Palestinian struggle.

Every year since 2016, activists in Rio organise "Black July", an event that brings together populations facing racism and militarisation for

activities and discussions. The issue of Palestinian rights often features in these events. This year's Black July included a webinar from two Brazilian activists - Gizele Martins and Thais Siqueira - who had recently returned from a trip to the occupied West Bank. "I thought we were the only ones suffering in the favelas," Martins said during the webinar. A resident of Rio's Maré favela, she first visited the West Bank in 2017. "As soon as I got there, I saw that everything was very similar - but much more tense." One of the similarities she pointed out was the security wall Israel constructed through Palestinian communities in the West Bank. In August, Rio de Janeiro state Governor Claudio Castro announced the construction of a wall bordering certain favelas, also in the name of security. "Wall of shame! Rio's apartheid wall," Martins said on Instagram after the announcement, evoking the West Bank barrier.

But the identification between the two groups has its limits. Mike, a pro-Palestinian protester who declined to give his surname, said there was more talk in support of Israel than Palestine in the favela where he resides, Barreira do Vasco. "I sometimes feel a bit alone in backing Palestine," Mike told Al Jazeera at the demonstration in front of the US consulate

in Rio de Janeiro. In recent years, favelas have seen a rise in evangelical Christianity, a religious movement that identifies strongly with Israel. Though Brazil has the largest Catholic population in the world, evangelicalism is believed to be its fastest-growing religious group. Roughly 30 percent of the population identifies as evangelical. Favelas in particular are seen as hotbeds for the church's growth, as religious leaders reach out to impoverished residents with social services like job opportunities and education. Guilherme Casarões, a political scientist at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, a think tank and university, explained that evangelicals are more likely to sympathise with Israel due to their view that the country is a holy place to be protected. "The idea is that Jesus Christ will only return to Earth to save humanity when the people of Jerusalem have converted to his word," Casarões said.

That view, Casarões added, has translated into "unconditional alignment with Israel" politically. "Even if there is some criticism of the killing of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, the predominant view is that Israel has the right to defend itself in this battle between good and evil," he said. That viewpoint clashes with the stance of current left-wing President Luiz

Inácio Lula da Silva. Over the past month, Lula has been sharply critical of Israel's relentless bombardment of the Gaza Strip, denouncing the Palestinian bloodshed. "This is not a war. This is a genocide," Lula told journalists at the Planalto presidential palace in Brasília on October 25. He also used a social media address on Tuesday to call Israel's actions "equivalent to terrorism". In his previous two terms in office, from 2003 to 2010, Lula was likewise outspoken in his defence of Palestinian rights. Latin America's biggest democracy has for decades called for a two-state solution to the conflict, one that would allow the creation of a separate Palestinian state alongside Israel. In 2010, Lula took a step towards that goal, recognising Palestine as an independent state based on 1967 borders. The Israeli government responded with a statement expressing its "sadness and disappointment" about the decision. Experts say Lula's rhetoric echoes that of other left-leaning Latin American leaders. Bolivia cut official ties with Israel over the war in Gaza, while Chile and Colombia have recalled their ambassadors in Tel Aviv for consultations. By contrast, right-wing Latin American leaders have sympathized more openly with Israel, according to Casarões. — Aljazeera



The Frontier Post

FOUNDER  
Rehmat Shah Afridi  
JALIL AFRIDI  
Managing Editor

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

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

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

## World Children’s Day and Gaza’s infants

NATIONS around the globe, human rights forums, civil society organizations, and the general public marked World Children's Day on November 20th, to commemorate the 1989 adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in mankind's history. Historically, by ratifying this international legal framework, the nations across the globe acknowledged that all children have inalienable rights and they promised to protect and uphold those commitments in their countries at all cost. Unfortunately, today's world is increasingly hostile to children's rights, safety, and well-being. According to an estimate, 400 million children, or 1 child in every 5 are currently living in or fleeing from conflict zones. Many of them have been injured, killed, or sexually abused and countless children lost their family members and friends. At the same time, child soldiers are being recruited, trained and armed for subsequent use in the conflict zones in this so-called civilized world. Meanwhile, rising poverty and inequality, public health emergencies, and the global climate crisis are existential threats to children's health, and well-being and infringe on children's rights in the contemporary world. This year, World Children's Day is being celebrated under the theme of every child's every right to reaffirm the commitment to safeguard the rights and well-being of children without any discrimination.

The recent World Children's Day comes at a time when a humanitarian crisis is at its peak in occupied Palestinian territories including the West Bank and Gaza. Thousands of Palestinian Children are currently living in the worst conflict zone and their lives are at grave risk as the so-called survivors of the holocaust and Nazism have currently weighed a modern-day holocaust against humanity and launched a genocide and total disaster against innocent unarmed Palestinians on their land. According to the UN statistics, children and elderly people are the biggest victims of Israel's aggression against Gaza which has entered into seventh week. As said, more than 13,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military and a majority of them are children, and women. The horrifying scenes of war, gunfights, bombardment, and ruination, along with dead bodies and seriously injured have an undying psychological impact on Palestinian children. In fact, the world is witnessing a children's holocaust in Gaza where Palestinian children are experiencing ruthless hostility from brutal assassins instead of a war campaign of a regular army that is usually governed by the global convention of war, the Geneva Convention, and humanitarian laws.

Almost three and a half decades after the adoption of the Universal Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the UN, global community, and human rights forums failed to manifest those same ideas into reality as the crimes against children, abuse of children's rights still contour and the provision of their fundamental rights including access to free education, health, shelter, and safety could not be realized in most parts of the world from North America to Oceania and Asia to Africa. Hence, this day demands some practical steps from world leaders instead of issuing traditional sermons, media releases, and motivational speeches that amuse the audience but failed to bring any change in human society over the past 34 years. The global community is worried about the rights, well-being, and safety of their children. However, they must not forget innocent Palestinian infants who face existential threats from occupier Israeli forces. It is the fundamental duty of global leaders to raise their voices against the ongoing inhumane atrocities against innocent Palestinians, particularly children. It is worth mentioning that today children's rights are under attack and the need for reaffirming children's status as distinct, independent rights holders and ensuring accountability for violations of children's rights wherever they occur. The world community as a whole must raise itself to the promise of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to achieve its manifesto of every right for every child.

## Election code and farcical politics

THE Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalized the Code of Conduct for political parties and contesting candidates for the general elections scheduled for February 2024. As said the Election regulator has consulted political groups and their feedback/suggestions have also been included in the Code of Conduct draft. According to the proposed draft, political parties will not speak against the sovereignty of the state and will avoid ridiculing the ECP during their election campaign. Political parties and candidates will avoid gifts, greed, or bribes to opposing candidates to withdraw in their favor and will ensure the protection of the election staff and polling agents. Political parties and their candidates will strongly refrain from encouraging violence on polling day, displaying weapons and spreading fear/harassment during the election campaign. Meanwhile, the ECP froze the MNA's election campaign expenses at Rs. 10 million while the MPA's expense ceiling had been fixed at Rs. 4 million for the current election season.

Political culture in Pakistan has been influenced by various factors, including historical events, socio-economic conditions, and geopolitical rivalries. Communal enmity, particularly between different religious or ethnic communities, has been a challenge in the country's political landscape. Tribal and ethnic conflicts, power struggles, and issues of identity have contributed to this animosity, seriously affecting the social fabric and political dynamics of the South Asian nation. Pakistani politicians and political groups have shaped the democratic process into a lucrative business while the personal ego has always polluted the political process and poisoned the electoral environment in the country. Meanwhile, Political groups always issued their party tickets to influential electables including feudals, landlords, proscribed persons, criminals and crooks while the public mostly voted on ethnic, sectarian or communal basis instead of personal traits, ideology, or electoral manifestos of the candidates. So far, neither an educated middle class candidate received public backing, nor feudals, religious clerics, landlords and members of political dynasties ever failed in the polls. Besides formulating the code of conduct, the ECP must strictly implement the criteria for the election candidates, and educate voters, so only good character, well-educated, civilized individuals reach high offices and represent the nation at the global level.

### Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



## Israel, Gaza, and mass production of myths for mass media

Marwan Bishara

DURING the recent "March for Israel" in Washington, DC, Al Jazeera interviewed a confident young man from Connecticut about the war in Gaza. Draped in an Israeli flag, Charlie appeared ready to answer any question.

He made it clear from the outset that the ongoing war is not "Hamas vs Israel", but "Hamas vs the whole world". He said he regrets children's deaths and prays for innocent lives lost. But he had no doubt about who is responsible for the death of civilians in Gaza. While Israel does everything to avoid civilian casualties, he said, Iran-backed Palestinian terrorists bomb their own hospitals, use civilians as human shields, and even place kids next to rocket launchers. Iran and its proxies are the source of all evil in Palestine and the region, he added.

Charlie has clearly done his homework. He has studied the Israel Project's "Global Language Dictionary", memorised its lines, and repeated them verbatim, not missing a beat. The playbook was created in 2009 after Israel's first war on the besieged Gaza Strip, to guide Israel's supporters on how best to speak to the media about the conflict. Inspired by Israel's leading spin doctors, such as Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, it is directed at young activists, as well as politicians, pundits, journalists and more. It tells its readers what to say, and what not to say, alerting them to words that should be used and others that mustn't.

One of my favourite tidbits in the playbook, as I wrote back in 2014, goes like this: "Avoid talking about borders in terms of pre- or post-1967, because it only serves to remind Americans of Israel's military history. Particularly on the left, this does you harm." And when civilian casualties mount during wartime in Gaza, the playbook recommends talking empathetically along these lines of "All human life is precious", but emphasising that "it is a tragedy that Iran-backed Hamas shoots rockets at our civilians while hiding in their own" and that this "causes tragic

deaths on both sides". Sounds familiar? Like Charlie, I have also studied the spin playbook, albeit for different reasons. The playbook helps me detect more easily the spin in writings, speeches, and interviews.

Take the interview that Republican US presidential candidate Chris Christie gave to CNN the day after the "March for Israel". He repeated the same soundbites that Charlie invoked the day before, albeit with less tact. Having had forgotten to mention "evil Iran" in his answers, he clumsily rushed to insert it before the end of the interview, as if he was being tested. Like Charlie and Chris, Joe also loves the playbook. President Biden and his minions in the US administration have eagerly embraced its recommendation to highlight Israel's "right, indeed obligation, to defend itself" against the attacks of a "terrorist" organisation at every opportunity. Since October 7, the United States president has regularly deflected criticism of US complicity in the killing of thousands of Palestinian children, by accusing Hamas of, you guessed it, "using civilians as human shields", and even repeating false Israeli claims about Hamas "cutting babies' heads off" and "burning women and children alive".

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken went further, insisting that US officials stand behind Israel's claim that Hamas is using civilian facilities such as al-Shifa hospital in Gaza as "command centers", and adding that "What we know across the board is that Hamas embeds itself in civilian infrastructure - in and under apartment buildings, in and under hospitals, in and under schools - and it uses people as human shields", and hence, incriminating tens of thousands of doctors, nurses, teachers and others in war crimes. All of which has thus far proved to be no more than propaganda used by Israel to justify its bombings of hospitals and schools. On Saturday, in an opinion article on the US vision for post-conflict Gaza published in the

Washington Post, Biden wrote to the spirit and text of the playbook. The president omitted any mention of Israel's occupation of Palestine, the siege of Gaza, or any single part of the tortured history of Palestine in favour of more and more of the empty old rhetoric about "shared future" and "two states" that obfuscates the reality on the ground, and serves to justify the unraveling collective punishment and genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza.

Mind you, the playbook actively encourages its readers to talk in favour of the "two state solution", and repeat the mantra "two homes for two peoples", because, "given the overwhelming American support for a two-state solution, it will make support much easier and faster if you set the tone for all discussions by articulating Israel's shared vision for the ultimate goal of two peoples, living side by side in a lasting and secure peace". But then again, and here comes the punchline: "In the name of gaining credibility for why you might later say that 'a two-state solution isn't achievable overnight', you should start with language [that signals] how your goals align with the public's". President Biden is not the only world leader who appears to be following Israel's 2009 playbook to a T.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has also been very careful not to sway far from the guidelines issued by Israel's spin doctors. Asked by an opposition MP whether he would urge Israel to end its "collective punishment" of civilians in Gaza, Sunak responded: "I actually believe that we should support Israel's right to defend itself and to go after Hamas and recognizing that they [Israel] face a vicious enemy that embeds itself behind civilians." For his part, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres did not toe the line as blindly as the US president and British PM, and was slammed for it. After condemning Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, he ventured to remind the UN Security Council attendees that, "It is important to also

recognise the attacks by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation."

Oh! The nerve, the audacity! How dare the UNSG state the obvious; "in what world" does he live? He must "resign", or so the Israeli diplomats shot back, in accordance with the Israeli playbook, which clearly states, "the primary Palestinian public relations goal is to demonstrate that the so-called 'hopelessness of the oppressed Palestinians' is what causes them to go out and kill children. This must be challenged immediately, aggressively, and directly." History has no place in today's political spin when it comes to Palestinians. Their tortured past - and present - is an inconvenience to the spinners that must be avoided at all costs.

In his warmongering Washington Post opinion piece, President Biden doubled on his earlier dangerous theological pronouncement about Hamas's "pure, unadulterated evil", which can only be explained except by its very nature. The fact that Hamas is a product of the Israeli occupation, established in response to Israel's decades-long repression and disposition must be ignored and discounted, come what may. In a nutshell, Israel has the right, indeed the obligation to defend itself and its racist occupation; the right to defend its military occupation and racist apartheid, according to the cynics and spinners, but the Palestinians have no such right to defend themselves, let alone resist their occupiers, by any means, even the most peaceful means, like boycott and divestment.

Fortunately, the liars have finally caught up with the liars, as more and more Western journalists, pundits and officials started to doubt the spin and question the Israeli spinners, even ridicule them, for their poor performances, doctored evidence, and vulgar lies. Soon, they will start to question the spinners' overall deception about the war, its conduct and root causes.

Aljazeera

## The future of global trade

Djoomart Octorbaev

TRADE has been recognized since ancient times as a critical factor in promoting competitiveness, reducing prices, encouraging innovation and enhancing market specialization, thereby leading to higher economic wellbeing for societies. The importance of trade has increased in the current era due to its crucial impact on global progress during this inflexion point of globalization.

According to estimates from the World Bank, thanks to trade liberalization, globalization and technological advancements, annual global economic growth in the past 30 years has risen by an average of 1 to 1.5 percentage points. From 1990 to 2022, increasing trade has led to a 24 percent average income growth globally and up to 50 percent growth for the poorest 40 percent of the population on Earth. Economic growth driven by increased international trade has lifted more than 1 billion people out of poverty.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, international trade has increased substantially, from \$15.6 trillion in 2001 to \$40.7 trillion in 2008. Unfortunately, the global financial crisis erupted, and the protectionist policies adopted by the United States following the crisis - such as taxes on foreign goods and import quotas - halted this impressive growth trend. The protectionist trade measures have increased by 663 percent since then. After peaking in 2008, global trade relative to GDP stagnated. Regarding global exports, Asia holds the majority with over 36 percent of total exports, followed by Europe with 34 percent. The 11 largest exporters in the world exported \$12.8 trillion worth of goods in 2022, more than the rest of the world combined (\$12.1 trillion). China has been the largest exporter in the world since 2009 and is still at the top of the list, with \$3.6 trillion in exports, accounting for 14 percent of the total. The main products by value include phones, computers, optical readers, integrated circuits, solar diodes and semiconductors. Along with the European Union and the US, China's increasingly important trading partners are the major regional players - the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Regional "fragmentation" is also observed on the other side of the ocean. Earlier this year, Mexico surpassed China as the largest exporter to the US as part of a broader US effort to limit export dependence on its global geopolitical rival. The US remains the world's second-largest exporter of goods, with an annual turnover of over \$2 trillion.

According to experts from the International Monetary Fund, the escalating trade tensions between China and the US are the main concern for the global economy. The ongoing trade war is causing a "fragmentation of the world" into trading blocs, leading to the transfer of production to other jurisdictions. It could result in a major deterioration in the global economy, amounting to up to 1 percent of global GDP in five years and an additional 2 percent in the long term. The IMF recently released a paper by its managing director Kristalina Georgieva, which provides even more extreme estimates of the potential global economic downturn caused by that "fragmentation". Georgieva suggests that this downturn could range from 0.2 percent to 7 percent of global GDP, which is roughly equivalent to the annual economic output of Germany or Japan. Naturally, the outlook for global trade has been a hotly debated topic for many years. The IMF analysts recently concluded that nowadays geopolitics has a "contradictory" and "statistically insignificant" impact on international trade dynamics. The effectiveness of trade is primarily determined by partner countries' economic sizes, geographical location and membership in trade organizations. It was shown that no country or region can achieve sustainable economic development alone, and thus, global integration cannot be stopped.

The study also revealed that the elasticity of trade flows to real GDP per capita should be 0.088 and 0.065 in the country of origin and destination, respectively. It means that an increase in GDP by 10 percent, with other things being equal, leads to an average growth of 8.8 percent and 6.5 percent in bilateral trade turnover in the country of origin and destination, respectively. The size of an economy and its population have a positive impact on its trade dynamics. Specifically, if the population of the country where the product is being sold increases by 10 percent, the bilateral trade turnover increases by 11.2 percent. A similar forecast is contained in another study, which states that although many countries are reducing their interdependence and integration, global exports are expected to grow by 70 percent between 2020 and 2030, reaching \$29.7 trillion by 2030. The presented figures show that it will take over 25 years for humanity to overcome the global trade problems caused by the 2008 financial crisis and new protectionist trade barriers. There are currently two opposing trends in international trade. The first is the erection of trade barriers by some advanced countries whose economies are losing competitiveness. The second one is that trade restrictions worldwide have virtually no significant impact on global trade, and the tendency for trade integration cannot be stopped.

The increasing ambition and competitiveness of emerging countries and their ability to compete in international markets will result in a more profound division of specialization and the optimization of logistics supply chains. Those countries that do not participate in trade globalization and specialization will experience a slowdown in their development.

The China Daily

## What EU stands for on Gaza and Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Josep Borrell

Israeli hostages. However, humanitarian assistance can never be made conditional, all the more if innocent people suffer from it. We need to ensure that humanitarian supplies enter Gaza in quantities that meet the needs each day. Transit capacities need to be increased and more border crossings opened. Safe corridors must be established for the wounded and the sick. The International Committee of the Red Cross must get access to the hostages held by Hamas, who should be released immediately and without condition.

Once the humanitarian situation is consolidated, we have to move to politics. I discussed in Israel and Palestine a set of principles regarding the possible future of Gaza. We oppose the forced displacement of the people of Gaza to other countries. We say no to the reduction of the territory of the enclave, its reoccupation by Israel or Hamas continuing to use its territory as a safe haven. No also to the dissociation of Gaza from the overall Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian Authority must return to Gaza. However, it will probably need support for a transitory period. We would therefore encourage a stronger involvement of Arab states, trusted by both the Israelis and the PA. We must now also solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a whole. I understand that Arab states, like the EU, must be certain that their involvement will not be an end in itself, but a step on a clear path toward a Palestinian state. Finally, we need a greater involvement of the EU. Not only to help rebuild Gaza, as we have already done many times, but to help build a full sovereign Palestinian state, capable of restoring the rights of the Palestinians. The EU must help achieve the security and freedom of both Israel and Palestine.

For decades, the international community has formally committed itself to the two-state solution, but without sufficient commitment to achieve it effectively. Meanwhile, in both camps, the forces of denial grew, under the hubris of some and the desperation of others. Over the last decades, the Palestinian territory has been divided into an archipelago of unconnected areas. The illegal settlements in the West Bank and violence against Palestinians have increased dramatically and have become even more brutal since the

ment of the EU. Not only to help rebuild Gaza, as we have already done many times, but to help build a full sovereign Palestinian state, capable of restoring the rights of the Palestinians. The EU must help achieve the security and freedom of both Israel and Palestine.

For decades, the international community has formally committed itself to the two-state solution, but without sufficient commitment to achieve it effectively. Meanwhile, in both camps, the forces of denial grew, under the hubris of some and the desperation of others. Over the last decades, the Palestinian territory has been divided into an archipelago of unconnected areas. The illegal settlements in the West Bank and violence against Palestinians have increased dramatically and have become even more brutal since the

Hamas attack. With the Abraham Accords, many believed that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be circumvented. Oct. 7 dispelled that illusion.

This time, we must put an end to the vicious cycle of violence. Otherwise, it will be perpetuated from generation to generation, from funeral to funeral. I discussed with our regional partners how to implement the two-state solution, building on the cooperation the EU established with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and the Arab League last year to work on a comprehensive regional peace. We must now intensify our work. It will be difficult, but working together remains the only viable way to bring peace. This is our common goal and our commitment. We owe it to the thousands of Israeli and Palestinian victims who have died since Oct. 7.



# Israeli hawks set the stage for Gaza ethnic cleansing

ISRAELI pop singer Eyal Golan told a right-wing TV channel: "Erase Gaza. Don't leave a single person there." A host on the same channel declared: "It's time for Nakba Two." Such repulsive genocidal rhetoric could be dismissed as heat-of-the-moment hyperbole. But it chimes with exterminatory language emerging from the highest levels of Israel's political echelons, demanding the eradication of Palestinians from Gaza.

Extreme-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir proposed that anyone who sympathized with Hamas should be "eliminated." Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that Israel "would no longer be able to accept" a Palestinian entity in Gaza, calling for the "emigration" of Gaza's entire population. Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter championed the military campaign as "Gaza Nakba 2023," while Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu was suspended for saying that dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was "a possibility" - an embarrassing own goal given that Israel doesn't even admit it possesses nuclear weapons.

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Eliyahu's nuclear bomb comments as "disconnected from reality," he hasn't refrained from genocidal advocacy himself. Referring to Hamas, Netanyahu said that Israel was "committed to completely eliminating this evil from the world," before cryptically adding: "You must remember what Amalek has done to you." This is a chilling biblical quote from the Prophet Samuel instructing King Saul to "attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."

Among official proposals for

how such an ethnic cleansing project could be implemented, a leaked Intelligence Ministry document advocated forced transfer of Palestinians to Sinai. A bill has been submitted to the Knesset mandating the return of Israelis to Gaza after the war. Even if Israel ultimately backed off from such a brazen move, it may refuse to allow a million Palestinians to return to northern Gaza - although the army has said it will expand its operations into southern Gaza too.

Israeli Holocaust historian Omer Bartov denounced this genocidal rhetoric as having "clear intention of ethnic cleansing," while a UN human rights panel warned that Israel's actions raised "the risk of genocide in Gaza."

Arab states that made peace with Israel are also warning that the Gaza campaign has gone too far. Bahrain Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, speaking at the Manama Dialogue last weekend, emphasized the necessity of a "just and lasting peace" entailing both the establishment of a Palestinian state and security for Israel. "There must be no forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, now or ever. There must be no reoccupation of Gaza. There must be no reduction in Gaza's territory. And on the other side, there must be no terrorism directed from Gaza against the Israeli public. Those are the red lines," he said.

Hamas and Hezbollah have also been guilty of exterminatory rhetoric, amid calls for a new era of "armed resistance." Senior Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad vowed that the group would wipe out Israel and threatened to repeat the Oct. 7 atrocities. Such far-fetched macho bombast, at a time when Gaza citizens are being slaughtered, is routinely exploited to peddle the lie that "Palestinians are not interested in

Baria Alamuddin

peace."

Perpetrating genocide requires dehumanization of the victims. Hence comments by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that "we are fighting human animals," echoed by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's "we're fighting Nazis."

The military war has run parallel with a comparably ferocious information war. Fake online content production has gone into overdrive on all sides, including nefarious parties such as Russia, China and Iran. Amid this sea of disinformation, it's shocking how amateurish Israel-produced footage had been. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted a video purportedly showing a Palestinian nurse condemning Hamas for taking over Al-Shifa hospital. However, observers quickly noted her strange Arabic accent, inauthentic visuals and sound effects, and the fact that the woman in question had never worked at the hospital. The ministry quickly removed the video in the face of mounting ridicule. Another video, supposedly depicting an Israeli girl tortured then burnt to death by Hamas militants, originated in Guatemala.

Israel already appears to be manufacturing clumsy fake videos to cover its failure to discover Hamas "command centers" among the labyrinthine corridors of Al-Shifa hospital. A BBC analysis found that the footage of a military spokesman discovering a bag containing a gun behind an MRI scanning machine had been recorded hours before the arrival of the journalists to whom he was supposedly showing it in real time. When the video was shown later, the number of guns in the bag had magically doubled.

Israel knows that failure to unearth Hamas infrastructure at Al-Shifa will fuel calls for war crimes

charges for illegal invasion of hospitals containing thousands of patients who had been grievously injured by Israel's own airstrikes on densely populated civilian areas. If Israel is calculatedly trying to make itself look as bad as possible, then this war has been an immense success.

Israeli disinformation has spawned an entirely new genre: Pallywood - horror movies generally feature blood-drenched screaming Palestinians being rushed to hospital in ambulances, alongside maimed babies with missing limbs. Each video inevitably ends with a camera cutaway revealing that the "victims" are actors and the babies are made-up dolls. Who knows what such desperate nonsense seeks to achieve, when reliable statistics put the death toll at more than 13,000, at least 5,000 of whom are children - with thousands more buried under the rubble? The UN high commissioner for human rights estimated last week that 1 in every 57 Gaza residents had been killed or injured.

We traditionally expect Israeli propaganda and fake news to be slick, eloquent and convincing. Instead, Israel's botched phony videos reek of panic and desperation, because they know they are calamitously losing the information battle as horrified global audiences witness the Gaza massacre playing out in real time. Instead of a gratuitous land grab of the minuscule, impoverished, rubble-strewn Gaza Strip - which can only create lasting global enmity - Israel should seek peace and security within its actual borders, alongside a sovereign Palestinian state. Truth is inevitably the first casualty of war, but clumsy Israeli efforts to perpetuate untruths about the conflict serve only to trap Israel in permanent conflict - ultimately jeopardizing the tenets of its own nation statehood.

Arab News

# Russia's long tragic history of missed opportunities

James Pearce

**RUSSIA goes to the polls next year. President Vladimir Putin, we can be sure, will be elected to serve as Russia's president until at least 2030. Some in the opposition desperately hope that another candidate - such as the Communist Party's Gennady Zyuganov - can unite the anti-Putin vote and mount a genuine challenge to his rule. But that is highly unlikely.**

No incumbent in modern Russia has ever lost nor had to accept defeat, let alone allowed a peaceful transfer of power in a fair and transparent election. In contemporary Russian history, leaders have generally either died in office or become incapacitated by ill health. Mikhail Gorbachev and Dmitriy Medvedev are the only exceptions. Only Nikita Khrushchev was removed in a coup of sorts, and even then only on the second attempt. Assuming Putin stays in power for as long as he is physically able, what will become of democracy in Russia in the future?

A long, tricky road lies ahead for the opposition. Russia's historical experience of democracy is best understood as one of failed reforms. There have been notable opportunities for the state to relinquish its power and control, whether it be to create a more federative and democratic political system, free press, or more liberal secular culture. Yet every time, most unravelled, or just couldn't stick. Previously, those who stopped or reversed democratic reforms were raised in the administrations that enacted them. Many of Russia's great reformers were not self-professed democrats. Rather, they used the autocracy as their reforming tool. But all of them struggled to reform political systems resistant to change, and many received pushback from Russia's incredibly ethnically diverse and ideologically polarised society - making things unworkable.

Today, Russian democrats have struggled to shake off negative associations with the late 1980s and 1990s. That has made them unable to make a positive case for their view of Russia's future. Whenever their next opportunity comes, they will need to convert the apathy of those with no memories of perestroika or Soviet socialism and who barely remember the 1990s into a civic consciousness. But Russia's past experience with attempted reform shows neither the opposition nor Putin's successor have an easy road ahead.

Aside from the provisional governments of 1917 and the 1990s, opportunities for sweeping reforms came in the October Manifesto of 1905, the liberal reforms of the 1860s and Catherine the Great's "instruction" to the nation. Another was during the largely forgotten reign of Fyodor III, who sought Russia's top-to-bottom modernization in the late 17th century before his untimely death aged just 20; his brother, Peter, forced it on the empire. Further back is the mythical Novgorod Republic, which functioned like a city-state. Novgorodian princes were elected, unlike the leaders of other centers of Old Rus in Kyiv and Vladimir-Suzdal who inherited their power. Novgorod also had an elected assembly known as the veche. The people could depose the princes almost instantly, and not peacefully, as could bishops and priests.

Many, including the Yeltsin Center educational organization, label Veliky Novgorod Russia's first democracy. The Slavs of Old Rus, however, didn't consider Novgorod their own. The area was never Slav territory, but occupied by Finns, and later Norse settlers from whom the name "Rus" derives. Vladimir-Suzdal and the Kyivan Rus had no democratic assembly or citizen participation. In fact, Russian autocracy as we know it was born in Vladimir. Control of Novgorod was taken by Vladimir's Grand Princes through marriage or force.

When Alexander Nevsky assumed Novgorod's throne in 1236, one of his first actions was strip the noblemen of any privileges he considered unjustified such as levying tributes for prof-

it, the ability to depose the prince. The reason? His father was deposed several times by the people of Novgorod. To the young Nevsky in Pereslavl-Zalesskiy, Novgorodian politics looked messy. By contrast, the autocracy of his prosperous and stable home principality of Vladimir-Suzdal seemed to work. Thus, autocracy became a favored tool for Russia's leaders when faced with political resistance - though one should point out that most of Europe was governed by autocracies in those days.

The Romanovs all believed in the divine right to rule the "Third Rome" and conquer other territories. Few believed in a free press or democratically elected assembly. Even fewer encouraged a more secular culture beyond the nobility. The struggle of Catherine the Great to mod-

accountable. This often-forgotten moment might have held democracy back more than we realize. Yet, Russia's regions were also key in securing a democratic identity. Following the Soviet collapse, most regional governments were controlled by the illiberal parties, predominantly the Communists. Russia, it seemed, had rejected the new democratic parties that arose. The capitalism they promoted felt cruel and unfair. Today, regional autonomy has been depleted.

By the 1996 election, Yeltsin had an average popularity rating of 4%. But he still won. Years later, many liberals acknowledged huge problems with that election. Journalists confessed to fiercely promoting Yeltsin and smearing Zyuganov, whose victory they feared could end democracy. Some have since changed their mind, and argued Yeltsin's victory

**The people could depose the princes almost instantly, and not peacefully, as could bishops and priests. Many, including the Yeltsin Center educational organization, label Veliky Novgorod Russia's first democracy. The Slavs of Old Rus, however, didn't consider Novgorod their own. The area was never Slav territory, but occupied by Finns, and later Norse settlers from whom the name "Rus" derives. Vladimir-Suzdal and the Kyivan Rus had no democratic assembly or citizen participation. In fact, Russian autocracy as we know it was born in Vladimir. Control of Novgorod was taken by Vladimir's Grand Princes through marriage or force. When Alexander Nevsky assumed Novgorod's throne in 1236, one of his first actions was strip the noblemen of any privileges he considered unjustified such as levying tributes for profit, the ability to depose the prince. The reason? His father was deposed several times by the people of Novgorod. To the young Nevsky in Pereslavl-Zalesskiy, Novgorodian politics looked messy. By contrast, the autocracy of his prosperous and stable home principality of Vladimir-Suzdal seemed to work.**

ernize Russia is one such example. She attempted to create Russia's first constitution through the adoption of new laws and regulations, which were debated and voted for by representatives from all strata of society. It quickly descended into chaos as it became evident that the interests of each group had little in common.

Later, the reign of Alexander II saw notable reforms including reduced censorship, expanding and reforming university education, improving the status of Jews, implementing judicial reform and increasing power to local governments. But Alexander II's assassination at the hands of the anti-monarchist People's Will organization dashed hopes this reformist trend might continue. His son, Alexander III, reversed much of the progress achieved under his father, arguing they sowed division and chaos and spurred terrorism.

His grandson Nicholas II reluctantly agreed to establish the State Duma following the Revolution of 1905, with few advisers believing in legitimate power sharing. Both Nicholas and his father were conservative reactionaries who, although Western-educated and raised, saw Russia as a rightful autocracy and protector of Orthodoxy and Slavs. More recently, many in both Russia and the West considered Yeltsin to be a more genuine democrat than Gorbachev, who wanted to uphold the Soviet system.

But despite his long history of criticizing the Soviet Union, Yeltsin never took those responsible for its crimes to court. It was obvious why. Yeltsin wanted to avoid replicating the Stalinist show trials and let Russia move forward in a more organic way. Instead, nobody was ever held

undermined the young democracy. Ironically, Zyuganov might now emerge as their only hope.

It isn't clear who will succeed Putin. He will, most likely, anoint them towards the very end of his tenure. Whoever it is will need to be someone who can promote loyalty to the state across Russia's polarized multi-national population, as well as the different political factions in the Kremlin. What is less clear is how Russia's democratic opposition will respond to this person. For Russian democracy to have a future, it must directly touch the people who live beyond the Moscow Ring Road. The average life in the capital is vastly different from those who live in Russia's south, Far East and provincial one-company industrial towns. Many indigenous communities and tiny villages have no paved roads or train stations. Everyone will have to feel an inclusive part of the same democratic civil society. That won't be easy.

No opposition figure yet commands the popularity and crossover appeal Yeltsin once did. Few exhibit general compassion, empathy, or the ability to offer genuine hope for a future with dignity. The Russian population, which will want a return to relative socioeconomic stability, will also need to reckon with the legacy of the war in Ukraine. That poses some obvious problems. Those who stayed silent or vocally opposed the war won't accept the guilt imposed on them for Russia's actions in Ukraine. Moreover, the descendants of those in power and who fought on the frontline will defend their relatives. Russia's future will only be determined by its people - not the wishful thinking of foreigners.

The Moscow Times

## UK Labour's failure to call for a Gaza ceasefire is not surprising

Yara Hawari

MUCH of the British political establishment's stance on Palestine, including that of the Labour Party, is and has always been morally corrupt. More than a century ago, in 1917, the United Kingdom paved the way for the ethnic cleansing and oppression of the Palestinian people with the Balfour Declaration, which promised British patronage of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Today, Britain's political establishment - both Conservative and Labour - is working to ensure the continuation of this oppression by supporting and providing impunity for Israeli regime's war crimes in Gaza.

The establishment's unconditional support for the Israeli regime - and disregard for Palestinian suffering - was fully on display on Wednesday during a House of Commons vote on an amendment to the King's Speech put forward by the Scottish National Party that called for a ceasefire in Gaza. In the end, the amendment failed with 293 MPs voting against it. Just 125 MPs, including 56 Labour MPs who defied their party whip, voted for the amendment and thus for a ceasefire that would save countless Palestinian lives. Among the Labour MPs who voted with their conscience and against the establishment position were eight shadow ministers who subsequently had to leave their front bench positions. The official Labour Party line since the beginning of this latest bombardment of Gaza has been to unequivocally support the Israeli regime. Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, a former human rights lawyer, went so

far as to say during a radio interview that the Israeli regime has the right to cut off access to water, food and electricity for Palestinians in Gaza. Of course, as Starmer undoubtedly knows, such actions are in fact considered collective punishment, and thus a war crime, under international law. But this wasn't surprising from Starmer, who has been rooting out Palestinian solidarity from within the ranks of Labour since the beginning of his tenure as party leader. The previous Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, had broken ranks with the establishment and positioned the party as a firm critic of Israeli regime policies towards Palestinians. Corbyn's principled stance on Palestine was an anomaly in the history of the party. Indeed, the Labour Party's stance on the rights of the Palestinian people has always been dismissive at best. In 1948, the silence of the British left - from the communists to the Labour Party - on the mass expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland was resounding. Former British Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson was an advocate of Zionism and considered the Israeli regime a "wonderful experiment in Socialist politics". For many in the party, there was no contradiction in merging socialism (or Labor Zionism) with settler colonialism. Even in 1967 when the Israeli regime occupied the rest of historic Palestine, the Labour Party maintained a consensus on support for the Zionist project. It was the Israeli Labour Party that spearheaded the settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and Syria's

Golan Heights in direct contradiction of UN Resolution 242 calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from newly occupied territories. This, however, did not sour the good relationship between the two parties. In fact, the 1960s and 1970s has been described as the "golden years" of cooperation between them. Under Prime Minister Tony Blair's leadership, the party further cemented its ties with the Israeli regime. In 2006, Blair's Labour refused to call for a ceasefire in the Israeli regime's war against Lebanon, in which more than 1,400 Lebanese were killed. When Blair stepped down as prime minister and Labour leader in 2007, he immediately assumed the position of representative to the Quartet, the international body overseeing the so-called "Israeli-Palestinian peace process", based in East Jerusalem.

Throughout his tenure at the Quartet, the former Labour prime minister was accused of pursuing political deals that would line his pockets and hinder the Palestinian struggle for justice and liberation. He, for example, famously secured radio frequencies from the Israeli regime for the West Bank and Gaza, which allowed for the establishment of the second Palestinian mobile phone operator, Wataninya Mobile. What is not widely known is that Watinaya is owned by a telecom company that is a client of JP Morgan, for which Blair was a special adviser. In return for this, the Palestinian Authority was pressured to drop its attempt to pursue in the UN evidence of war crimes commit-

ted in Gaza by the Israeli regime during its 2008-2009 Operation Cast Lead. The Labour establishment has always been complicit in the oppression of the Palestinian people, but their moral corruption on Palestine is not representative of the contemporary Labour grassroots. In fact, trade unionists, councillors and students groups affiliated with the Labour Party are a significant part of the ever-growing Palestine solidarity movement in the UK. And we have seen Labour councillors resign from their positions over the party's line on Palestine - so far more than 30. This latest assault on Gaza has highlighted existing tensions within the Labour Party - tensions between the upper echelons offering near unconditional support to the Israeli regime and a grassroots that views support for the Palestinian struggle as the cornerstone of a genuinely leftist and progressive political agenda. Indeed, many on the British left can see the moral corruption of the Labour establishment on the issue of Palestine and recognise its interdependence with other social and racial justice issues. They understand, for instance, one cannot object to the mass deportation of asylum seekers while turning a blind eye to the Palestinian people's struggle to return to live freely in their homeland. This is why Wednesday's vote was important, especially for the Labour Party. It was not only an attempt to save lives in Gaza but also an opportunity to take a stand as a supposedly left-wing party against war, Western imperialism and colonialism. Labour once again failed to take this stand, and to be honest, I am sceptical that it will ever do so.

Europe's security structure, prompting the Europeans to reflect on their security concept. Some in Europe believe that it is Europe's lack of its own powerful military deterrence that emboldened Russia to attack Ukraine, while others attribute the tragedy to the fact that Europe abandoned the dialogue-based security concept it used to uphold and advocated a revival of the 1975 Helsinki Spirit. Although the latter's voices are weaker than the former, it still represents a return of Europe to a broader and more cooperative security concept. The China-proposed Global Security Initiative inherited and developed the cooperative security concept upheld by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, being a major theoretical innovation.

China and the US should strive to break away from traditional political thinking, and contribute more wisdom to the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and other regions in the world. China has decided to set up the International Organization for Mediation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which will provide a new solution to settle global disputes. It will create a global mechanism in which all stakeholders are accustomed to managing conflicts through dialogues and cooperation. As an old Chinese saying goes: "Like a boat sailing against the current, we have to forge ahead, or be swept downstream." China and the US need to find a way to get along with each other and prosper together. It is hoped that they can not only build a bridge that links the two countries with each other, but also lead East Asia and the world to peace and prosperity.

Zhang Yun

## Summit swell

THE meeting between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Joe Biden in San Francisco, along with his participation in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, has had a positive bearing on the relations between China and the United States that have been caught in a downward spiral for the past few years. Prior to the APEC meeting, Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng met with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, and the two sides reached a consensus on not seeking to decouple the two economies. From now to next year's US presidential election, the bilateral ties have a precious but brief window in which to stabilize and take a turn for the better.

Although the challenges and uncertainties confronting the China-US relationship are expected to persist, the two sides can make efforts to shape a favorable environment for the building of stable and healthy bilateral relations, and prevent the ties from losing direction. The US side has proposed to build guardrails for the growing strategic competition with China. China, on its part, seeks to strengthen the positive factors in bilateral relations and help create a global and regional environment that is conducive to improving the China-US relations and arresting its worsening trend.

Trade and the economy are breakthrough points for improving the China-US relationship. To resume the negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty will help the world's two largest economies avoid decoupling from each other. The negotiations between He and

Yellen stressed the importance of providing a level playing field for enterprises and workers of the two countries. Given that the two countries accuse each other of foul play, the two sides need to reduce misperceptions through dialogue.

In fact, the two countries started negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty during the Barack Obama administration, aiming to solve the structural frictions that arose from the changing dynamics in bilateral economic and trade relations.

The global financial crisis exposed the unsustainable economic structure of the US, which faces huge pressure for economic restructuring, while China also needs to address the daunting challenges of avoiding the middle-income trap and achieving common prosperity. Reform in both countries has entered a deep-water zone where tough challenges need to be tackled. This is why a bilateral investment treaty is needed: to stimulate the domestic reform of both countries and promote their respective development. By proactively embracing the second wave of integration of the Asia-Pacific region, China-US relations can serve as an anchor for regional stability and peace. There exist the risks of potential conflict between the two countries in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. It is imperative that the two nations properly manage the risks in these sensitive regions.

To some extent, the deterioration of China-US relations over recent years has been closely related to the weak momentum of regional integration in East Asia. East Asia saw rising regionalism at the turn of the century. But the momentum of regional cooperation waned after 2005 due to the souring of the China-Japan relationship. Over the past decade, East Asian countries have largely enjoyed economic growth and improvement of people's livelihoods. The collective rise of developing countries in the region has ushered in a new wave of regionalism. But the collective rise of East-Asian countries has triggered huge demand and enthusiasm among regional countries to enhance connectivity within and across borders. For example, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway is the first of its kind not only in Indonesia, but also in Southeast Asia. Before that, the China-Laos Railway turned Laos from a landlocked country into a land-linked one, providing great development opportunities for the Southeast Asian nation and laying solid ground for building a railway network that connects the whole of the Indo-China Peninsula. Therefore, this new wave of regional integration in East Asia will be full of internal vitality.

China-US relations are not only correlated with Asia, but also associated with the evolving strategic concept of Europe. The Ukraine crisis has posed a huge challenge to





# PSX stays bullish, gains 293 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 293.63 points, a positive change of 0.51 percent, closing at 57,371.59 points against 57,077.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 1,012,258,472 shares valuing Rs19.338 billion were traded during the day as compared to 718,285,234 shares valuing Rs 16.686 billion the previous day.

As many as 390 companies tracked their shares in the stock market; 231 of them recorded gains and 143 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 16 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telcom with 254,276,110 shares at Rs.1.67 per share,

K-Electric Ltd with 63,355,766 shares at Rs.3.51 per share and Hum Network with 38,044,000 shares at Rs.7.99 per share.

Unilever FoodsXD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.499.85 per share price, closing at Rs.23,000.00, whereas the runner-up was Raffhan Maize with a Rs.207.16 rise in its per share price to Rs10,550.00.

Colgate Palm witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.34.71 per share closing at Rs1,648.17, followed by Bata (Pak) with a Rs.32.44 decline to close at Rs.1,656.56.

**Rupee gains 18 paise against Dollar**

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 18 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.78 against the previous day's closing

at Rs 285.96.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.2 and Rs 288 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 92 paise to close at Rs 313.28 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.36, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paise to close at Rs 1.93; whereas an increase of Rs 1.15 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 358.16 as compared to the last closing of Rs 357.01.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 04 and 05 paise to close at Rs 77.81 and Rs 76.19 respectively.

**Gold price up by Rs.500 to Rs.215,600 per tola**

The prices of per tola 24 karat gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.215,600 on Monday against its sale at Rs.215,100 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs428 to Rs.184,842 from Rs.184,414 whereas the prices of and 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.169,439 from Rs.169,046, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver witnessed no change and was sold at Rs.2,550 and 2,186.21 respectively. T

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$12 to \$2,011 from \$1,999, the Association reported.

## Emirates joins UAE based research consortium for aviation fuels



### F.P. Report

KARACHI : In the UAE Year of Sustainability, and at the 3rd ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) held in Dubai, eight founding entities announced the launch of the "Air-CRAFT" initiative - a UAE based research consortium focused on developing, producing, and scaling sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) technologies.

Air-CRAFT, or the UAE Centre for Renewable and Advanced Fuel Technologies for Aviation, is a first-of-its-kind initiative that will bring together entities across the value chain - industrial policy makers, aviation regulators, fuel producers, academia and researchers, aircraft and power plant manufacturers, and airline operators. While based in the UAE, the consortium will also engage with, and welcome the participation of relevant international enti-

ties as it progresses. The new initiative was announced on the sidelines of CAAF/3 today and ahead of COP28.

Air-CRAFT is supported by the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure. "The aviation sector holds great importance as a key contributor to the GDP and as a target sector for our robust decarbonization drive," said His Excellency Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. "The UAE has committed to reaching net zero by 2050, and this goal can only be achieved by slashing the emissions across the board. Air-CRAFT will go a long way in supporting the decarbonization of the aviation sector, helping to make it resilient and sustainable well into the future."

His Excellency Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy of the UAE and Chairman of the GCAA said: Introducing

'Air-CRAFT' at CAAF3 in Dubai emphasizes the UAE's commitment to accelerate sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production, uniting government, private sector, and academia for a collective push toward sustainable aviation practice". Bin Touq adds, "Aligned with the net-zero emissions goal by 2050, this consortium, the largest and most unique in the SAF industry, represents a substantial stride towards greener aviation future, and we look forward to making a significant positive impact through it".

The collaboration is in support of the UAE's National SAF Roadmap principles and the commercial aviation industry's goal of net zero emissions by 2050. At CAAF/3 today, senior representatives from the eight consortium entities signed a strategic collaboration agreement to kick-start the Air-CRAFT initiative.

Potential research topics

at Air-CRAFT include environmental impact assessments, feedstock and process optimization, and techno-economic assessments. Air-CRAFT will also establish relevant links with other academic and research institutions in the UAE and internationally.

The US government supports Air-CRAFT being linked to the intergovernmental US-UAE 'Partnership to Accelerate Transition to Clean Energy' (PACE) agreement.

The consortium's industrial and institutional partners will provide market demand, expertise, and technology to support research into the production of alternative fuels for the aviation sector, and extends an open invitation to UAE and international entities to join the consortium. Air-CRAFT is already in advanced discussions with key and strategic global players to be announced in due course.

Sheikh Majid Al Mualla, Divisional Senior VP for International Affairs, Emirates Airline, said: "Emirates supports initiatives that contribute to the deployment of SAF. We've contributed to the development of the UAE's National SAF Roadmap and power-to-liquids fuel roadmaps, and believe the UAE is uniquely placed to lead in this space with its policies, technology and infrastructure capabilities. We see Air-CRAFT as a solid platform to progress the National SAF roadmap into reality, and we are proud to be one of the launch entities."

## Exports increase by 29.96% to Rs 2.7 trillion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 29.96 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-October (2023-24) were recorded at Rs. 2,767,606 million as against Rs.2,129,652 million during

the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 29.96 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On a year-on-year basis, the exports during October 2023 increased by 43.42 percent and were recorded at Rs.754,073 million compared to the exports of Rs. 525,782 million in October 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 2.28 percent when compared to the exports of Rs.737,295 million in

September 2023.

The main commodities of exports during October, 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 104,025 million), ready-made garments (Rs. 76,920 million), bed wear (Rs. 68,298 million), rice others (Rs.66,558 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 47,758 million), oil seeds, nuts and kernels (Rs.33,897 million), towels (Rs.26,312 million), cotton yarn (Rs.25,838 million), rice basmati (Rs.18,783 million) and made up articles excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.17,980 million).

On the other hand, Imports during July-October (FY2023-24) totalled Rs.4,924,337 mil-

lion as against Rs. 4,660,743 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 5.66 percent.

On a year-on-year basis, imports into Pakistan during October 2023 amounted to Rs. 1,363,574 million as against Rs. 1,010,474 million in October 2022, showing increase of 34.94 percent.

On a month-on-month basis, imports into the country witnessed an increase of 14.67 percent in September 2023 when compared to the imports of Rs. 1,189,167 million in



SIALKOT: Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan Brahim Romani addressing to business community at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## POL import bill shrinks by 16.93%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 16.93 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July-October (2023-24) stood at \$ 5,029.011 million against the imports of \$ 6,054.086 million during the same period of last year

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 23.99 percent, from \$ 2,844.091 million last year to \$2,161.833 million during the period under review.

Likewise, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) declined by 7.10 percent from \$ 1,266.662 million last year to \$ 1,176.718 million this year whereas petroleum crude dipped by 13.92 percent from \$ 1,727.344 million to \$ 1,486.957 million.

The import of LPG went down by 5.75 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal year and stood at \$203.463 million as compared to \$215.884 in the corresponding period in 2022.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase of 28.54 percent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, from \$ 1,188,107 million to \$1,527,147 million.

On a month-on-month basis, the petroleum imports into the country also increased by 14.76 percent during October 2023, as compared to the imports of \$ 1,330.750 million in September 2023, said the data.

## 37th AGM and moot of PSDE kicked off

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 37th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, began at the Jinnah Auditorium of the BZU.

In the inaugural session of the Conference, Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and President of the PSDE emphasized the significant contributions of Mahbub ul Haq to PIDE. He also highlighted PIDE & PSDE's role in asking pertinent questions and engaging in impactful research exploring the country's wide-ranging socio-economic issues, said in a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Dr. Nadeem stressed the need for a paradigm shift in thinking and the importance of asking critical questions. He said that the economic system in Pakistan is a "life support system." Dr. Nadeem said

that there is an immediate need to explore challenges such as exchange rates, unemployment, and the aid-debt trap.

In the secretary's report, Dr Iftikhar Ahmad, Secretary of the PSDE, reiterated PIDE's desire to initiate and collaborate on further research with researchers in South Punjab.

The first panel discussion of the Conference was on "Foreign Aid: Boon or Bane?" The discussion was moderated by Shahid Mahmood, Research Fellow at PIDE, Asad Hayauddin, Former Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, Tobias Haque, Lead Country Economist for Pakistan at World Bank, and Naveed Aziz, Senior Governance Advisor to the FCDO.

The moderator said that since 1950, Pakistan has received over USD 200 billion in foreign aid. A significant chunk of the foreign aid has been in the form of loans. Also, a large amount of aid has been "tied aid."

Asad Hayauddin remarked that the Pakistani government continues to

lack direction. Consequently, we turn to the donors to help set our development direction. Pakistan's strategy for long has been external resource mobilization for short-term gains.

Tobias Haque said that there are numerous examples where countries came to the donors with a home-grown development plan and sought development agencies' financial and technical assistance.

Naveed Aziz said that aid utilization has not necessarily been entirely negative in Pakistan, and aid dependence in some areas has come down as well.

All panelists agreed that Pakistan needs to develop a long-term development plan with a clear indication of what support it requires from external sources and to what extent. Pakistan's debt utilization stands as a major issue that has to be immediately improved. Pakistan needs to realize that aid is not the solution to problems, instead, it is just a tool to facilitate the implementation of development plans and achieving the set goals.

## ‘Algeria keen to promote trade ties with Pakistan’

SIALKOT (APP): Ambassador of Algeria in Pakistan Dr. Brahim Romani has said that his country was keen to promote trade and economic ties with Pakistan as Pakistan was a huge market for business relations.

He stated this during an important meeting with the Sialkot business community at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here today.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP Wahub Jahangir, VP Amer Majeed Sheikh and business people were also present on the occasion.

The ambassador urged Sialkot exporters to come forward and tap and explore the untapped international trade markets of Algeria to promote bilateral trade between Algeria and Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize Algeria and both countries enjoyed good relations. He said that the ties between Algeria and Pakistan spanned over several decades as they had flourished with the passage of time. "However, it is the need of the hour that both countries focus on improv-

ing trade and economic relations to achieve more beneficial results for their economies," he added.

He said Algeria is very keen to establish stronger business-to-business contacts between the two countries besides strengthening bilateral trade relations. "Pakistan has great potential to enhance trade relations with the African region and its close cooperation with Algeria would help it increase its outreach to Africa."

He said that an international trade fair was held in Algeria in June 2023 and Pakistani companies participated in it to improve business linkages with Algerian counterparts and explore new avenues of trade promotion with Algeria. He assured that his embassy would facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs in visas for visiting Algeria to explore business opportunities.

Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that Sialkot had promoted an SME culture and was an ideal hub for business partnerships and collaborations

in various industries. "Our city's export industry proudly crafts top-notch products, including but not limited to surgical instruments, sports gear, leather products, gloves, safety equipment, musical instruments, and cutlery, to military uniforms. I mention with a great sense of satisfaction that new product lines are added to the Sialkot export sector while the conventional are upgraded and modernized in line with top international standards.

Not only have we excelled in business, but our commitment to social development and people's welfare is exceptional. We've undertaken many mega projects that have positively impacted our society. These pioneering initiatives include the establishment of Sialkot International Airport, the Sialkot Dry Port Trust, the Sialkot City Development Program, the Sialkot Export Processing Zone, the Sialkot Business & Commerce Centre, the Sialkot Tannery Zone, Child Social Development Organization and AIR-SIAL. A project of Sialkot Medical City is also shaping up," he added.

### Court Notice

In the Court of Maliha Allaudin Senior Civil Judge Family Court Kohat, Suit No. 579/FC Date of hearing 25-11-2023, Titled:- Mst Sabahat Vs Nadeem Iqbal Notice against:- (3) Muhammad Tufail (4) Liaqat Sons of Khan Muhammad R/o Street No. 13 Collage Town Pindi Road Kohat presently r/o Defendants No. 4 now in Abroad OMAN (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Dower(etc) against you defendants in which date of hearing 25-11-2023 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendants is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 25-11-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 16-11-2023, (Court of S C.J.F.C Kohat),

### Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal. No. 113/13. Institution 28/11/2022. Date of hearing. 7/12/2023, Ghani Gul etc VS Abdul Mateen etc. Notice to no 3/2. Shafiullah. 3/5. Inayatullah sons of Fazal Shah late). 3/6. Mst Subhania d/o Fazal Shah (late). 5/3. Sheren Mohamad s/o Ushmani Gul (late) residents of Elai teshel Daggar 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 9 am dated 7/12/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

### Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 296/. Institution. 4/10/2023 Date of hearing. 2/12/2023. Mukhtar Ahmed Khan VS Sher Khan. Notice to No. 5. Mst Musarat Javed d/o Akhtar Muner Khan resident of Elai teshel Daggar 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 9 am dated 2/12/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Stock markets mostly retreated Tuesday, though analysts said there was still confidence on trading floors that the Federal Reserve is finished hiking interest rates.

Expectations that financial conditions will become easier in the new year as inflation comes down have fanned a rush back into risk assets in recent weeks and pushed the dollar down against its peers.

All three main indexes in New York extended their gains Monday, with the Nasdaq hitting a 22-month high thanks to an advance in tech giants including Amazon, Microsoft and Nvidia.

The rally was boosted by the successful sale of 20-year US Treasuries that sent yields on other notes lower. Talk is now growing that the Fed could cut borrowing costs as early as March, much earlier than previous bets on the second half of 2024.

"Some professional investors have turned broadly bullish on bonds amid softer US macro data and speculation that the Fed's not only done raising rates but perhaps poised to implement so-called 'insurance cuts' beginning as soon as March," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

Asian markets started the day on the front foot but

ran out of gas as the day progressed.

Hong Kong dipped even after market heavyweight Alibaba jumped more than two percent to extend its rebound after diving 10 percent Friday on news it had cancelled the spinoff of its cloud computing arm.

Tokyo, Singapore, Jakarta and Wellington also fell, while Shanghai was flat. Sydney, Seoul, Mumbai, Taipei, Bangkok and Manila were all up.

London and Paris both retreated at the open while Frankfurt edged upward.

The yen rose, extending a rebound since coming within a whisker of the 32-year low of 151.95 to the dollar in October. The pick-

up has come as US rate expectations ease and speculation swirls that the Bank of Japan is thinking of shifting from its ultra-loose policies.

The greenback was also down against the euro and pound.

Still, while traders are getting comfortable with the idea of a rate cut in the new year, Fed officials remain cautious.

In the latest remarks, Richmond Fed president Thomas Barkin warned the bank still had plenty of work to do to slay inflation, which at 3.2 percent is still well above target.

"The economy is still growing -- unemployment is still 3.9% and... inflation

does seem to be settling. So all that's good," he told Fox Business.

"But the job's not done, and so you have to keep on until you get the job done, and we'll see where we land."

He added that with "inflation being stubborn", he favoured keeping rates elevated for an extended period, but how long would depend on the incoming data.

Traders are now awaiting the release of minutes from the Fed's November policy meeting, when they held rates, while comments from officials will also be pored over ahead of their last gathering of the year on December 12-13.





## In brief

## Peshawar win Football C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defending Champions Peshawar retained the Inter-Schools Football Championship title by downing Sohdra in the final at Mohammad Rasheed Football Ground, Wazirabad. The championship was organized by Muslim Hands for the promotion of football among the youth, said a press release. A total of 12 teams participated in the championship from cities including Peshawar, Islamabad, Rollakot (Azad Kashmir), Kotli (Azad Kashmir), Bagh (Azad Kashmir), Gujarkhan, Wazirabad and Sohdra. Peshawar beat Sohdra by 1-0 to win the championship. Earlier in the semifinals Peshawar defeated Wazirabad Falcon while Sohdra outplayed the Rawalakot Eagles. The sensational final of the Inter-Schools Muslim hands have also been supporting to Pakistan Street Football Children team and in this regard, tournaments were being organized. On the other hand, training was also being provided to players from qualified coaches.

## 2 tennis events conclude

KARACHI (APP): The 11th Addition of IC Inter school Tennis Championship and two IC Pakistan Philanthropy events concluded at KPT sports Complex Nassim Ahmed on Tuesday. Secretary IC Pakistan as chief guest, distributed trophies among winners and runners up. Nine government Primary schools took part in boys and girls tennis events. Farha Riaz and Zubair Raja & Salman Karim Mughal conducted the competitions. Muhammad Aslam Khan. President KCSA congratulated and thanked Nassim for working on underprivileged segment of society. Rehmani thanked KPT Sports Complex manager Maj. Mahmood who has given permission for four months long duration activities at KPT Complex including 11th IC Inter School Tennis Championship.

## 14th NBP T20 Blind Cricket Trophy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 14th edition of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) T20 Blind Cricket Trophy (Grade-2) will roll into action from Wednesday in Faisalabad. The top eight teams will be competing for the prime title, the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said in a press release on Tuesday. The teams have been divided into two following pools. Abbottabad, Attock, Faisalabad, and Sheikopura are part of group A, while Karachi, Quetta, Sargodha, and Gilgit-Baltistan form group B. The tournament matches will be played at Bohranwali Cricket Ground Faisalabad and Cricket High-Performance Centre Chak No. 8 Faisalabad.

## Suryakumar to lead India

NEW DELHI (Reuters): Middle order batsman Suryakumar Yadav will captain India when they host World Cup vanquishers Australia in a five-match Twenty20 series starting on Thursday in Andhra Pradesh. Opener Ruturaj Gaikwad will act as vice captain for the first three matches in the series before top order batter Shreyas Iyer takes over for the last two games in Raipur and Bengaluru. Suryakumar and Iyer are among four players backing up from the World Cup squad along with wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan and seamer Prasidh Krishna.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan men's football team is seeing playing against Tajikistan in the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

## Pakistan suffer 1-6 defeat against Tajikistan in FIFA World Cup Qualifier

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Tajikistan's football team on Tuesday thrashed host Pakistan 6-1 as the Group G sides squared off at the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad in the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Last month, the Pakistan men's football team beat Cambodia 1-0 on Tuesday to win their first ever FIFA World Cup qualifier in Islamabad. Pakistan subsequently lost 4-0 to Saudi Arabia in the second round.

On Tuesday, Tajikistan's Amadoni Kamolov netted the first goal in the ninth-minute courtesy of a minor deflection from Abdullah

Iqbal. Within five minutes, the visitors doubled their lead with yet another strike from outside the box. Rustam Soirov made it impossible for Pakistan's Yousuf Butt to save the shot from touching the net.

Rahis Nabi, Pakistan's midfielder, gave the home crowd much-needed hope to get back in the game with a stunning goal at 21st minute — which ended up as the only goal from the hosting side — followed by a gritty defensive performance to hold Tajikistan to a goalless stalemate until halftime.

Pakistan continued to suffer in the second half, ending the game with 1-6.

Pakistan are currently at 193rd position with 864.84 points on the FIFA Men's World Ranking, while Tajikistan are on the 109th spot.

Pakistan will now face their Group G opponents Jordan next year on March 21, 2024. A total of 36 teams, grouped into nine groups, four teams each, are competing to progress through to the third round.

The top two from each group from the second round will head into the third round, where 18 nations will be split into three groups of six. From there, the top two of each group will secure their spot at FIFA World Cup 26.

## Record 1.25 million fans attended WC, says ICC

BENGALURU (Agencies): A record 1.25 million fans attended matches during the 13th edition of the World Cup, which concluded on Sunday with Australia beating hosts India for their sixth title, global body the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday.

A total of 1,250,307 fans watched the Oct. 5-Nov. 19 showpiece event from the stands, surpassing the previous mark of 1.016 million set at the 2015 edition in Australia and New Zealand.

While the early matches not involving runners-up India had plenty of empty seats in venues, overall spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark with six games to go. ICC Head of Events Chris Tetley said the one-day international (ODI) tournament had been a "great success."

The staggering attendance demonstrates the enduring appeal of cricket and excitement the ODI format continues to offer," Tetley said in a statement, adding that the tournament also broke multiple broadcast and digital viewership records. "It has been an event that has not only entertained but also united cricket fans globally in a celebration of the sport."

## U-19 Cricket WC moved from Sri Lanka to South Africa

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Sri Lanka has been stripped of the Under-19 World Cup next year, the International Cricket Council said Tuesday, after suspending the island nation's board over alleged political meddling.

The tournament will now be held in South Africa, the game's governing body said following a meeting of its board in the Indian city of Ahmedabad.

The 16-nation tournament is scheduled to be held from January 13 to February 4. As a result of losing the right to host the competition, Sri Lanka stands to lose a \$2.4 million grant from the ICC to develop venues, the local cricket board has claimed.

The ICC suspended Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) earlier this month, saying it had failed to ensure there was no government interference in its affairs. Sri Lanka can continue to compete internationally but funding to SLC will be controlled by the ICC.

The suspension came after Sri Lanka's parliament asked the board to resign over allegations made by sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe that it had siphoned off millions of dollars. The ICC has rules against political interference and has suspended Sri Lanka before.

Sri Lanka Cricket said the loss of the U-19 tournament was a "big blow" to the morale of young players, and a substantial financial loss to the country.

"This decision is something that makes the entire nation sad," the board's assistant secretary Krishantha Kapuwatte told reporters in Colombo.

"We have been working diligently in the past four months to prepare our venues for the tournament".

## Gul, Ajmal appointed as Bowling Coaches for Men's National Team

PESHAWAR (APP): Members of the 2009 T20 World Cup and 2012 Asia Cup winning squad, and former Pakistan cricketers Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal, have been appointed as the Fast Bowling and Spin Bowling Coaches, respectively, for the Pakistan Men's Team.

Their inaugural assignments in these roles include the Test series against Australia scheduled from 14 December 2023 to 7 January 2024 and the T20I series against New Zealand from 12 to 21 January 2024.

Umar Gul previously served as the bowling coach for the Pakistan Men's Team during the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan, and the subsequent series against New Zealand at home. He has also been the bowling coach for Quetta Gladiators in the last HBL PSL season and Afghanistan's bowling coach in the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2022.

He made his international debut in 2003, representing Pakistan in 47 Tests (163 wickets at 34.06), 130 ODIs (179 wickets at 29.34), and 60 T20Is (85 wickets at 16.97) between



UMAR GUL FAST BOWLING COACH PAKISTAN TEAM, SAEED AJMAL SPIN BOWLING COACH PAKISTAN TEAM

2003 and 2016.

Former world no. 1 ODI bowler Saeed Ajmal will take charge as the Spin Bowling Coach. Saeed, who made his international debut in 2008, represented Pakistan in 35 Tests, 113 ODIs, and 64 T20Is, picking up 447 wickets across the three formats. He also served as the spin bowling coach with the HBL PSL franchise Islamabad United.

Umar Gul: "I am pleased to join as the bowling coach of Pakistan team and feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to contribute to Pakistan cricket by Chairman PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf.

Having had previous working experience with the men's side, I will bring my coaching expertise with the aim of elevating Pakistan's bowling prowess to new heights."

Saeed Ajmal: "I am truly honoured and grateful for the opportunity provided by Chairman PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf to serve as the spin bowling coach. I am delighted to contribute to the development of spin bowling talent within the Pakistan national team. I believe my career and coaching experience will help enhance the spin bowling arsenal of the team."

## Miandad criticizes PCB for appointing young coaches

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Former cricket stalwart Javed Miandad lashed out at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for appointing young coaches with the national team.

Talking to media persons on Tuesday, cricket legend Javed Miandad emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance in age representation between coaches and players.

Miandad argued that if there is no age distinction, there won't be respect, and this lack of respect would compromise the dignity of

the coaches.

He particularly pointed out the removal of Babar Azam from the captaincy, stating that the decision was made by individuals who lack cricketing sense.

"There was no need to remove Babar from the captaincy. They have acted in haste and in the process also shown no respect for a player like Babar," Miandad added.

Miandad suggested that Sarfraz Ahmed should be the captain for the upcoming series against Australia. According to him, the

team needs someone like Sarfraz, who has the experience and cricketing knowledge to lead against formidable opponents.

Expressing concern over the trend of appointing foreign coaches for the national team, Miandad criticized the practice, labeling it as an insult to senior cricketers in the country.

He questioned whether our seasoned players are incapable of learning the intricacies of cricket and expressed disappointment at the need for foreign coaching.

## Army, Wapda, POF & Lahore triumph in NMBC

LAHORE (APP): Army, Wapda, POF and Lahore won their matches in the National Men's Basketball Championship 2023 being played at the Government College University (GCU) Lahore on Tuesday.

Army Triumphed over PAF (81-63):

In a thrilling showdown, the Army emerged victorious against PAF with a scoreline of 81-63. The top performers for Pakistan Army included Shehbaz Ali (18 points), Shoaib Aslam (15 points), and Sheraz Aslam (14 points). On the PAF side, Akhtar Jan (13), Ahmed Jan (12), and Umar Jan (12) showcased commendable gameplay.

Wapda Dominate Navy (86-40):

Pakistan Wapda displayed dominance over Pakistan Navy, securing an impressive 86-40 victory. The leading scorers for Wapda were M Usman (16 points), Amir Farooq (16 points), and Zahid Arif (12 points). Babur Manan (14 points) and Amannul Fayyaz (10 points) stood out for Navy.

POF Command Victory Over Faisalabad (84-53):

POF asserted their dominance with a commanding 84-53 win against Faisalabad. Tayyab Abbas led the charge with an outstanding performance, scoring 28 points. Izharrullah contributed 22 points, and Faruksher added 12 points. Usman

Talib (19 points) and Rana Ehsan (10 points) displayed resilience for Faisalabad.

Lahore Secure Triumph Over Islamabad (68-54):

In a closely contested match, Lahore emerged triumphant with a final score of 68-54 against Islamabad. Saboor Mehdi (12 points), Taimoor Mehdi (18 points), and Ahmed Abbas (14 points) led the charge for the home team, while S Kazimi (12 points) and Haris (8 points) showed their prowess for Islamabad.

The entire day's play was closely monitored by referees Gul Jamal, Syed Adnan Ali Shah, and Ghulam Muhammad, ensuring fair play and an exciting display of basketball prowess.

## Son scores twice as S. Korea outclass China in World Cup qualifier



HONG KONG (Agencies): Skipper Son Heung-min scored a brace as South Korea made it two wins from two games in 2026 World Cup qualifying with a 3-0 victory away in China on Tuesday.

Son silenced a sell-out crowd of more than 40,000 in Shenzhen with two goals in the first half, the first a penalty and the second a clever header from a corner just before half-time.

South Korea wrapped the game up in the dying minutes through a bullet header by Jung Seung-hyun — from a Son set-piece — and top Group C with a perfect six points.

Jurgen Klinsmann's side thumped Singapore 5-0 last week to begin their qualifying campaign in style

and they were in much the same mood against an outclassed China. With attacker Son looking in the groove, the Koreans dominated and were ahead after 11 minutes.

Wolverhampton Wanderers forward Hwang Hee-chan was brought down in the box and Tottenham Hotspur's Son duly stroked home the penalty. It was all South Korea. Forward Cho Gueung headed just over the bar when unmarked from a corner and Son stung the palms of overworked goalkeeper Yan Junling.

Hwang In-beom's direct free-kick fizzed just past Yan's post midway through the half but China should have been level three minutes before the

break with their first real chance.

South Korean full-back Lee Ki-je was dispossessed and Liu Binbin crossed for Tan Long, but the Chinese forward's first-time snap shot went narrowly wide.

They were to regret it on the stroke of half-time.

Son, who had been denied moments earlier by the legs of Yan, leapt unmarked from a corner to direct his deft header back across the China goal and into the far corner.

South Korea, who reached the last 16 of the 2022 World Cup, should have gone 3-0 ahead soon after the restart but China defender Zhu Chenjie cleared off the line, before Jung put the game to bed late on. In other Asian World Cup qualifiers, North Korea thrashed Myanmar 6-1 away and Tajikistan won in Pakistan by the same scoreline.

Later Tuesday, Australia face Palestine in Kuwait, Japan play Syria in Jeddah and India host Qatar.

The top two from each of the nine groups in Asian qualifying for the World Cup in North America will progress through to the final qualifying stage.

## Warner out of India T20 series after World Cup exploits

NEW DELHI (AFP): Veteran opener David Warner withdrew on Tuesday from Australia's squad for the Twenty20 series in India following his exploits in their victorious ODI World Cup campaign.

Australia defeated the hosts by six wickets in front of nearly 100,000 in Ahmedabad on Sunday to clinch their sixth one-day World Cup crown. The two countries meet again in a five-match T20 series starting on Thursday in Visakhapatnam, but the 37-year-old Warner will not stay on after all.

His withdrawal means just seven of Australia's World Cup-winning one-day squad will remain in India for the series, among them Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell and Steve Smith.

All-rounder Aaron Hardie replaces Warner, who is gearing up to say farewell to Test cricket.

"Selectors decided Warner would return home on the back of a successful yet demanding World Cup campaign," Cricket



Australia said in a statement.

Warner was Australia's leading scorer at the World Cup with 535 runs at 48.63. For the hosts, Suryakumar Yadav will captain India for the first time in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma.

Just three of India's World Cup squad will remain for the T20 series. The open match in Visakhapatnam is followed by games in Thiruvananthapuram on November 26 and Guwahati on November 28.

Shreyas Iyer will join the squad as vice-captain for the last two T20s, in Raipur on December 1 and in Bengaluru on December 5, the Board of

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said.

India squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vice-captain), Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

Australia squad: Matthew Wade (Capt), Aaron Hardie, Jason Behrendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Kane Richardson, Adam Zampa.





## In brief

### IRSA releases 89,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 89,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 46,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1506.16 feet and was 106.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 23,800 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1184.30 feet, which was 134.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 6,800 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 47,700, 44,800, 41,900 and 12,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,500 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 2,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

### E&T launches vehicle registration drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has launched a vehicle registration drive at Kachnar Park to facilitate citizens, where a mobile unit will be available on Tuesday from 3 to 5 p.m. In addition to excise staff, the Facilitation Center's Doorstep ICT Vehicle will also be present at the drive to provide a variety of services, including Domicile Certificate, Birth Certificate, Power of Attorney, International Driving Permit, Fuel Permit (Domestic/Commercial), Motor Vehicle Registration, ICT Spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said. Vehicle owners can take advantage of this opportunity to register their vehicles, transfer ownership, or pay token taxes without having to visit an excise office. This drive is important because it will make it easier for vehicle owners to register their vehicles and pay taxes. It will also help to reduce congestion at excise offices. Vehicle owners who want to register their vehicles, transfer ownership, or pay token taxes are encouraged to take advantage of this drive.

### No compromise to be made on city's cleanliness

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Laiqat Ali Chhatta on Tuesday said that no compromise would be made on the cleanliness of the Pirwadahi bus terminal and other areas of the city. He said this while visiting various areas of the city including Union Council 7,8,9 and Pirwadahi bus terminal to inspect the sanitation arrangements and ongoing work in the waiting area of the bus station. Laiqat appreciated the role of Union Council monitoring committees for ensuring cleanliness in the city and said the provision of a hygienic environment to the residents was the duty of the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. On the occasion, Plastic Shoes Manufacturer Association representatives met the Commissioner and announced to donate two Riksha loaders to RWMC to improve cleanliness.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Syed Jamal Shah in a group photograph with the participants during the seminar on "Globalization & Pakistan Cultures" at ISA.

## Women's role imperative for sustainable development: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Tuesday highlighted the crucial role of women in driving sustainable development. She emphasized that women are not just beneficiaries but pivotal agents of change in this trajectory.

Addressing as a keynote speaker at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, she said that investment in education and the empowerment of women is pivotal for the sustainable development of

communities and nations, said a press release.

She stated that such empowerment acts as a catalyst for economic growth, societal advancement, and environmental sustainability. "No society can genuinely progress if it sidelines its women," she asserted during the conference.

The SAPM said that women's empowerment is not merely an option but an absolute necessity for societal advancement. "As we look towards the future, fostering partnerships becomes the cornerstone of our efforts," she added.

Mushaal further asserted that partnerships that transcend borders, ideologies, and sectors are the driving

force behind sustainable development. She emphasized the need for governments, non-profits, businesses, and individuals to join forces, pooling resources and expertise to address the multifaceted challenges obstructing progress. Mushaal also said, "When we specifically talk about women's rights, these partnerships become even more critical. It's not just about giving women a seat at the table; it's about ensuring they have an equal voice, equal opportunities, and equal representation. It's about dismantling the barriers that have held back generations and stifled the potential of half of humanity."

### 2,639 dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi's dengue total tally had reached 2,639 positive cases with the arrival of five more patients during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Tuesday said that three patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area and one of each from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi and Potohar rural area.

He informed that 2,620 confirmed patients had been discharged after recovery while 31 patients were admitted to the district's health facilities of which 17 were positive cases. Giving details of the penalty actions, the health officer said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 4,471 FIRs, sealed 645 premises, issued tickets to 1,405 and a fine of Rs 130,93,804 was imposed on violations of dengue SOPs in 2023.

During the last week's indoor vector surveillance, the teams checked 7,513 houses and larvae were detected at 134 sites while during outdoor surveillance larvae were found at nine spots while inspecting 4,380 places.

## Siraj urges Australia to use influence to held bloodshed in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on Tuesday called on Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq at Mansoorah. Two sides DISCUSSED Pak-Australia relations and matters of mutual interest. JI Foreign Affairs director Asif Luqman Qazi was also present.

Haq urged the visiting ambassador to employ diplomatic influence to halt the bloodshed in Gaza, emphasizing the need for an urgent ceasefire in the war-torn area.

He expressed confidence in Australia's capacity, as a nation that upholds justice and human rights, to play a pivotal role in putting an end to the violence in Gaza.

Haq handed over a letter to Mr. Hawkins addressed to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese, outlining the dire situation in Palestine and seeking Australia's intervention.

He highlighted that Israeli forces were responsible for the killing of civilians, including children and women, resulting in a staggering death toll of 13,000 people in Israeli attacks. He asserted that

Palestinians have the right to resist against the occupants of their land, citing the rights granted to them under international law. Characterizing the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza as a blatant violation of international law and a grave abuse of human rights amounting to crimes against humanity, the JI leader underscored the urgency of addressing these violations.

The meeting also delved into discussions on the Kashmir issue and the economic situation in Pakistan.

Hawkins expressed appreciation for the role of the Jamaat-e-Islami in promoting peace. Meanwhile, Haq presided over a meeting of the JI central working committee which discussed the prevailing political, economic situation and upcoming election. The JI leader demanded free and fair elections, saying the election practices held in the past had weakened democracy due to rigging. He added any future attempt to rig the polls would further destabilize the country. He said the JI would continue to struggle for the people of Gaza.

## Sherry for collaborative interventions beyond govt policies to tackle climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday called for urgent action to combat climate change and its profound impact on Pakistan, saying that the demand for interventions must go beyond mere government policies and focus on collaborative efforts involving civil society and the wider public.

She was speaking at the Jinnah Institute's "Pakistan's Race to Resilience" conference held here. The conference brought together experts from the government, international organizations, and civil society to discuss the challenges and opportunities of climate resilience in Pakistan. In her opening remarks, Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted the devastating impact of climate change on Pakistan, noting that the country has suffered from record-breaking floods, heatwaves, and droughts in recent years.

She, however, noted that in order to move toward resilience, policies alone cannot be the solution as there was a need for communities to get involved as well. She said: "This is something I consistently assert: no government – the most effective government or the most low-intensity government – can achieve climate or environmental goals alone." The Senator added that it was highly irresponsible of the public not to raise their voices against climate change as it would eventually affect everyone – from the elderly to the younger generation.

"Which is why I think we all need to become champions of stressing the dangers and the costs of climate inaction." She also talked about the outcomes of COP 28 and stressed that while there was an abundance of pre-COP talk about ensuring no one is left behind, yet currently, more than half the world is

being excluded from climate-related decision-making.

"Moving from rhetoric to responsibility at COP is crucial and the key message," she said.

The conference featured two-panel discussions, one on climate finance and the other on local adaptation.

During the first panel discussion, focused on climate finance, Najy Benhassine, World Bank's Country Director for Pakistan, said that Pakistan needs to develop its own home-grown plans to access climate finance.

"It is true it takes capacity and preparedness to identify potential, but my personal view is that none of it will come to the needs of the hour to finance climate adaptation. He added that the first source of climate financing to face this disaster, that is climate change and its impact on Pakistan, will come from inside.

## World Children's Day: striving for a healthier, tobacco-free future for Pakistani children

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of World Children's Day, the society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) underscored the pressing need to address the significant issue of tobacco consumption among children in Pakistan.

In its press release, SPARC emphasized the immediate and comprehensive government intervention required to safeguard the health and well-being of the youth of our society.

Despite commendable progress in tobacco control efforts, the prevalence of tobacco use among children remains an alarming concern. The government of Pakistan must take decisive action to stop this disease in order to fulfill its obligations both nationally and internationally.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free

Kids (CTFK), recommended the implementation of a substantial increase in tobacco taxes to dissuade tobacco consumption and generate resources for vital public health initiatives. This proposed move aligns with the well-established recommendations of global health authorities such as the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO). Highlighting the economic burden of tobacco-related illnesses, Imran emphasized the introduction of a health levy on tobacco products. The funds generated from this levy should be directed toward healthcare initiatives and educational programs aimed at preventing tobacco use among children. Dr. Khalid Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, called for the swift introduction of legislation to prohibit the sale and distribution of novel tobacco and nicotine products. These products, often designed with flavors and packaging that appeal to youth, pose a grave threat to the health of our children and must be eradicated from the market.

Dr. Dogar also addressed the role of social media as a prominent channel for the promotion and accessibility of these harmful products, particularly among the youth, calling for the prohibition of the sale and marketing of tobacco products on these platforms. Regarding public awareness, Dr. Dogar urged the government to enforce an increase in the size of graphical health warnings on tobacco product packaging. Larger and more prominent warnings are crucial in educating both adults and children about the detrimental effects of tobacco consumption.

### 'Students facilitation is our motto', says VC AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday said it was our motto to facilitate the students by using all means of technology. While chairing the Regional Directors Conference yesterday, the Vice Chancellor presented his roadmap, vision, and mission regarding the regional network.

Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan hosted the meeting while all the regional directors participated online.

During the conference, Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of using modern technology by the regional directors and their staff to meet the modern requirements of education. Dr. Nasir emphasized the solution to the problems of students at their doorstep. He stressed that minor issues should not require students to come to Islamabad for their resolution.

## NHMP beware travelers, dense fog envelops motorway sections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Tuesday issued travel advisory for prevailing hazardous condition posed a significant threat to motorists as the dense fog engulfed two sections of the Motorway North Zone, reducing visibility to a mere 30-50 meters that could lead to accidents.

The NHMP issued travel advisory for the commuters specially at night times on Motorway North Zone sections. The affected areas are identified from Haji Shah (KM 1620) to Attock Khurd

(KM 1627), where visibility is at a perilous 30-50 meters.

Further north, from Khairabad Bridge (KM 1628) to Nihal pura (KM 1635), visibility is slightly better but still dangerously low at 50-60 meters, the NHMP public relations officer told APP.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department issued a warning urging motorists to exercise extreme caution when traveling through these areas.

The drivers are advised to reduce their speed, use their fog lights, and maintain a safe distance from

other vehicles.

In addition to the fog, two sections of the Motorway North Zone are also experiencing roadwork from Wali Interchange (KM 450) to Near Wali Interchange (KM 451), the North Bound 2nd Lane and 3rd Lane are closed from Near Swabi Interchange (KM 422) to Near Swabi Interchange (KM 422.400), the South Bound 1st Lane and 2nd Lane are also closed. The motorists traveling through these areas are advised to be aware of the road closures and plan their routes accordingly.

## PR all set to procure 230 passenger coaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings. "Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the Ministry of Railways.

"Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time," he added.

The infrastructure, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to

Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) was also being revamped, he added. The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometres and the department has planned to improve speed up to 160 kilometres per hour in the project of up-gradation of ML-I under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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

"The Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) system is installed on 48 stations of ML-I, to improve signalling and interlocking for higher speed and safety of train operation," the official added.

## Crackdown continues against unregistered medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): The crackdown is underway against illegal profiteering on drugs and fake unregistered medicines across the country.

The crackdown was started on the direction of caretaker federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan, spokesperson of the Ministry of Health said on Tuesday.

He said that distributors, pharmacies and medical stores were being raided in all major cities across the country.

He said in Karachi, the DRAP team inspected the pharmacies and medical stores in different areas. The team raided Irfan Medicos in DHA Karachi and various pharmacies in Gulshan Iqbal and Gulistan Johar. The spokesperson said that Heparin injection was being sold at more than the approved price.

He added Heparin injection was being

sold for Rs 3500 instead of Rs 800.

Similarly, Tramal Injection and Augmentin DS Suspension Hydraline Syrup was also being sold at a higher price. He said that Ventolin Inhaler Tegeral and tablets Augmentin DS were also being sold at higher prices. These medicines were seized and sealed, he added.

The spokesperson said that the Minister for Health started the process of legal action against the pharmacy owners under DRAP Act. Meanwhile, the minister said that strict action would be taken against the elements who were looting the people, adding that no person was above the law.

He said that soon after taking charge of the ministry, he issued instructions to DRAP in that regard, adding all necessary steps were being taken to ensure quality medicines in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a virtual meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya.



Girl’s education demanded

KABUL (Khaama Press): On World Children’s Day, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai advocated for reopening schools for girls beyond the sixth grade in Afghanistan. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai expressed hope on his social media platform Twitter, in commemoration of November 20th, celebrated worldwide as Universal Children’s Day, that every child in the country is granted the undeniable right to education.

Progress in construction

HERAT (BNA): The spokesperson for the commission aiding survivors of the Herat earthquake has announced that the construction of houses in some earthquake-affected areas is nearing completion, with an 80% completion rate. These homes are soon to be handed over to families who lost their residences in disaster. Director Mullah Ahmadullah Muttaqi along with officials from Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development inspected the construction process.

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

IEA reacts to UN’s assessment of Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): The Islamic Emirate in a document to the United Nations articulated its stance towards the assessment of the situation of Afghanistan conducted by a UN team, saying that it welcomes recommendations that support the strengthening of the national economy of the country and opening of the pathway to the recognition of the “current government” and “encourages regional connectivity and transit via Afghanistan.”

However, it stressed that Afghanistan “should not be viewed as a conflict zone where foreign-imposed political solutions like intra-Afghan dialogue are deemed necessary, and neither should the time of the international community be wasted with such endeavors.”

Earlier, in a document accessed by TOLONews, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, in an assessment to the UNSC, provided a range of recommendations for the reintegration of Afghanistan into the international community.

The recommendations included building confidence by addressing the immediate needs of Afghans; continuing cooperation on key security, regional and political issues; a roadmap for reintegration of the state of Afghanistan into the international system and mechanisms to support engagement.

Guterres also called for the appointment of a new UN envoy and start of intra-Afghan negotiations to result in the formation of an inclusive government.

However, in a recent document seen by TOLONews, the Islamic Emirate, addressing the UN, stressed that the establishment of the parallel mechanism by the UN is unacceptable.

The Islamic Emirate’s spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, in a voice message to TOLONews confirmed the accuracy of the document.

“Yes, we confirm it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country sent it to the UN,” he said.

It said that Afghanistan has a strong central government that is perfectly capable of independently managing its internal affairs as well as conducting its own diplomacy, “hence the establishment of parallel mechanisms by the United Nations such as a Special Envoy are unacceptable.”

The document noted that Afghanistan should not be viewed as a political vacuum or an ungoverned space.

It stated that the interim Afghan government is “obligated to take into consideration the religious values and national interests of the country during all engagements and will not allow anyone to interfere in our internal affairs.”

The document also highlighted the situation of human rights, regional security, narcotics and the inclusivity of the interim government of Afghanistan. The document noted that the interim Afghan government will continue to strive to broaden the makeup of governance to the greatest extent possible

but stressed that any attempts to bring back “failed figures from the past or form a shares-based government is in stark conflict.” “It is also worth noting that along with a range of other issues, the definition of inclusiveness varies profoundly between Afghans and some foreigners,” it reads.

According to the document, approximately 23.4% of all civil servants are women.

The document said that over the last two years, no security incident has occurred where the source is in Afghanistan and that the interim government has established a large and well-trained security force that has effectively provided security and combated Daesh.

“Despite unilateral, malicious, and illegal sanctions, not only has the Islamic Emirate rescued the national economy from a total collapse but it has also launched large infrastructure projects,” the document said.

World Television Day: 52% of visual media outlets cease work

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Media Support for Afghanistan’s Free Media (NAI) organization announced on World Television Day that over the past two years, 52% of visual media outlets in Afghanistan have ceased their operations.

This organization announced on Tuesday, coinciding with World Television Day, highlighting that more than half of the visual media outlets in Afghanistan have remained inactive.

The Media Support for Afghanistan’s Free Media (NAI) organization has expressed its deep concern about the state of media, especially visual media, and has called for the support of national and international institutions in addressing the media crisis.

According to a survey conducted by this organization, out of 147 visual media outlets, 77 television channels have ceased their operations due to “economic challenges.”

NAI has urged interim government officials to reconsider taxation and financial guarantees for media outlets to prevent their destruction.

Furthermore, the organization has called upon Afghanistan’s free media, particularly visual media, to continue their activities in line with the principles of impartiality and independence.

The United Nations designated the 21st of November as World Television Day in 1996.

Balkh creates grain bank for first time

BALKH (Ariana News): Balkh officials say a grain bank has been created in the province for the first time and has provided many opportunities for traders as they can use this facility to buy or sell flour and other grains.

Local officials said that the goal of establishing this bank is to prevent price hikes and hoarding.

“Creating such commercial markets is a window of hope for people,” said Asadullah Asadi, head of Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Investment.

“It is the first time in the country that a standard grain bank is opened here. Fortunately, it has profits for our businessmen and also for our nation because here the price is controlled and the quality is controlled,” said the manager of a market in Balkh.

Meanwhile, a number of investors in Balkh emphasize the need for security for businessmen, saying that the interest in investing inside the country has increased.

“The best blessing of Allah is security; we are grateful to the officials of the Islamic Emirate that our security is better, and we ask the Islamic Emirate to pay more attention to this matter,” said Yusuf Shahbaz, the head of Balkh Grain Union.

“As long as the government does not cooperate, the businessman cannot act independently. For example, the government should provide simplicity in the produce sector and in the tax,” said an investor.

The local officials of Balkh have assured people that they will protect the “lives and property” of the traders and asked investors to invest in the country.

“We are proud that we have projects, security and management in Balkh province,” said Noorulhadi, deputy governor of Balkh.

Agriculture team leaves for Uzbekistan



KABUL (Ariana News): A delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan headed by deputy minister Sadar Azam Osmani, and Khan Mohammad Frotan, head of the Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock, traveled to Uzbekistan on Tuesday.

This is a follow up trip after Uzbekistan’s Vice

President’s visit to Afghanistan. The aim of the visit is to strengthen relations and coordination between investors in the agriculture and livestock sector and to expand cooperation between the two countries.

During the Afghan delegation’s visit, they will meet with officials of the Ministry of Irrigation of Uzbekistan and discuss the

expansion of cooperation in the sectors of wheat and cotton seeds, rice cultivation, promotion of drip irrigation, development of horticulture, improvement of employee capacity, investing in the dry lands of Afghanistan and other sectors, discuss and exchange opinions.

They are also expected to sign memorandums of cooperation.

Concerns over promotion of violence in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): According to local media reports, the Taliban-controlled Academy of Sciences in Afghanistan has advocated incorporating the “Understanding Boundaries and Retribution” topic into the country’s educational syllabus.

The Bakhtar News Agency, in a report published on Sunday, has stated that the Taliban administration’s Academy of Sciences has introduced the issue of “Understanding Boundaries and Retribution” into the country’s educational curriculum through a scientific and research program in Kabul.

According to this report, the Taliban’s Academy of Sciences had launched a program titled “Alignment of Sharia Boundaries and Its Role in Ensuring Security,” which concluded with the issuance of a resolution on “Sharia Alignment” in a public gathering.

In their resolution, the Academy paid little heed to the widespread international reactions that accompanied the implementation of “Sharia Boundaries and Retribution” and insisted that the authorities of the Islamic Republic must “align and implement boundaries and retribution in the public sphere.”

The resolution emphasized that the “Ministry of Education and Higher Education of the country should incorporate the understanding of boundaries and retribution into the national educational curriculum, and ministries of information and culture, guidance, pilgrimage and endowments, and promotion of virtue and prevention of vice should reflect discussions on the recognition of boundary crimes and their punishments through mass media and public platforms.”

Amirjan Saqib, the acting Deputy for Natural Sciences at the Taliban’s Academy of Sciences, stressed that “in the Islamic system, boundaries and retribution are aligned.”

Observers have condemned the Taliban’s move

and their inclination to enforce Sharia boundaries, stating that incorporating such issues into the educational curriculum not only violates children’s rights but also promotes extremism.

Mayil Saadiqi, a sociologist and university professor, warned of the “unpleasant” consequences, suggesting that the prohibition of girls’ education and deliberate manipulation of the educational curriculum would have a severe impact on Afghan society.

He added that the educational curriculum should be taught to children and students irrespective of their religious affiliations. If violent content is taught as worthy and good to children, it will lead to a definite setback in gender equality and compassion in society.

On the other hand, the implementation of Sharia boundaries and retribution, which contradicts many international treaties, has sparked widespread international reactions and, in some cases, has been condemned as “hateful.”

Young man reunited with family



KABUL (TOLONews): A young man from Badakhshan who disappeared from Kabul sixteen years ago, was reunited with his family. The boy’s family says that they tried for years to find their son, but their efforts did not yield any results.

The Ministry of Labor

and Social Affairs said that in the current year, more than 500 children who disappeared from their families for various reasons have been returned to their families.

“I went to Rishkhor several times, but I couldn’t find anyone, and finally one of the compatriots said

to give me your photo or ID card so that I can publish it on TV or Facebook, maybe a clue will be found,” said Mohammad Karim, the reunited boy.

The family members of Mohammad Karim said that they tried for years to find him, but their efforts did not yield results.

“Neither night became day nor day became night. We were saying to ourselves, I wish we could see him. We didn’t believe it when we heard the news, but his mother said that he had come,” said Noor Ahmad, Karim’s father.

“He was missing for several years and we didn’t know anything about him. I am very glad of you for bringing him back and giving him to us,” said Arafa, Karim’s grandmother.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs said that in the current year, more than 500 children who disappeared from their families for various reasons or were deported from foreign countries have been returned to their families.

“During this year, almost 500 children who disappeared from their families or went to foreign countries and were deported, have been reunited with their families,” said Samiullah Ebrahimi, the spokesman of the ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

According to the ministry, 15 support centers are active across the country and in these centers, children over fifteen years old who are far from their families are kept.

Omar considers his trip productive

KABUL (BNA): Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, the head of Afghanistan’s National Food and Drug Administration, held a press conference today to share the details of his productive trip to the Netherlands.

He attended the second World Local Production Forum in Den Haag, where he was officially invited with a Schengen visa.

He said that the forum was a great opportunity to interact with high-ranking officials and representatives of large companies from around 100 countries.

He explained the security and development achievements in various fields, especially the health sector, and the facilities that have been created for investors.

UN allocates \$10m for Afghan refugees

KABUL (Ariana News): Martin Griffiths, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN for Humanitarian Affairs, has allocated a special fund of \$10 million for Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan.

The allocated funds have been drawn from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and comes amid a global refugee crisis.

The intention is to provide essential aid and assistance to the returning Afghan refugees, helping them reintegrate into their home country.

This aid will facilitate their basic needs, offering immediate relief to those who have been displaced.

Amidst the ongoing

global refugee crisis, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is stepping up its efforts and the agency is offering cash assistance, winter supplies, and structural reinforcement for homes and collective shelters in countries like Ukraine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

More than 400,000 Afghans have returned to their home country following an ongoing crackdown on illegal foreigners in Pakistan.

The Pakistani authorities had issued a stern warning, stating that anyone without proper documents would have to leave the country by October 31 or face arrest.

The majority of these

Afghan returnees used the border crossings of Torkham and Spin Boldak.

The recent allocation by the UN is a beacon of hope, ensuring that their return is met with essential aid and a chance to reconstruct their lives in their homeland.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Supreme Court’s Justice Yahya Afridi has not accepted the request to stop the deportation of Afghan immigrants.

Mohsin Dawar, the leader of the National Democratic Movement of Pakistan, said that in a meeting with Yahya Afridi, the Supreme Court’s Justice of this country, he demanded to stop the deportation process of Afghans, which was not accepted.

Women entrepreneurs says new business gained from exhibition



KABUL (TOLONews): The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Women, on the last day of the Khadija-tul Kubra exhibition, said that nearly 80 contracts and 12 memorandums of understanding were signed between women entrepreneurs and institutions.

Facilitating the sharing of experiences and offering advice to women entrepreneurs were among the goals of the exhibition.

“Of course, the whole purpose of the Khadija-tul Kubra exhibition was to

unite businesswomen, and at the same time, they displayed their products from 34 provinces in Afghanistan,” said Salma Yusufi, head of the chamber.

Some women who participated in the exhibition said holding such exhibitions is beneficial in marketing their products.

“Fortunately, many facilities have been given to women from provinces and also the center from the address of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce, who can quickly and easily sell the goods that are available in Afghanistan through their websites and channels, available to outsiders,” said Fatima, a participant.

“The exhibition was the best program for women entrepreneurs who want to start a business,” said Basira, a participant. Businesswomen called for the support of the Islamic Emirate.

“Our request to the Islamic Emirate is to provide more facilities to women in the field and to continue their cooperation,” said Sadaf, a participant.

In the exhibition, more than 800 businesswomen from 34 provinces displayed their products and creations.

They also voiced concerns over the mistreatment of the host countries’ police towards the Afghan refugees.

Nazia, a mother of three children, said that she has

Deportees from Pakistan, Iran, Turkey called for halt to expelling refugees

KABUL (TOLONews): The Afghans who were deported by Pakistan, Iran and Turkey called on host countries to stop expelling the refugees.

They also voiced concerns over the mistreatment of the host countries’ police towards the Afghan refugees.

Nazia, a mother of three children, said that she has

recently been deported from Iran. Nazia said that her husband also was arrested by Iranian police.

“They took six million [Iranian currency] from us in Iran. They brought us near the Balochistan province and we came so far through private transportation,” she said.

Meanwhile, the Afghans who were deported by

Pakistan and Turkey also complain about the mistreatment of police.

“I call on them to not disturb the refugees and to not deport women and children in winter,” said Jawad, an Afghan refugee deported from Pakistan.

“The Turkish police is harassing us very much. They detained us for 21 days and then deported us,”

said a deportee from Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said that over 295,000 Afghan refugees from Pakistan and 95,000 from Iran have been deported within a month.

This comes as Pakistan and Iran have recently escalated deportation of Afghan refugees from their soil.



# 8 killed as Israel hits targets in Lebanon

BEIRUT: Eight people were killed on Tuesday in southern Lebanon due to Israeli artillery shelling and drone attacks, among the victims a journalist and photo-journalist.

Farah Omar, a correspondent for Al-Mayadeen TV, and photojournalist Rabie Al-Maamari, were killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Tayr Harfa triangle. Civilian Hussein Aqeel, who happened to be with them, also lost his life. Al-Mayadeen expressed deep sorrow for the loss of “the martyrs Farah Omar and Rabie Al-Maamari, who died as a result of treacherous Israeli targeting.”

Ghassan bin Jiddo, Al-Mayadeen director, said the journalists were deliberately targeted: “It was a direct attack, it was not by chance.” The incident brought the total number of civilian casualties to 19 since the beginning of hostilities between Hezbollah and the Israeli army on the southern front, which commenced on Oct. 8.

Over the course of the past 45 days, over 70 Hezbollah members have also been killed. Prime Minister Najib Mikati strongly condemned “the Israeli aggression that targeted media professionals in the south.” He said: “This aggression proves that there are no limits to Israeli crimes, and (Israel’s) ultimate goal is to silence the media that exposes its crimes and attacks.” Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib said from Brussels after a meeting with his Belgian counterpart: “Lebanon will lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council, and we demand the condemnation of this heinous crime.”

Bou Habib expressed his fears that “the Gaza fire will spread to the Middle East if there is no concerted effort to extinguish it.” Hezbollah condemned the targeting of journalists with Al-Mayadeen TV, saying: “This crime, and the previous assassination of journalist Essam Al-Abdullah, targeting the media convoy in Yaroun, and the killing of dozens of journalists in Gaza, reveal the crucial role played by the media in exposing the enemy’s terrorist acts. The Islamic resistance will not let this aggression and the loss of innocent lives go unpunished.”

Hezbollah subsequently declared that it launched an assault on “an Israeli military intelligence unit positioned in a residence on the periphery of the Al-Manara settlement using two precision-guided missiles, which led to its members being killed or wounded.” An intensification of violence on the southern Lebanese border increases the potential for clashes there to escalate into a full-blown conflict with uncertain outcomes.

An observer told Arab News that the current escalation coincided with the announcement that Amos Hochstein, US advisor for global energy security affairs, would arrive in Israel on Monday for talks aimed at preventing an expansion of the war toward the northern border with Lebanon. “It also coincides with the announcement that Israel and Hamas are

approaching a truce agreement. The Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon may be aimed at dragging Hezbollah into war on the northern front, particularly since it is uncertain whether any truce agreement will include the southern Lebanese front,” the observer added.

Israel intensified operations in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Israeli warplanes launched attacks on the heights of Kfar Shuba, Aita Al-Shaab, and Al-Jebin, and artillery bombed the towns of Tair Harfa, Al-Naqoura, Aita Al-Shaab, Yaroun, Rab El Thalathine, Al-Adisa, Al-Khiyam, and Kafr Kila. The most serious targeting was of a Lebanese army center in the Wazzani area, but there were only material damages. Israeli bombing also hit a house in the town of Kafr Kila, killing Laiqa Sarhan, 80, and wounding her granddaughter, Alaa Al-Qassem, a Syrian national. A number of Sarhan’s grandchildren who were in the house survived.

In the Al-Shaytiya area, Israeli bombs resulted in the death of four occupants of a vehicle. There are unverified reports suggesting that one of the deceased is Khalil Kharaz, the deputy commander of the Al-Qassam Brigades in Lebanon, the military arm of Hamas. The Israeli army said that it targeted “three cells on Lebanese territory specialized in launching anti-tank missiles.”

The Islamic Resistance, the military wing of Hezbollah, announced that “in response to the Zionist enemy’s targeting of homes in the southern villages, the Islamic Resistance targeted a house in the Metulla settlement where Israeli enemy soldiers were stationed, using suitable weapons, resulting in a direct hit. Additionally, Hadab Al-Bustan and Al-Raheb locations off Aita Al-Shaab were targeted, achieving direct hits on these targets as well.” According to the observer, the focus of this operation is in line with “Hezbollah’s increased efforts to target Israeli military installations and disrupt their operations by effectively disabling surveillance methods and inflicting maximum casualties on the Israeli army. This objective was achieved on Monday through the precise targeting of military gatherings, particularly at the Planet barracks.”

The Lebanese Press Editors Syndicate condemned “the treacherous and direct Israeli attack in an airstrike on the media team,” adding that it was “a deliberate attack that amounts to an assassination, and Tel Aviv bears direct responsibility for it.”

The syndicate has brought up the matter of “this massacre” to the UN, its affiliated bodies, and press unions around the world, including those from Arab and Asian regions. It called for “a formal complaint to be lodged with the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice against Israel. The evidence of Israel’s crimes has been captured in audio and video recordings.” — Agencies

# KP CM pays surprise visit of Lady Reading hospital

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Tuesday paid surprise visit to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) and Faqir Abad area of Peshawar.

During his visit to LRH, the chief minister met with patients and enquired about their health. He also met with the attendants of patients and enquired about the treatment facilities being provided to patients in the hospital. The chief minister was accompanied by caretaker provincial ministers Engineer Ahmed Jan, Engineer Amir Nadeem Durrani, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Commissioner Peshawar Muhammad Zubair and CCPO Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar.

Syed Arshad Hussain Shah visited different sections of the hospital including General OPD, Surgical Wards and Medical Units where he listened to the complaints of the attendants of patients and directed the hospital administration to immediately redress their complaints. He further

directed them to ensure uninterrupted availability of medicines and said that all available resources should be utilized for the better treatment of patients.

Later on, the chief minister during his visit to Faeqer Abad, expressed grave concerns over the poor cleanliness maintenance of Faeqer Abad canal, and ordered an inquiry against the responsible ones.

Immediately after the visit, the chief minister convened an emergency meeting of the relevant authorities to discuss the matter. He expressed dissatisfaction over the poor condition of canals and directed the concerned provincial minister and administrative secretary to personally monitor the maintenance activities of the canals, adding that all the ministers and administrative secretaries will carry out field visits in order to monitor the matters and activities related to their respective departments/sectors.

He made it clear that any negligence or mismanagement to this effect would not be tolerated. “I will also review the performance of

provincial departments by visiting the field regularly”, he remarked and added that all the administrative secretaries should fix all such issues beforehand; if any negligence or deficiency is found during his visit, the concerned administrative secretary will be responsible for it.

He also directed that quality of work in maintenance and development works of canals be ensured in all respects; Syed Arshad Hussain Shah maintained and made it clear that inefficiency or corrupt practice on the part of any official would not be tolerated under any circumstances. CCTV cameras to be installed at offices of the irrigation department and directed the quarters concerned to immediately initiate work on the digitization of irrigation department.

The chief minister directed the officials of irrigation department to work out a comprehensive desilting plan for canals across the province and make an effective arrangement in order to dispose off the waste at suitable place in a timely manner during the desilting of canal to avoid environmental pollution.

## COAS meets troops during drills

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday while interacting with the troops participating in the exercise said only realistic, mission-oriented training in peacetime could guarantee excellence on the battlefield should the need arise.

The Army Chief visited Corps Level Collective Training exercise of Strike Corp aimed at validating offensive operational concepts, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. He witnessed an impressive display of complex manoeuvres undertaken, led by Armoured formation equipped with state of the art VT-4 tanks.

The COAS met the troops participating in the exercise and commended their verve, operational efficiency and professionalism. The Army Chief highlighted the importance of combat readiness and mental agility to respond to multi-spectral threat paradigm. He dilated upon the significance of achieving synergy among various arms in view of rapidly changing threat environment. He also appreciated the proficiency gained in night operations. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Mangla Corps.

## President for boosting ties with Bulgaria

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for increasing economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Bulgaria. He said Pakistan greatly valued its ties with Bulgaria and wished to strengthen them in all fields of mutual interest.

The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan’s Ambassador-designate to Bulgaria, Modasar Chaudhry, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi underscored the need for the exchange of political and business delegations to further improve bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Bulgaria.

He asked the newly-appointed envoy to work on establishing institutional linkages between the chambers of commerce of the two countries to enhance economic relations. The President also emphasized the need to improve relations in the education sector by developing collaborations between Pakistani and Bulgarian universities and arranging exchanges of faculty and students.

## Pakistan Navy holds seminar

**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Industrial Seminar was held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the participants of seminar, Naval Chief lauded the valuable participation of academia and representatives of various industries from private sector. He emphasised that technology is continuously evolving and the armed forces also need to keep pace with the evolving technology.

This necessitates close cooperation of the defence sector with local industry and educational institutions. This industrial seminar will provide significant opportunity for local industries to showcase their potential to support Pakistan Navy which is a technology intensive armed force of Pakistan.

Appreciating the response of private sector in a technologically challenging environment, Chief of the Naval Staff said that Pakistan Navy and local industries will together attain our aim of self-reliance.

Speakers from different organizations also highlighted the importance of indigenization and self-reliance. The seminar was attended by a large number of Naval officers, dignitaries, representatives of local industry and prominent members of academia.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s Ambassador-designate to Bulgaria, Modasar Chadhry, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# Solangi, Pervez Ashraf discuss general elections

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.

In the meeting, the upcoming general elections and other important issues were discussed, said a press release issued here. They emphasized the need for a free, fair and transparent election process in the country.

The Caretaker government was committed to conduct free and fair elections, Solangi added. He said the government would provide all necessary resources and support to the Election Commission of Pakistan. The minister reiterated the commitment that elections would be ensured in a transparent and credible manner. The speaker welcomed the government’s determination for holding free and fair elections.

**Government fully committed to promote vibrant, responsible media landscape:** Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said that the government was fully committed to promoting a vibrant, diverse and responsible media landscape in the country.

“Today we face many challenges in the media sector,the rapid development of technology has changed the methods used in the media,” Murtaza Solangi said during a meeting with Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and former Information Secretary Zahoor Ahmed who met him here. The minister opined that in this challenging environment, the main focus should be on strengthening the Pakistani media industry.

“We should project the positive image of Pakistan, our rich cultural heritage and socio-economic achievements to the world,” Murtaza Solangi added. The minister reaffirmed that the freedom of media and protection of the rights of journalists was a firm commitment of the present government.

The information and broadcasting sector, he said, played a key role in shaping the future of Pakistan. In the meeting, the performance of the Ministry of Information, challenges and opportunities faced by the media industry, role of the ministry in promoting the positive image

of Pakistan abroad were discussed.

The Caretaker Federal Minister of Information congratulated Shahera Shahid on assuming the charge of the Information Secretary. Murtaza Solangi also appreciated former secretary MoIB Zahoor Ahmed, a senior officer of the Secretariat Group, for his services to the ministry. The minister said that both Shahera Shahid and Zahoor Ahmed were competent officers and he was proud to work with them.

**First Pakistani Astronaut Namira Salim - a torchbearer for youth, inspiration for women:** Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said that first Pakistani Astronaut Namira Salim was pride of the nation, and a torchbearer for the youth and inspiration for women.

Addressing a press conference along with Namira Salim, the minister said that the government was proud that it had supported Namira’s space mission. “Those parents who encourage their daughters are a source of pride for the nation,” he added. Speaking on the occasion, Namira Salim said she was grateful to the Ministry of Information for introducing her to the whole country as the “First Pakistani Astronaut” in 2006 and she finally made it true after 17 years.

It was her childhood dream and the country had supported her a lot in the journey to space, she added. “It was my dream to represent Pakistan,” Namira Salim said, “and I proudly carried the Flag of Pakistan to space.” The first Pakistan astronaut said through space diplomacy, she was giving the message of peace in the world.

Namira said she was grateful to the Government of Pakistan and her parents who had played an important role in facilitating her journey to space. She said after commercialization, the cost of space travel had decreased and aspiring Pakistani astronauts would be able to fulfill their dream of space tourism in near future.

She said that the cost of building satellites and space ships might be far less in Pakistan than many countries. As the cooperation in space industry had increased all over the world, the Pakistani private entrepreneurs should venture in this sector too, she added. She stressed the need of introducing a space curriculum in educational institutions so that the new generation should pursue career in the vital field.

# FIA busted gangs of beggars trying to travel to S Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday informed the Senate that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has busted two-three gangs of beggars who were trying to travel to Saudi Arabia under the garb of Umrah.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that around 2.5 million Pakistanis were working in Saudi Arabia. Round the clock helpline has been established in the Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah to address their complaints, he added. He said hundreds of thousands telephone calls received which were not only noted but also making all out efforts to address it.

He said some 500,000 visas were issued to Pakistani last year for employment. The Saudi authorities have also given the assurances to provide jobs to those facing employment related problems at alternative companies, he added. To another question, he said total 96 Audit Paras from Audit Reports for the year 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 on the accounts of Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been considered by the Public Accounts Committee. Out of these 96 Audit Paras, 19 have been settled and work continues for the settlement of remaining paras, he said.

He said the amount pointed out by Audit was Rs. 13,962.478/- Million, out of which Rs. 723.58

Million was recoverable. So far, Rs 163.194 Million has already been recovered, he added. To a separate question, the minister said the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) was set up in 1973 and was an autonomous, non-profit research and analyses organization affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The purpose of the Institute was to foster dialogue, understanding and collaboration amongst scholars, policy-makers and other stakeholders, he said. He said during the last three years i.e., 2020-23, the ISSI registered a quantitative surge and qualitative improvement in all three streams of its work research, discourse and policy inputs to the government.

# Pakistan committed to two-state solution of Palestinian conflict: FM

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has said that Pakistan remains committed to two-state solution of the Palestinian conflict based on 1967 borders. Responding to the points of Mian Raza Rabbani in the Senate on Tuesday, he said that Pakistan’s position is in line with the United Nations and OIC resolutions.

Meanwhile, replying to a question during the Question Hour, the Foreign Minister told the House that about 2.5 million Pakistanis are working in Saudi Arabia. He said round the clock helpline has been established in the Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah to address their

complaints.

The Foreign Minister pointed out that about five hundred thousand Pakistani went to Saudi Arabia last year for employment. He said the Saudi authorities have given the assurances to provide jobs to those facing employment related problems at alternative companies. Jalil Abbas Jilani said the Federal Investigation Agency has busted two to three gangs of beggars, who were trying to travel to Saudi Arabia under the garb of Umrah.

The Senate was informed today that caretaker government is making all-out efforts to address the problems in the education sector. During Question Hour, Caretaker Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi regretted

that education sector was neglected by successive governments. He pointed out that our twenty million children are out of schools. He said it is our effort to improve the quality of education at public sector schools to improve enroll-ment there. The Minister said Higher Education Commission has also been instructed to keep an eye on quality of education in universities.

Answering another question, Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi told the House that a committee has been constituted to elect a new President of Pakistan Hockey Federation. He also laid before the House the Report on 1st Biannual Monitoring on the Implementation of 7th NFC Award.

## PTI leaders indicted in police vehicles burning case

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry, and others have been indicted in the case of burning police vehicles during a protest in Lahore on May 9, 2023. The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore indicted the PTI leaders on Tuesday.

A 280-page challan (charge sheet) has been submitted against Dr. Yasmin Rashid, which includes a list of 45 witnesses. The challan also names four accused, including Zias Khan. The court has summoned the remaining accused, including Dr. Yasmin Rashid, to appear on November 24, 2023. During the hearing of the case, Dr. Yasmin Rashid requested the court to allow her and other PTI leaders to contest upcoming elections, including Ejaz Chaudhry, Mian Mahmood-ul-Rashid, and Umar Sarfraz Cheema. The court inquired whether it was necessary to be out of jail to contest the election. Dr. Yasmin Rashid replied that it was not necessary, but they needed to be able to campaign freely.

Judge Arshad Javed remarked that a challan had arrived for one of Dr. Yasmin Rashid’s cases, but he did not know how many cases she had in total. He also inquired whether challans had been filed for the other accused in the case. He assured the court that if challans were filed against the other accused, they would be dealt with in a few weeks.

Dr. Yasmin Rashid stated that she and 15 other women had been in jail for six months and three days. The court responded that this was a matter for the administration and that they were simply acting according to the law. They were in the process of shortlisting the witnesses for the case.

## Dar rejects speculations

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Ishaq Dar on Tuesday categorically rejected the reports about removing the 18th Amendment from the Constitution and added that the PML-N and the PPP had signed the Charter of Democracy in 2006 for bringing reforms in the affairs related judiciary and civil-military relations.

Speaking on a point of order in the Upper House of the Parliament, the PML-N leader – who is the closest aide to three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif – said the 18th Amendment had helped restoring the Constitution which had been defaced by the dictators.

Recalling his role in preparing the ground and finalising the landmark amendment, Dar said PPP leader Raza Rabbani and he remained active in the process. None of the parties had even finalised their election manifestoes, he said while criticising those spreading the rumours and added that there was no proposal under consideration to dispose of the amendment.

He reminded the House that the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award was revised after a long delay in 2009. The Constitution made it clear that the NFC Award must go through a review after every five years but the exercise hadn’t been repeated, the senior PML-N leader regretted. At the same time, Dar noted that every political party had right to advocate for constitutional changes according to its policies and goals.