

Afzal named PTI SVP
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, a member of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's legal team, was appointed a senior vice president of the party on Wednesday. The party's official account shared the notification for Marwat's appointment, which was signed by Secretary General Omar Ayub, on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).



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ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of BISP Dr. Amjad Saqib and CEO of Dunia Foundation Mian Amir Mehmood called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM directs payment of hydel plans' to KP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed for ensuring payment of all hydel projects related arrears to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He said that equitable distribution of all resources among the provinces was the responsibility of the Federal Government.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review reforms in the power sector and welfare of the bereaved families of Shuhada, who lost lives in the fight against terrorism, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Caretaker KP Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Arshad Hussain Shah, Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tribal Affairs Dr Aamir Abdullah, WAPDA Chairman Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Sajjad Ghani and other senior officials.

The prime minister was apprised of the progress on the payment of income to the provincial government from the hydel projects. The prime minister directed WAPDA to remove all the hurdles in this regard and ensure payments on priority basis. He also desired early resolution of all the outstanding issues between the provincial government and the Central Power Purchasing Agency.

The Federal Government would ensure protection of the rights of the people of all provinces, including the KP, he added. During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister was apprised of the steps taken in the ongoing power theft operation in the province. The prime minister appreciated the provincial government, personnel of power distribution companies, WAPDA and other departments taking part in the anti-theft drive.

The meeting was informed about the progress on the ongoing hydel projects and the construction of water reservoirs in the country, particularly in KP province. The caretaker prime minister observed that Pakistan was gifted with immense water resources which should be properly utilized and directed for fast tracking of all such projects on urgent basis. The prime minister said that no leniency should be shown in the completion of those water projects aimed at better irrigation, environmental friendly and cost effective measures.

The caretaker prime minister was also briefed about the law and order situation in the province. He directed for immediate release of allocated anti-terrorism fund to the province, adding the Shuhada Welfare Fund should reach to the bereaved families of Shuhada. He said that the Shuhada had laid down their lives for the defence of the

country. Their families were the benefactors of the nation and any delay in the payment of allocated fund for their welfare would not be tolerated.

Caretaker PM to represent Pakistan in COP-28 high-level segment: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will represent Pakistan during the high level segment of 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) being held in the United Arab Emirates on December 01-02.

The prime minister chaired an inter-provincial review meeting with regard to the COP-28. The meeting was attended by the caretaker federal ministers for finance, foreign affairs, climate change and planning, and relevant officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar said that climate change was an issue of national endurance for the countries like Pakistan and observed that Pakistan was playing a positive role in the global climate debate through climate diplomacy. He said that despite its less than one percent imprints in the global climate change factors, Pakistan was amongst the countries hugely affected by the changes.

One third of the country's population was badly affected by the climate induced floods, he added. The prime minister also lauded the relevant institutions and organizations of the country for their best role in the reconstruction efforts in the post-flood period. He also directed the relevant authorities to make full preparations for representing Pakistan's stance during the COP-28 on climate finance and other issues effectively.

PM emphasises public awareness on social welfare projects: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the creation of awareness on social welfare projects among the people was essential for public benefit.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme and Founder of Akhuwat Foundation Dr Amjad Saqib, and Chief Executive Officer of Dunya Foundation Mian Amir, said BISP's huge database could prove to be very beneficial for the social welfare projects. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed about the "Adopt a Family" project jointly launched by Dunya Foundation and Akhuwat Foundation. Prime Minister Kakar viewed that the "Adopt a Family" project had the potential to become an effective strategy for the poverty alleviation. He instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to launch awareness drives on the social welfare projects like the "Adopt a Family" initiative.

Two soldiers martyred in IED blast

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An improvised explosive device exploded on a convoy of security forces in general area Razmak, North Waziristan District.

Resultantly, two soldiers; Lance Naik Ehsan Badshah (age: 33 years, resident of: District Karak) and Lance Naik Sajid Hussain (age: 30 years, resident of: District Kurram), embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a military convoy in Razmak area of North Waziristan.

The prime minister expressed his condolence over the martyrdom of two security personnel, including Lance Naik Ihsan Badshah and Lance Naik Sajid Hussain, and sympathised with their bereaved families. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise. The prime minister reiterated the resolve to continue the war against terrorism till elimination of the scourge. He said the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army and the law enforcement agencies for the country's survival were unforgettable and the whole nation felt proud of its martyrs and their families.

Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retired) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah expressed grief and sorrow over a tragic incident an explosion of Improvised Explosive Device in North Waziristan, two security personnel have lost their lives.

KP CM for completion of PEDO projects

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In order to make the province self-sufficient in hydel power generation, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has directed the concerned authorities to finalize an aggressive plan with the purpose to complete the ongoing hydropower projects under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development organization on fast track.

He directed to initiate new feasible projects in the province and work day and night for this purpose so that maximum hydropower can be generated in minimum possible time. He has directed the authorities concerned to immediately appoint the Chief Executive Officer of newly established "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Grid and Transmission Company" so as to make it fully functional without any delay. Moreover, he ordered to accelerate pace of work on the execution of already approved plan of PEDO for hydel power generation, adding that significant progress should be made to increase power generation in the next few months. He was presiding over 14th meeting of the PEDO Policy Board held here at Chief Minister's House.

On Monday, Justice Naqvi filed a petition in the Supreme Court, terming the malicious campaign and consequent complaints against him a direct and blatant attack on the independence of the judiciary. The SC judge accused the SJC of subjecting him to a "media trial" which has further maligned and ridiculed him in the public eye. Justice Naqvi's plea challenged the show-cause notice issued to him by the judicial panel on October 27. "These are violative of and inconsistent with the right to access to justice guaranteed under Articles 4, 9 and 10A of the Constitution," it read, adding that Justice Naqvi reserves the right to "urge further grounds and submit additional material in support thereof at the time of hearing".

Misconduct complaints SJC asks Justice Naqvi to submit response

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to the apex court judge.

Several misconduct complaints were filed against Justice Naqvi during the tenure of former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial. Justice (ret'd) Bandial had referred the matter to Justice Masood for examining it and giving his legal opinion. Initially, the misconduct complaint against Justice Naqvi was filed with the SJC by a Lahore-based lawyer Muhammad Dawood. Later on, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) Vice Chairman Haroon Rashid filed a misconduct complaint against the SC judge after an audio leak emerged purportedly featuring a conversation about the fixation of the case before a particular bench or judge with former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi.

Earlier in April, Justice Isa and Justice Masood urged then CJP Bandial to convene the meeting of the SJC for the consideration of misconduct complaints filed against Justice Naqvi. In a joint letter addressed to all the members of the SJC, both the judges had said that they were "waiting for you to convene a meeting of the

Council to consider the complaints and to ascertain whether there is a substance in the stated allegations; we must exonerate the respondent judge and fully restore his honour or else submit our report in terms of the Constitution". Both the senior judges said that written complaints were received, including from the PBC alleging misconduct and financial impropriety by Justice Naqvi.

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The Frontier Post

Man killed in Bajaur blast
F.P. Report

KHAR: A man was killed when his vehicle was targeted with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Peshawar area of Khar tehsil in Bajaur district on Wednesday morning. Police said a powerful IED blast totally destroyed the vehicle and a man, whose identity could not be ascertained, was killed. Khar police have collected evidence from the scene and started investigation into the incident.

Israel, Hamas agree on four-day truce

GAZA/TEL AVIV: Israel's government and Hamas agreed on Wednesday to a four-day pause in fighting to allow the release of 50 hostages held in Gaza in exchange for 150 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and the entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged enclave.

Officials from Qatar, which has been mediating secret negotiations, as well as the US, Israel and Hamas have for days been saying a deal was imminent. Hamas is believed to be holding more than 200 hostages, taken when its fighters surged into Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies.

A statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said 50 women and children will be released over four days, during which there will be a pause in fighting. For every additional 10 hostages released, the pause would be extended by another day, it said, without mentioning the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange.

"Israel's government is committed to return all the hostages home. Tonight, it approved the proposed deal as a first stage to achieving this goal," said the statement, released after hours of deliberation that were closed to the press. Hamas said the 50 hostages would be released in exchange for 150 Palestinian women and children who are held in Israeli jails. The truce deal will also allow hundreds of trucks of humanitarian, medical and fuel aid to enter Gaza, the Palestinian group said in a statement.

Israel had committed not to attack or arrest anyone in all parts of Gaza during the truce period, it added. US President Joe Biden said he welcomed the deal. "Today's deal should bring home additional American hostages, and I will not stop until they are all released," he said in a statement. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also welcomed the foreign-mediated humanitarian deal and called for wider solutions to the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Abbas' administration, based in the occupied West Bank, "appreciate(s) the Qatari-Egyptian (mediation) effort", wants an extended truce with Israel and "the implementation of a political solution based on international legitimacy," a social media post by senior Palestinian aide Hussein Al-Sheikh said. The Qatar government said 50 civilian women and children hostages would be

released from Gaza in exchange for the release "of a number of Palestinian women and children held in Israeli prisons."

The starting time of the truce would be announced within the next 24 hours, it said in a statement. The accord is the first truce of a war in which Israeli bombardments have flattened swathes of Hamas-ruled Gaza, killed 13,300 civilians in the tiny densely populated enclave and left about two-thirds of its 2.3 million people homeless, according to authorities in Gaza. But Netanyahu said Israel's broader mission was unchanged.

"We are at war and we will continue the war until we achieve all our goals. To destroy Hamas, return all our hostages and ensure that no entity in Gaza can threaten Israel," he said in a recorded message at the start of the government meeting. Hamas said in its statement: "As we announce the striking of a truce agreement, we affirm that our fingers remain on the trigger, and our victorious fighters will remain on the look out to defend our people and defeat the occupation."

Three Americans, including a 3-year-old girl whose parents were among those killed during Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, are expected to be among the hostages to be released, a senior US official said. In addition to Israeli citizens, more than half the hostages held foreign and dual citizenship from some 40 countries including the US, Thailand, Britain, France, Argentina, Germany, Chile, Spain and Portugal, Israel's government has said.

Israeli media said the first release of hostages was expected on Thursday. Implementing the deal must wait for 24 hours to give Israeli citizens the chance to ask the Supreme Court to block the release of Palestinian prisoners, reports said. Kamelia Hoter Ishay, the grandmother of 13-year-old Gali Tarshansky, who is believed to be held in Gaza, said she would not believe reports of a deal until she got a call that the teenager was freed.

"And then I'll know that it's really over and I can breathe a sigh of relief and say that's it, it's over," she said. Qadura Fares, head of the Commission for Prisoners' Affairs in the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, said that among more than 7,800 Palestinians imprisoned by

Israel were about 85 women and 350 minors. Most were detained without charges or for incidents such as hurling rocks at Israeli soldiers, not for launching militant attacks, he said.

Qatar's chief negotiator in ceasefire talks, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry Mohammed Al-Khulaifi, said that the International Committee of the Red Cross would be working inside Gaza to facilitate the hostages' release. He said that the truce means there would be "no attack whatsoever. No military movements, no expansion, nothing."

Al-Khulaifi added that Qatar hopes the deal "will be a seed to a bigger agreement and a permanent cease of fire. And that's our intention." Hamas has to date released only four captives: US citizens Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter, Natalie Raanan, 17, on Oct. 20, citing "humanitarian reasons," and Israeli women Nurit Cooper, 79, and Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, on Oct. 23. The armed wing of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad, which participated in the Oct. 7 raid with Hamas, said late on Tuesday that one of the Israeli hostages it has held since the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel had died.

"We previously expressed our willingness to release her for humanitarian reasons, but the enemy was stalling and this led to her death," Al Quds Brigades said on its Telegram channel. As attention focused on the hostage release deal, fighting on the ground raged on. Mounir Al-Barsh, director-general of Gaza's health ministry, told Al Jazeera TV that the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza City. Israel said militants were operating from the facility and threatened to act against them within four hours, he said.

On Tuesday, Israel also said its forces had encircled the Jabalia refugee camp, a congested urban extension of Gaza City where Hamas has been battling advancing Israeli armored forces. The Palestinian news agency Wafa said 33 people were killed and dozens wounded in an Israeli air strike on part of Jabalia. In southern Gaza, Hamas-affiliated media said 10 people were killed and 22 injured by an Israeli air strike on an apartment in the city of Khan Younis. Reuters could not immediately verify the accounts of fighting on either side. — Arab News

‘Vengeful politics’ reason behind PDM govt’s failure

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a workers' convention in Chitral said that he is grateful to the Party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chitral organisations for holding such a successful gathering. The PPP will continue its determined efforts and win the elections.

Chitral is not just the name of a place, but that of a family. It is the place from where the Mother of Democracy, Begum Nusrat Bhutto was elected. Chitral is not my second, but my first home. Chairman Bilawal said. Paying tribute to the women of Chitral, Chairman Bilawal said that they are carrying the mission of Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto forward.

This region is faced with a plethora of problems, for which the PPP has all the solutions. For three generations, the PPP is combating poverty, unemployment and inflation. It was only during the eras of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto that the youth of Chitral was provided with employment opportunities. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, an unarmed woman was able to face not one, but two dictators because she had the support of her brothers from Chitral.

Chairman Bilawal said that he wishes to help rid the people of this suffering, but it is apparent with the way that the country is being run that the traditional manner of doing politics will only exacerbate the pain faced by the people. Only with pure intentions can one solve problems. Pakistan is a country with unparalleled potential. The intentions of the other parties, be it the PML-N or the PTI, wish to carry out their



personal vendetta against each other after coming to power. During the unity government, we had intended to help the country emerge from the crises faced by the people. We were unsuccessful in doing so because our allies were fixated on personal revenge. This is why the targets we had set were not achieved.

This is why we have been demanding our traditional politicians to rest. This demand is not ours alone, but that of the youth which consists of 70 percent of the country's population. "We have been taught to respect our elders and are not disrespectful like the PTI. Our qualm with traditional politicians is not their age, but the same old politics that has destroyed the country in the past seven decades", Chairman Bilawal said. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the youngest PM at the time in the Islamic world. The decisions made by other political parties suffer through short-sightedness, and the burden is carried by the people.

We aim to establish a 'rule of the people', Chairman Bilawal said. It is solely the prerogative of the people to decide their representatives and who gets to govern them, no one else's. Chairman PPP expressed his gratitude for the loyalty Chitral has

shown for three generations. The arrow will be vicious on all three seats in Chitral, proving once again that the people of Chitral are not only loyal, but honourable and still standing with Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

We will complete the incomplete mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The gift of the wheat subsidy given to the people of Chitral by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto will be restored permanently, Chairman Bilawal resolved. The same will be done for former FATA and PATA which will be made into tax-free zones on a permanent basis. We will show Afghanistan how we are making efforts for the progress of the former FATA and PATA.

We are not only contesting the elections on slogans, but performance and character. Chairman Bilawal said that he represented the country internationally as its youngest foreign minister, while establishing hospitals meeting international standards in every district of Sindh. Former KP PPP president, Humayun Khan had gotten free health treatment from NICVD Sukkur. Shazi Khan, PPP's General Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa went to London for treatment, but was told that he should receive it from Karachi.

Interim PM summoned in missing students' case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday summoned the Caretaker Prime Minister in the next hearing of the missing Baloch students' case.

The high court ordered authorities to produce 55 missing Baloch students in the court, or the prime minister should appear in person on November 29. The defence and interior ministers and secretaries should also appear in the court, the bench further ordered.

Earlier, the high court expressed displeasure over the ministerial committee's report on enforced disappearances and summoned Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Duggal in the court hearing. "We will also summon the human rights minister," the bench said. "The court is doing, what was the responsibility of the executive," the court observed. "If we send this issue to the United Nations and get our country humiliated," the bench asked. AAG Munawar Iqbal Duggal pleaded the high court bench not to summon the prime minister and other ministers.

"There is nothing in it," Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani said. "What will be a joke and insult of the people of this country when they are being subjected to forced disappearances," the bench remarked. The representative of the defence ministry appeared before the court on the call. "Tell the interior minister to appear in court and his appearance will make no difference," the bench said. AAG pleaded again to the court, not to summon the ministers. "It is not a rocket science to summon these people. We are talking for the rights of Balochistan while sitting in Islamabad," Justice Kayani remarked.

Faryal Talpur congrats Sister Zaif

F.P. Report

KARACHI: President of Pakistan Peoples Party Ladies Wing and former MNA Faryal Talpur congratulated Pakistan's school teacher Sister Zaif for winning the Global Teacher Prize 2023 on behalf of UNESCO, a United Nations organization working for the rights and welfare of children in the world.

Faryal Talpur in a statement expresses her heartfelt congratulations to Sister Ziff and termed Sister Ziff's award of the Global Teacher Prize 2023 as an achievement for the people of Pakistan, especially women, and appreciated Sister Ziff's efforts in providing education to the children of Pakistan's underprivileged areas. Sister Zeph's win was announced at the Unesco headquarters in Paris.

She was selected from over 7,000 nominees from 130 countries.

KMC to hand over its food lab to SFA

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will hand over its nonfunctional food lab as well as pathology laboratory to the Sindh Food Authority (SFA).

Both the authorities will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) as to the handover of the food laboratory situated at the Guru Mandar area of Karachi next week, said a statement issued here on Wednesday.

The agreement in this regard was reached in a meeting between Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain and Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

The DG SFA and Mayor Karachi discussed the matters relating to the handing over of the food lab in detail in the meeting.

Dengue outbreak continues in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The dengue outbreak remains active in Punjab with 165 new cases reported, here on Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson, Health Department data reveals a total of 13,213 confirmed dengue cases across 36 districts in Punjab this year. Lahore leads with 5,926 cases, followed by Rawalpindi 2589, Gujranwala 1353, Multan 1285, and Faisalabad 734.

The situation persists with Lahore reporting an additional 103 cases, Rawalpindi 03, Gujranwala 22, Multan 03, Faisalabad 16, Sheikhupura 06, Narowal 04, Bahawalpur 02, and Lodharan 02 cases.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Hafeez Ullah, Civil Judge-I, Topi, Madeeha Naveed VS. Naveed Ahmed Court Misaal Number 71/FC, Institution date:21-07-2023, Hearing date: 12-12-2023

Notice to : Naveed S/o Muhammad Usman Bacha R/o Mohallah Boba Khel, Teh, Topi

The service through ordinary means is difficult , so you are informed to attend the court on 12-12-2023 personally, through counsel or attorney to avoid ex-parte proceeding

Sindh govt decides to ban sub-leasing of all Auqaf dept properties

KARACHI (APP): The caretaker Sindh government has decided to ban sub-leasing of all properties of the Auqaf Department. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Auqaf Department held under the chairmanship of Sindh Minister for Law and Auqaf Muhammad Omar Soomro here Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Secretary Auqaf Munawer Ali Mahessar, Chief Administrator Mumtaz Chana, Additional Secretary and other officers.

The minister instructed the officers in the meeting and said that the sub-lease of the property of the Auqaf Department should be banned.

A committee has also been formed to review the rate of the property of

Govt announces reduced Hajj expenses, enhanced facilities for pilgrims

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Dr. Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday declared a significant reduction of 0.1 million rupees in government Hajj expenses while ensuring uncompromised facilities.

Notably, the pilgrims will receive a 30kg suitcase each and female pilgrims will receive scarfs (Abaya) featuring the national flag, a first-time provision.

During a news conference at the Haji Camp Karachi, Dr. Ahmed highlighted the introduction of a mobile application aimed at aiding pilgrims. This app will offer navigation assistance and keep pilgrims in constant contact with relevant officials. Initially available in English and Urdu, the app will later include various regional languages. Emphasizing improvements in the Hajj process, Dr. Ahmed revealed that Islamabad and Karachi have been incorporated into Saudi Arabia's Road to Makkah project. This inclusion allows Karachi airport to complete the immigration process for Hajjaj, streamlining their journey.

Moreover, the government has intro-

duced a 20-day short Hajj package, striving to make Hajj more financially accessible to citizens. Efforts are underway to ensure Pakistani Hujjaj are accommodated in tents at Old Mina, as the distance to New Mina poses challenges for pilgrims.

Highlighting the allocation of Hajj seats, Dr. Ahmed mentioned that Pakistan has secured 179,000 Hajj seats, with half reserved for private Hajj operators.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs will oversee these operators to guarantee the well-being of pilgrims, holding the ministry responsible for any issues faced by those performing Hajj through private operators. Dr. Ahmed also noted the ongoing renovation work at the Haji Camp Karachi building, reinforcing the commitment to enhance pilgrimage facilities.

Regarding expenses, Dr. Aneeq clarified that the announced package excludes Qurbani (sacrifice) expenses during Hajj. Additionally, intending pilgrims opting for a shorter stay in Medina will receive a further reduction of Rs. 35,000 in Hajj expenses.

Sindh Premier League kicks off with grandeur

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The highly anticipated Sindh Premier League (SPL) is set to commence on Dec 14th, 2023 promising a thrilling showcase of cricket talent. The event will be honored by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest, the honorable Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, marking a momentous occasion for the league.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Governor of Sindh, Kamran Tessori, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in bringing this premier cricket extravaganza to fruition. His com-

mitment and dedication have played a pivotal role in making SPL a reality.

The SPL Closing Ceremony (25th Dec 2023) promises to be a spectacular affair with the distinguished presence of the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar Ul Haq Kakar. This event not only celebrates the spirit of cricket but also signifies the unity and support of key figures in shaping the success of SPL. SPL invites cricket enthusiasts and the community at large to join us in celebrating the spirit of the game and witnessing the unfolding of a new chapter in cricket history.

85 connections disconnected in Punjab, KP and Islamabad

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 85 connections while 175 under billing cases processed ; Rs 13.5 million fine imposed

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 17 connections on illegal use of gas and another 5 on use of compressor. The team also imposed 0fine of Rs 0.55 million against gas theft cases.In Bahawalpur the company disconnected 2 connections on use of compressor, 20 under billing cases have been processed one connection on illegal use and amount of Rs 0.04 million against Under billing cases.The regional team in Multan disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas,53 Under billing cases have been processed.The team imposed fine of Rs 0.04

million against gas pilferers.

In Peshawar and Karak,the company disconnected 36 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 1.51 million against gas theft cases.The team in Islamabad disconnected 3 connections on illegal use of gas.During the crack down the team of Rawalpindi disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas and fine of Rs 0.02 million against gas pilferers.In Mardan 34 under billing cases have been processed and booked an amount of Rs8.54 million against Under billing and gas theft cases.In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on use of compressor and booked an amount of Rs 0.01 million against gas theft cases. In Faisalabad 1 connection was disconnected on illegal use while another one on use of compressor and 10 under billing cases processed and amount of Rs 0.03 booked against gas pilferers.

Wasi Shah, attended the historic FIFA World Cup Qualifier matchup between Pakistan and Tajikistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah, attended the historic FIFA World Cup Qualifier matchup between Pakistan and Tajikistan held at Jinnah Stadium Islamabad. Emphasising resilience in the face of defeat, Wasi Shah engaged in an exclusive conversation with the youth, encouraging them to view setbacks as opportunities for growth. Serving as Chief Guest, Wasi Shah, also Chairman PTDC and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, was joined by top government officials, including Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin



Saeed Al-Maliki.

In his address, Wasi Shah expressed unwavering support for the youth, the Pakistani team, and the sport of football. Notable was the vibrant enthusiasm of young spectators throughout the historic match. Post-game, Wasi Shah engaged with jour-

ists, particularly addressing the youth, drawing parallels to a cricket match in Ahmedabad where a single shot hushed the crowd.

Highlighting the sportsmanship of Pakistani fans, especially the youth, Wasi Shah commended their collective heartbeat for the national team. He acknowl-

LESCO holds e-Kutchehry to redress complaints

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider chaired an e-Kutchehry here on Wednesday for prompt resolution of customers' complaints. He listened to consumers through a facebook live session and issued orders on-the-spot for immediate redress of complaints.

Company General Manager (Technical) Aamir Yasin, Director General (Admin.) Zameer Hussain Kalachi, DG (Implementation) Raja Mahmood, Manager (HR) Mohammad Noman Ghafoor and Manager (E-Complaint Cell) Masooma Adil were also present, while SEs (Superintending Engineers) of all circles of LESCO ensured their online participation.

World Fisheries Day observed at UVAS

LAHORE (APP): The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) observed the World Fisheries Day with the theme of "Cast the Net" here on Wednesday.

Various activities, including awareness walk, seminar, business ideas competition and fishing activities organized to mark the day in a befitting manner at Ravi Campus Patokti.

Director (Aquaculture) Department of Fisheries Punjab Dr Muhammad Abid was the chief guest and preside over the seminar while Dean Faculty of Animal Production and Technology Prof Dr Saima, Chairman Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Dr Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Chairman Department of Wildlife & Ecology/Principal Office Ravi Campus Prof Dr Arshad Javid, Food Safety Officer M Suleman Najeem, Aquaculture consultant M Adnan Arif, fisheries professionals and a large number of postgraduate students and faculty members attended. While addressing the audience, Dr Muhammad Abid said that fisheries and aquaculture was playing a significant role in national economy and food security.

He said Fisheries Department had launched multiple projects and created avenues for its production on large scale and It was the need of hour to aware people about fish eating habits.

Dr. Nadeem Jan meets British Minister of State for Health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan on Wednesday met British Minister of State for Health, Andrew Stephenson to discuss further bolstering cooperation in the health sector between the two countries.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and increasing cooperation in various fields of health were discussed.

Dr. Nadeem Jan appreciated continued support from the British government in diverse areas of the

health sector in Pakistan.

The British Health Minister appreciated Pakistan's position in the nutrition sector. "We will continue the malnutrition program as per our vision. Apart from supplying nutritional supplements, we will also set up plants in Pakistan." Dr Nadeem Jan shared a partnership with the Kirk Foundation and the Junaid Family Foundation. It has been agreed to build this plant in Pakistan through the transfer of technology. "With this initiative, we will not only be able to fulfil our needs, but

we can also export them to the world." He added, Dr. Nadeem Jan extended an invitation to his counterpart to participate in the Global Health Security Summit being held on January 10-11 in Islamabad in which top health leadership and delegations from different countries will participate.

The minister said we would welcome if the British Government considered to co-host this historic summit. The British Health Minister expressed his happiness and said that he would respond to the offer soon.

تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد

نوٹس نیلامی جناح پلازہ ایبٹ آباد

تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد اپنے ملکیتی جناح پلازہ واقع جناح روڈ ایبٹ آباد میں سے 192 دوکانات اور 34 فلیٹس ادفا تر کونا قابل دابھی گاڑی (ریجنیم) اور مابانڈ کر ایہ پڑ ریاءر آن لائن کھلی بولی نیلام کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ نیلامی میں حصہ لینے کیلئے درخواست فارم کے ہر ادھر دوکان اور فلیٹ ادفا تر کے لیے علیحدہ علیحدہ کالڈ پازٹ رسید ایکڈ ڈرافٹ، نام نی ایم ایبٹ آباد نیلامی سے قلمبج کرنا لازم ہوگا جو کام بولی دہندہ کو نیلامی کے بعد واپس کر دیا جائے گا۔ درخواست فارم مبلغ 2000 روپے کے عوض نی ایم ایبٹ آباد کی ریگولیشن برائے سے حاصل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اشتہار بڈا لوکل گورنٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ نمبر بجکون خواہی ویب سائیت (eproperty.lcbkp.gov.pk) اور KPRA کی ویب سائیت (www.kppra.gov.pk) سے بھی ڈان لوڈ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ آن لائن نیلامی کی تفصیل درج ذیل ہے۔

نوٹ:

عدالت میں کیس زیر سماعت ہونے کی وجہ سے گرانڈ فور پروڈکٹ دوکان نمبر 13 کی نیلامی نہیں کی جائے گی۔ مذکورہ 13 عدد دوکانات کو بعد اصرار تھی فیصلہ نیلام کیا جائے گا۔

آن لائن نیلامی کا شیڈول:

(آن لائن ویب پورٹل: (eproperty.lcbkp.gov.pk)

| بولی شروع ہونے کی تاریخ: 11-12-2023 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| نمبر شمار | دوکان / فلیٹ / دفتر نمبر | منزل / طور | کالڈ پازٹ (قابل دابھی) | تعداد دوکانات، فلیٹ ادفا تر | مابانڈ کر ایہ کی شرح | پگڑی اریجنیم کی شرح (ناقابل دابھی) |
| 1 | دوکان نمبر 14 تا 39 | گراؤنڈ فلور | 07 لاکھ روپے | 26 | 107 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | مبلغ 21,583 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ |
| 2 | دوکان نمبر 40 تا 51 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 12 | 93 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 3 | دوکان نمبر 52 تا 61 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 10 | 80 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 4 | دوکان نمبر 62 تا 71 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 10 | 67 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 5 | دوکان نمبر 72 تا 75 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 04 | 80 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 6 | دوکان نمبر 76 تا 83 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 08 | 67 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 7 | دوکان نمبر 84 تا 102 | قسمت | 03 لاکھ روپے | 19 | 27 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | مبلغ 6,500 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ |
| 8 | دوکان نمبر 103 تا 117 | فرسٹ فلور | 05 لاکھ روپے | 15 | 93 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | مبلغ 15,343 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ |
| 9 | دوکان نمبر 118 تا 147 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 30 | 67 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 10 | دوکان نمبر 148 تا 162 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 15 | 53 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 11 | دوکان نمبر 163 تا 171 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 09 | 47 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 12 | دوکان نمبر 172 تا 180 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 09 | 40 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 13 | دوکان نمبر 181 تا 184 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 04 | 47 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 14 | دوکان نمبر 185 تا 192 | ایبٹا | ایبٹا | 08 | 40 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |
| 15 | آفس / فلیٹ نمبر 1 تا 17 | سیکنڈ فلور | 09 لاکھ روپے | 17 | 35 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | مبلغ 8,054 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ |
| 16 | آفس / فلیٹ نمبر 1 تا 17 | قرڈ فلور | 08 لاکھ روپے | 17 | 30 روپے فی مرلغ فٹ | ایبٹا |

اگر کسی وجہ سے بولی آن لائن نظام (e-property) کے ذریعہ ہو سکی تو باقی بچ جانے والی دوکانات اور فلیٹس ادفا تر کو رجسٹرڈ بلیڈر ٹیل کے مطابق دن گیارہ بجے پڑ ریہ کھلی بولی دفتر نی ایم ایبٹ آباد آفیشل بڈل ہال میں نیلام کیا جائے گا۔

| شیڈول نیلامی | تاریخ | مستقام |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| قسمت / گراؤنڈ فلور (دوکانات) | 18-12-2023 تا 22-12-2023 | دفتری ایم ایبٹ آباد / تحصیل بڈل ہال ایبٹ آباد |
| فرسٹ فلور (دوکانات) | ایبٹا | ایبٹا |
| سیکنڈ اینڈ قرڈ فلور فزٹا فلیٹس | ایبٹا | ایبٹا |

چیدہ چیدہ شرائط و ضوابط:

- بولی میں حصہ لینے کے خواہشمند افراد کیلئے دفتر TMA ایبٹ آباد سے مبلغ 2000 روپے کے عوض درخواست فارم حاصل کر کے اس میں دوکان یا فلیٹ / دفتری کی تفصیل اور اپنے مکمل ڈرافٹ روچ کر کے ہر ادھر کالڈ پازٹ رسید ایکڈ ڈرافٹ، نام نی ایم ایبٹ آباد میں آن لائن بولی / کھلی نیلامی سے تین دن قلمبج کرنا لازم ہوگا۔
- ہر دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کے لئے سب سے زیادہ پگڑی اریجنیم (ناقابل دابھی) کی بولی دینے والے بولی دہندہ کی پیشکش منظور کیلئے قبول کیا جائے گا۔ بولی اب دہندہ کیل زیر نیلام 1/4 حصہ بولی رقم ہونے کے 24 گھنٹے کے اندر قلمبج کرانے کا پابند ہوگا جبکہ بقیہ 3/4 حصہ منظوری کے سات ایم کے اندر قلمبج کرانے اور اس بات تحریری معاہدہ کرانے کا پابند ہوگا۔ تا کا می کی صورت میں کالڈ پازٹ رسید نی ایم ایبٹ آباد ہیڈ کوارٹر کیا جائے گی۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار ہر سال معاہدہ کی تجدید یا زانو خوردانے کا پابند ہوگا اور اگر کسی کا قاعدہ آٹاز بولی کی منظوری اور دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کی حوالگی سے شروع ہوگا۔ بعد ازاں افتتاح معاہدہ دونوں فریقین کی باہمی رضامندی اور فی شر ان کے مطابق معاہدے میں مزید توسیع کی جائے گی اور اس حوالے سے عوامی حکومت کی ہدایت پر عمل کیا جائے گا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار وقت تک دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کا چارچر حاصل نہیں کیا جائیگا جب تک بولی کی کا قاعدہ حقی منظوری نہ ہو تمام قانونی لوازمات وثائق پورے ہونے کے بعد دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کامیاب بولی دہندہ کے حوالہ کیا جائیگا۔ کامیاب بولی تحریری معاہدے پر عمل درآمد کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- بولی میں حصہ لینے والے حضرات صرف اس دوکان یا فلیٹ دفتری بولی میں حصہ لے سکتے ہیں جس کیلئے درخواست فارم ہر ادھر کالڈ پازٹ رسید ایکڈ ڈرافٹ نی ایم ایبٹ آباد میں شہرہ ہو گئے۔ اگر بولی دہندہ ایک سے زیادہ دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کی بولی میں حصہ لینے کا خواہش مند ہو تو ہر دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کیلئے علیحدہ درخواست فارم کالڈ پازٹ رسید ایکڈ ڈرافٹ قلمبج کرانے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد کی جنگلی اجازت کے بغیر دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر میں کسی قسم کا روڈ ورلڈ (alteration) کرنے کی کسی قسم کی تجاؤز کرنے کا مجاز نہ ہوگا زود دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر میں کسی قسم کا روڈ ورلڈ کرنے سے پہلے نی ایم ایبٹ آباد سے جنگلی منظوری لینا لازم ہوگی۔
- دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر کے طے شدہ کرایہ میں کسی قسم کی ہرگز نہ ہوگی اور ہر سال کرایہ میں 10% کے سب سے اضافہ کیا جائے گا۔ اگر دوران معاہدہ عوامی حکومت یا جنگی حکومت کی طرف سے کرایہ کی شرح میں مزید اضافہ کرنے کے متعلق ایس میں دیگر احکامات جاری ہوتے تو کرایہ دار ان احکامات پر عمل درآمد کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- اگر TMA ایبٹ آباد اور کرایہ دار کے درمیان کسی قسم کا کوئی بھی تنازعہ پیدا ہوا تو ایسی صورت میں بطور دلائل رجسٹرڈ میونسپل آفیسر ہر ادھر کیلئے فیصلہ کرے گا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار کو بعد دو دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر میں کسی قسم کے غیر قانونی، غیر اخلاقی یا غیر شرعی کاروبار کرنے کی ہرگز اجازت نہ ہوگی۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار کو بعد دو دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر سے متعلق نی ایم ایبٹ آباد کے طرف سے جاری کردہ تمام شرائط و ضوابط کا پابند ہوگا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار ہر مہر مہر اس چارچر کی مد میں مبلغ 500 روپے فی دوکان اور مبلغ 1000 روپے فی فلیٹ ادفا تر کاٹنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر میں آگ بجھانے والے آلات کو خود بخود کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار تمام پیشین پلازیشنل ٹیلیفون بجلی، گیس اور دیگر ضروریات خود اوار کرنے اور کسی بھی قسم کے نئے کنکشن کی تنصیب سے پہلے نی ایم ایبٹ آباد سے NOC حاصل کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- بولی کی حقی منظوری کا اختیار اجاڑ اتھارٹی کو حاصل ہے جو کہ متعلق جنگلی انتظامی و وجوہات کی بناء پر کسی بھی بولی کو منظور، منظور مسترد یا بولی کے تمام عمل کو منسوخ کر سکتی ہے۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار کسی بھی دوکان یا فلیٹ ادفا تر میں کسی قسم کی خطرناک کاروبار کرنے جس میں گیس سیلڈر کا استعمال ہو یا جس سے آگ لگنے کا اندیشہ ہو مثلاً کباب فروش، مینڈور وغیرہ کی تنصیب کرنے کی اجازت ہرگز نہ ہوگی۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار پلازہ کے اندر گھڑی کاروبار کنگ استعمال کرنے کی صورت میں شیڈول کے مطابق پارکنگس ادا کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔
- کامیاب بولی دہندہ / کرایہ دار حکومت کی وضع کردہ پابندی کے تحت کنکشن UTP لگھیں و دیگر ٹیکس اوار کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔

نوٹ نیلامی سے متعلق دیگر شرائط و ضوابط اور مزید معلومات دفتری اوقات کار کے دوران نی ایم ایبٹ آباد کی ریگولیشن برائے سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

تحصیل آفیسر (ریگولیشن)

INF(P) 2840/23

تحصیل میونسپل آفیسر

نی ایم ایبٹ آباد

بورڈ آف انٹرمیڈیٹ اینڈ سیکنڈری ایجوکیشن مردان

تصحیح

CORRIGENDUM

ایک عدد اشتہار جو بورڈ ہڈا کا مختلف اخبارات میں بحوالہ نمبر INF(P):2774/2023 تاریخ 15/11/2023 شائع ہوا تھا اس میں درج ذیل تصحیح کی جاتی ہے۔

| S. No | Description | Old Date & Time | New Date & Time |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Tender Opening | 28/11/2023 11:30 AM | 30/11/2023 11:30 AM |
| 2 | Form Receiving | 28/11/2023 11:00 AM | 30/11/2023 11:00 AM |

بانی تمام شرائط و ضوابط ودی رہے گی۔

INF(P):2849/2023

نی آئی ایس ای مردان

0937-9230257

سیکرٹری

MoU inks between KPBoIT, Hangzhou govt

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBoIT) and Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce (Hangzhou Government) at China, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for extending strategic cooperation and collaboration in E-Commerce and related IT opportunities for investment in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. The signing ceremony was held during China Innovation Summit, an initiative by CAREC for cooperation, collaboration and promotion of E-Commerce and related IT interventions. During the ceremony, on behalf of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), KPBoIT, representative of board, Gul Mohammad, signed the MoU with Director of Hangzhou Municipal

Bureau of Commerce. It is merit to mentioned that Hangzhou is an industrial city with many diverse sectors such as light industry, agriculture, and textiles and it is considered an important manufacturing base and logistics hub for coastal China. Furthermore, the city is an e-commerce and technology hub. According to the Director Business Promotion, KPBoIT Mr. Iqbal Sarwar, this MoU

will bridge investors from China with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for establishing e-commerce related facilities in KP. Similarly, it will also pave way for engaging local service providers with their Chinese counterparts for collaboration and experience sharing. Moreover, this engagement will also attract investors from other countries for investment in this sector.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah chairing 14th meeting of PEDO Policy Board.

Peshawarities deprived of cash: Report

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in a report issued on Wednesday revealed that the citizens of the provincial capital Peshawar were deprived of over cash and valuables worth Rs 287.6 million during the incidents of robbery, snatching and theft committed during the last 10 months.

About Rs 86.75 million were looted in incidents of robbery, Rs 86.13 million in burglary, Rs 51.314 million in dacoity and Rs 19.41 million during theft, the report added.

Similarly, vehicles worth Rs 24.25 million were stolen and vehicles worth Rs 6.625 million were snatched at gun points.

On the other hand, motorcycles worth Rs 7.12 million were lifted and bikes worth Rs 6.02 million were snatched at gun points.

The report claimed that the police recovered Rs 153.189 million in cash and valuables including cars, bikes, mobiles and other items from the criminals during the 10 months period.

KPBC observes strike F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) condemned arrest of Zia-ur-Rehman Farooqi advocate and observed strike from court proceedings in protest, on Wednesday.

KPBC vice chairman Zar Badshah and chairman Executive Committee Syed Mubashir Shah condemned illegal arrest of Zia-ur-Rehman Advocate by law enforcement agencies while argued his immediate release.

KPBC argued competent authority for stern action against personnel involved in illegal arrest of Zia-ur-Rehman Farooqi advocate.

The legal fraternity of Peshawar, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Kohat, Hangu, Orakzai, Kurram Mohmand and Khyber districts observed strike in protest against arrest of lawyer. KPBC argued that the legal fraternity can't be subdued with such tactics and will stand for supremacy of constitution.

Returning of illegal people continued

PESHAWAR (APP): The safely returning of the homeland continued and so far a total of 232562 illegal persons have returned home, said an official of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department here on Wednesday.

Likewise, 2,28,785 people have returned via Torkham, 3,358 people from Angoor Adda border and 419 people from Kharlachi border, the official said. So far 21002 families including 64,572 men, 50720 women and 1,13,492 children have returned to Afghanistan, the official confirmed.

Till Tuesday, last, 2290 people, including 627 families, have crossed the border through Torkham, the official of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department said.

He said eight hundred men, 756 women and 1,409 children were included, the official said.

Mayor condoles over death of JUI leader's brother

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali on Wednesday went to the residence of Haji Muhammad Umar, a former nazim and local leader of JUI, and condoled with him over the death of his brother.

According to the office secretary, the mayor expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and offered Fataha for the departed soul. Paying tributes to the deceased, the mayor said he was a well reputed and noble citizen, associated with Dawat e Tableegh.

The mayor prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and patience to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Solar Energy in province: CEO highlights significance

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Engineer Naem Khan, the Chief Executive Officer of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), emphasized the invaluable natural gift of solar energy resources in the province, stating that they contribute to an annual saving of approximately Rs. 840 million in electricity bills.

Speaking at the inaugural two-day solar energy exhibition in Peshawar, he shared that ongoing efforts on nine solar energy projects across the province, including tribal merged districts, are crucial for

addressing the country's energy crisis.

During the exhibition, attended by media representatives and Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad Khan, Engr. Naem Khan highlighted the transformation of key government institutions, including the Civil Secretariat and Chief Minister's House, into solar-powered facilities. He noted that 8,000 schools, 187 Basic Health Units (BHUs), and 4,000 mosques have already been solarized.

Additionally, 100 villages, including 300 mosques, in the merged districts have successfully transitioned to solar energy, with ongoing efforts for solarization in schools and places of worship in both merged and settled districts.

Engr. Naem Khan underscored the completion of 312 mini-micro hydropower projects in phase one in backward districts, with an additional 291 projects underway in phase two.

The public's keen interest in the solar exhibition was evident, with attendees praising the positive strides taken for the province's development through the production of solar electricity from renewable energy sources.

Transgender desk established at police station

PESHAWAR (INP): The Peshawar Police has decided to appoint transgender individuals and establish a dedicated desk at the Gulbahar Police Station to address the concerns and challenges faced by the transgender community.

According to the police, this marks the first time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that transgender individuals will be directly involved in police operations and community outreach.

The initiative was taken in response to long-standing demands from the transgender community for better representation and assistance within the police system.

The Gulbahar Police Station, located in a densely populated area with a significant transgender

population, was chosen as the pilot location for the new desk.

Operations Peshawar Kashif Aftab Abbasi acknowledged the importance of this step, stating that it was a crucial move towards building trust and fostering a more inclusive environment within the police department. He emphasized that the transgender community had faced unique challenges and required specialized attention and support.

The Peshawar Police requested the Khawajsara Association, a local organization representing the transgender community, to provide three names of suitable candidates for the desk.

Upon verification, the selected individuals will be

appointed as assistants and tasked with handling issues specific to the transgender community. These assistants will be responsible for assisting transgender individuals in filing FIRs, providing guidance on legal matters, and addressing any grievances or concerns they may have.

This groundbreaking initiative is expected to significantly improve the relationship between the transgender community and the Peshawar Police. It is hoped that the establishment of this dedicated desk will pave the way for similar initiatives across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, promoting greater inclusivity and ensuring that the transgender community receives the support and protection it deserves.

Food Authority seizes harmful food items

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority launched crackdown on adulteration on Wednesday, seized thousands of kilograms of harmful food items.

The Food Safety and Halal Food Authority have intensified their efforts against the adulteration mafia operating in the province, conducting raids on food businesses in Peshawar, Mardan, and Nowshera.

During these operations, large quantities of non-standard and harmful food items were confiscated and taken into government custody.

The spokesperson for the Food Authority provided details of the crackdown, noting that the Peshawar Food Safety teams, led by Director Operations Akhtar Nawaz, targeted food businesses in Sitara and Kabul Market of Karkhano Bazar.

The inspections revealed approximately 4,000 kg of mislabeled, non-standard, expired, and prohibited food items, leading to the sealing of 15 wholesale dealers and grocery stores.

In Mardan, the Food Safety Team intercepted over 3,000 kg of non-standard molasses from a vehicle. Samples were collected for laboratory examination,

and further actions are set to be initiated based on the results.

The Nowshera team conducted inspections of various businesses, including milk, ghee, salt, tea leaves, fish, frying oil, and spices. On-the-spot examinations using a mobile food testing laboratory resulted in further seizures.

The Director General of the Food Authority, Shafiqullah Khan, commended the successful operations of the food safety teams and urged them to prioritize checks on wholesalers and distributors.

He emphasized a firm approach towards violators of food safety regulations.

Excise IB surveillance squad conduct operation

PESHAWAR (APP): Intelligence Bureau surveillance squad conducted successful operation by failing an attempt of smuggling large quantities of drugs to Punjab and arrested one drug trafficker, spokesperson Excise told media men here on Wednesday.

According to details, the Excise Police foiled an attempt to smuggle large quantities of drugs to Punjab by intercepting a vehicle SGS 112 on Jameel

Chowk Ring Road and during search recovered 18000 grams (18 kg) hashish from the vehicle. A case has been registered in Excise Police Station Peshawar Region for further investigation, Excise Spokesman said.

Mainly dry weather with isolated light rain predicted

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

It said Isolated light rain/snowfall is expected over Abbottabad, Manshera, Battagram, Kohistan, Toghra, Shangla, Chitral, Swat, Upper Dir and Khyber districts.

Foggy conditions are expected over Charsadda,

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

During the last 24 hours cold and dry weather occurred in most districts of the province. Rainfall recorded (in mm) during the last 24 hours at different stations of KPK was nil.

The maximum and mini-

um temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of KP were Peshawar 25/09, Chitral 23/02, Timergara 25/03, Dir 25/01, Mirkhani 25/03, Kalam 21/-01, Drosch 23/07, Saidu Sharif 24/04, Pattan 26/08, Malam Jabba 15/04, Takht Bhai 26/06, Kakul 21/05, Balakot 25/05, Parachinar 21/04, Bannu 27/09, Cherat 20/09, DI Khan City 29/11.

The lowest temperature recorded in the province was -01°C in Kalam.

Crime spree grips Peshawar

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In the past 10 months, Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has witnessed a spree of daring heists, robberies, and thefts, amounting to a staggering sum exceeding PKR 287.8 million, according to official government documents.

The detailed records reveal a series of incidents, totaling PKR 287,238,023, involving heists, robberies, and thefts, including highway robberies, burglaries, and car thefts. The loot includes a ransom of PKR 86,752,500, highway robberies amounting to PKR 86,129,130, burglaries accounting for PKR 51,314,236, vehicle thefts totaling PKR 24,251,020, and carjacking incidents reaching PKR 19,460,189. Notably, motorcycle thefts

stand at PKR 7,120,525.

In contrast, the law enforcement agencies have shown considerable diligence in their pursuit of justice. The police managed to recover stolen property worth a substantial PKR 153,189,915 during this period. The recovery efforts were particularly effective in the cases of heists, with a total of PKR 21,152,542 restored to its rightful owners. Similarly, the retrieval of items stolen during robberies amounted to PKR 47,015,500, while the recovery from theft cases reached PKR 41,231,110.

The police department's overall recovery during these tumultuous 10 months stands at an impressive PKR 153,189,915, reflecting their unwavering commitment to combating criminal activities and

restoring public safety.

As the city grapples with this surge in criminal incidents, the community looks to the authorities for increased security measures and a swift resolution to bring the perpetrators to justice. The resilience of law enforcement in recovering a significant portion of the stolen assets is commendable, but the need for proactive crime prevention strategies becomes more evident than ever in safeguarding the citizens and their property.

CCPO Peshawar, Ashfaq Anwar, commented on the alarming surge in criminal activities within the city, asserting that the police have initiated a comprehensive crackdown against criminals, robbers, and land grabbers. With determination in his voice, he emphasized that law enforcement

is resolute in bringing the perpetrators to justice and ensuring the safety of the public.

Ashfaq stated, "The police force has intensified its efforts to curb criminal elements destabilizing our community. We are actively pursuing criminals involved in heists, robberies, and land grabbing. Our commitment is unwavering, and we will leave no stone unturned to apprehend those responsible."

Expressing confidence in collaboration with the public, CCPO Anwar declared, "To effectively tackle the rising crime rate, we need the cooperation of the community. I urge the citizens of Peshawar to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities. Together, we can create a safer environment for everyone."

Consultative session held by SFCG for women participation

PESHAWAR (APP): Aurat Foundation and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) here Wednesday arranged a consultative session to increase participation of women in decision making and peace building efforts.

The consultative session was participated in by representatives of police and education departments besides journalists and minority community members.

Resident Director Aurat Foundation, Intiaz said that fifty women belonging to various areas of the country were given orientation about peace and decision making under 'Khawateen Mamar-e-Aman (Peace building women) Project.

She said that those women were given training, orientation and needed capacity building to per-

form their role in peace building process.

Narrating their experience, one of the trainees, Samreen Hakeem of Swat told that the techniques learned in training help here to orient jail inmates and women living in Dar-ul-Aman.

Chairman Journalism Department University of Peshawar, Dr. Faiz Ullah said that we need peace in

our country and coming generation adding that extremism is not the problem of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it had affected people living in the whole country.

Speakers also stressed to involve minority community women in decision making process and provide them needed assistance and facilitation to play their part.

JLF nominated candidate F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Jammiat Lawyer Forum nominated Naveed Akhtar advocate and Amjad Hassan Tanoli advocate president and general secretary respectively for Peshawar High Court Bar Association 2024-25 elections. Jammiat Lawyer Forum (JLF) nominated Inam Ullah for joint secretary, Hilal Khalil for finance secretary, Waheed Ullah for press secretary and Aman Ullah as Library secretary. JLF nominated Sidra Naz advocate as executive committee member.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister Justice (R) Irshad Qaisar visiting Central Jail Peshawar.

Voluntary Pension System in KP: SECP, financial experts emphasize need for spreading awareness

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at a conference organized by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) here Wednesday underlined the need for spreading awareness among masses, government and semi government employees about significance of the Voluntary Pension Scheme (VPS) introduced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last year.

The day long conference on 'KP pension reforms--leading the way forward' was addressed besides others by Chairman SECP Akif Saeed, Secretary Finance KP Govt, Amir Sultan Tareen, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan, Commissioner SECP Mujtaba Lodhi, Chief Executive Officer Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) Mashooma Zehra Majeed and representatives of 12 Funds companies including National Bank of Pakistan funds, Muslim Commercial Bank, United Bank Limited, Al Habib Bank, Al-Falah Bank, Habib Bank Limited, JS Islamic Pension Fund, Faisal Bank,

Allied Bank, Altas Islamic pension fund and National Investment Trust funds.

Secretary Finance KP, Amir Sultan Tareen said that KP Govt has successfully transformed its pension landscape from conventional defined benefit pensions to a futuristic voluntary pension scheme (contributory provident fund) based on defined contribution framework for its civil servants having an attractive financial packages.

He said the contributory provident fund has been launched from June last year for newly recruited civil servants of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after enforcement of Civil Servants Act 2022 and gradually it would be extended to other public sector organizations keeping in view of its immense utility for employees of KP Government for a financially secure and worry free retirement.

KP CP Fund Rules 2022 were introduced and now every employee has the right to select any of the above pensions fund management company of his choice and made invest-

ment in it either through conventional or shariah scheme. In case of any conflict, VPS rules 2005 to over-ride KP CP Fund rules 2022.

Under VPS, KP Govt would contribute 12pc of pensionable pay while employees to contribute at least 10pc of pensionable pay besides tax saving upto 20pc of annual tax liability.

Under the scheme, the employees could get pension after retirement and in case of death their family members could avail the facility without any problem. The employees can switch to any of the above pension funds. He said accounts of employees would be updated in 45 days while awareness campaign was being launched for assistance of employees.

Akif Saeed, Chairman, SECP said that the VPS was very significant for employees of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and underlined the need for awareness campaign through electronic, print and social media about its utility and reforms in the pension system.

He suggested formation

of a high level committee to oversee implementation of pension reforms on quarterly basis.

Akif Saeed said that SECP was ready to provide all possible support to KP Government in pension reforms.

The other speakers said that premature withdrawal of amount from CP funds would be nonproductive for employees, adding withdrawal amounts could be resubmitted at earliest for availing full benefits.

They said the VPS was available both in conventional and sharia for pensioners under VPS.



In brief

Two bakeries sealed in Dir F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: On the complaint of a citizen, Assistant Director Consumer Protection Council Wednesday during visit to Talash Bazar sealed two bakeries over use of ammonium sulfate and poor sanitation in bakery kitchens. On the instructions of the Director General of Industries and Commerce Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Deputy Commissioner of Dir Lower District, Assistant Director Consumer Protection Council Dir Lower, on the complaint of a citizen, two bakery kitchens in Talash Bazar were checked and excessive use of ammonium sulfate and poor cleanliness in the bakery. He also issued a notice for legal action to the secretary of the illegal base for collecting more fares, taking more rides in the vehicles and taking legal action on the Khazana Bypass. He also fined the bakers for underweight and overcharging over bread. Pamphlets were distributed for awareness among more people for timely action against those selling underweight bread.

Planting of carnations

FAISALABAD (INP): Horticulture experts at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad on Wednesday have advised gardeners to complete the planting of carnations by December 15. Carnations are a beautiful flower that comes in a variety of colors, including red, white, pink, yellow, and purple. They are a popular addition to gardens, lawns, parks, green belts, and other green spaces. Carnations are also used in bouquets and for medicinal purposes. The experts said that carnations should be planted in fertile soil with good drainage. They also advised gardeners to weed regularly after planting to prevent the growth of weeds, which can damage the plants. When the plants reach a height of 8 inches, the soil should be mounded around them to help support them.

Rescue 1122 rescued 279 people

MULTAN (INP): Rescue 1122 Multan rescued a total of 279 people in 281 emergencies in the last 24 hours. According to a spokesperson for Rescue 1122, 268 emergencies occurred in Multan city, eight in Shajahanabad, and five in Jalalpur Pirwala. Of these, 83 were traffic accidents, with 77 in Multan city, five in Shajahanabad, and one in Jalalpur Pirwala. Rescue 1122 teams transferred patients to various hospitals in 150 medical emergencies across the district. There were 145 medical emergencies attended in Multan city, three in Shajahanabad, and two in Jalalpur Pirwala. Twelve crime and 21 miscellaneous emergencies were also rescued. A total of 279 people were rescued, including 264 in Multan city, 11 in Shajahanabad, and four in Jalalpur Pirwala.

Grieved citizens carrying body

GUJRANWALA (INP): Armed robbers not even spared the grieved people and deprived them of cash and mobile phones, who were on their way to home from hospital with body of a newborn child near Jandiala Baghwalia police picket at Pasrur road in Gujranwala. According to details, newborn child of Tanveer Bhatti, a resident of Rampur area died in hospital and he along with his two brothers was carrying the body to home for burial when robbers intercepted them on the way.



MINGORA: People holding a rally regarding awareness on narcotics in Swat.

Commissioner calls for eradication of polio

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai on Wednesday directed the concerned authorities to take all necessary steps to make the anti-polio campaign successful commencing from Nov 27.

Addressing a meeting of the Divisional Task Force regarding anti-polio arrangements in his office, he directed to make a fool-proof plan for the safety and security of the polio teams. The meeting was

attended by Deputy Commissioner Mardan Captain Retired Abdul Rehman and Deputy Commissioner Swabi Gohar Ali, along with officials from the Department of Health, Education, Police, WHO and other institutions.

The meeting was told that during the anti-polio campaign to be conducted from November 27 to December 1, 777,000 children under the age of five will be given polio vaccine in Mardan and Swabi, for which 3300 polio teams

have been deployed while 4000 personnel will be assigned on security duty.

Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai while addressing the meeting said that all institutions should make joint efforts to eradicate the deadly disease of polio and no negligence will be tolerated at any level in this regard. He directed the officers of all government departments to provide all necessary support to the polio teams to make this national cause successful.

Four of a family die as roof collapses

SARGODHA (INP): Four of a family including a couple and two daughter died and another injured when roof of dilapidated house collapsed in Syedwana area of Sargodha on Wednesday.

Rescue sources said that due to overload of bricks placed at roof top, the roof suddenly came down burying the family members. Four family members including 35-year-old Muhammad Saleem, his wife Mehraf Fatima, two daughters Meena Fatima and Hareem Fatima died in the incident while another sustained critical injuries.

The rescue personnel reached the scene, pulled out the bodies and injured from debris and shifted them to DHQ Hospital and Niazi Medical Complex. An environment of grief and sorrow prevailed in the area due to sudden death of four family members.

DC visits Rescue 1122 district office

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Newly posted Deputy Commissioner, Khyber (Retd) Sanaullah visited district head office, Rescue 1122, Jamrud. Flanked by Additional DC Hamid Buner, Assistant Commissioner, Jamrud Dr Muhammad Zeb, District Emergency Officer Syed Shoab Mansoor welcomed the district administrative officer and presented him a bouquet.

A smart contingent of the Rescue 1122 workers presented a guard of honor and saluted him. Syed Shoab Mansoor briefed him of various equipment during his inspection of the emergency stall at the center. DC, Sanaullah inspected ambulances, vehicles and other facilities in the center.

The visiting official lauded performance services of the volunteers of Rescue 1122 and expressed his satisfaction over the services the workers rendered for relief of laymen.

It is the core duty of the Rescue workers to facilitate the needy and provide on time relief to the natural and manmade disasters effectees he added and urged to utilize all their energies for the betterment of the tribesmen. Earlier, DC, Khyber examined the 7/24 functional control room and witnessed call receiving and response procedures of the Rescue 1122.

Voter awareness key for democratic evolution stressed

F.P. Report

MARDAN: District Election Commission Officer Zia ur Rahim has said that the importance of voting should be raised among the people, especially women, and the public should be made aware of this important democratic and national responsibility so that they can participate in this democratic process of voting.

Ensure full participation and play your individual and collective role in electing the right leadership for the nation. He expressed these views while addressing the women of different union councils of Mardan district organized by Saiban Development Organization with the support of Mardan non-governmental organization CPDI regarding the importance of vote and use of vote. ECPO Shahnaila and Mohammad Arif of Saiban Development Organization also addressed the program.

The speakers said that the vote is of fundamental importance in the strength of the democratic system, the importance of the voters in the strength of the democratic system is an unquestionable fact and by using the power of the vote, the people decide the future of themselves and the country. Every citizen of Pakistan has the right to exercise their right to vote, the Constitution of Pakistan empowers the people to strengthen democratic institutions through the exercise of voting rights. He said that the role of youth and women is the most important in the electoral process in the country and they can ensure the protection of their rights through voting.

District Election Commission Officer Zia ur Rahim has urged the public, especially women to actively participate in the upcoming elections, exercise their right to vote and encourage others to do the same. I am trying to provide better facilities to pregnant women, transgender people, disabled people and senior citizens who come to the polling stations to cast their votes so that they can cast their votes quickly in a calm manner. Zia-ur-Rahim said that voter registration and exercising the right to vote is a national duty. Unfortunately, due to lack of knowledge, the rate of

women's vote registration is very low.

Women can exercise their right to vote without fear and empowerment. Awareness and awareness is also being provided for voter registration among women. Vote is a national trust which should be given only to qualified persons. It is the responsibility of every Pakistani to ensure their vote registration, especially women voter turnout is very low, if women do not exercise their right to vote, it is impossible to achieve a transparent democracy.

Two injured in road mishap: Uncle Nephew motorcyclist who was returning home from a court appearance was seriously injured by the firing of motorcycle-riding armed men near Bagdada Bridge in the urban area of Mardan. The uncle succumbed to his injuries and the accused managed to escape.

The body and the injured were shifted to MMC hospital, due to past enmity, a case was registered against four persons in Par Hoti police station. According to the details, uncle Mohammad Ali Shah resident of Gujar Garhi and nephew Amir who were returning home on a motorcycle after the BBA was confirmed by the court near Bagdada Bridge in Mardan, the only one who chased them, Asad son of Khan Malik and Tariq son of Hazrat Ali Shah resident of Gujar Garhi and Masood son of Fazal Malik resident of Sultan Abad Eidgah Road fired indiscriminately due to which Muhammad Ali Shah died on the spot while Aamir was seriously injured. Rescue 1122 team shifted the dead body and injured to MMC hospital and the police registered a case on the report of injured.

Seerat-un-Nabi SAW seminar held: Radio Broadcasters Association (RBA) Mardan Region President Dr. Ali Khan participated in Mardan first Speech and Seerat-un-Nabi Quiz Competition as a special guest. On this occasion, the students of different schools and colleges of Mardan participated in the speech and Seerat-un-Nabi quiz competition. President Dr. Ali Khan while addressing the function said that it is a welcome thing that an excellent speech and quiz

competition was organized in Mardan at Tehsil level. This competition will not only encourage these students but also bring out their hidden talent.

President Ali Khan said that it is a matter of pride for us that the brave and talented youth of Mardan rose up and organized this competition and it is more proud that two talented and talented youths of the Cabinet of Radio Broadcasters Association Mardan region. GS for Youth Affairs and Sports Abdul Haseeb Yousafzai and General Secretary Social Media Syed Afaq Hussain are part of the organizing team which is a pride for the association. They paid tribute to the organizing youth.

NRSP delegation visits MCCI: The officials of NRSP Microfinance Banking met President Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahir Shah and the businessmen. President of MCCI Zahir Shah welcomed the guests and the businessmen and inquired about that what facilities can be provided by NRSP Microfinance Banking to business community, on which the bank officials gave details and said that NRSP Microfinance Banking provides various facilities to the businessmen free of cost in premium current account including provision of free ATM card, cheque book, SMS facility, Pay Order, free ATM withdrawal from other banks and Life Takaful. Highlighting all these facilities, Head Deposit said that our bank is providing all these facilities free of charge compared to other banks.

President Zahir Shah said that businessmen need financing to expand their business on this Head of Deposit said that NRSP provides financial assistance to traders through which a trader can expand his business along with the facility of balance pick-up from traders, transfer of money in one day through digital banking all these facilities can be provided to the traders on which the Chamber President MCCI Zahir Shah thanked the visiting officials of NRSP Microfinance Banking while addressing the businessmen and asked them to make maximum use of this opportunity.

Holidays for minority community announced

F.P. Report

BUNER: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Buner Hamid Ali officially notified 24 to 28 November 2023 holidays for Sikh and Hindu communities amid the birth-day celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Nankana Sahib Lahore, press release issued to Buner Press Club and other concerned departments as well.

It's pertinent to mention here that hundreds families and thousands Sikh and Hindu are permanent residents of Buner district since before the partition of sub-continent. These families are freely and regularly moving

to their worship places located inside Buner district the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and rest parts of the country including Hasanabdal in Rawalpindi Nankana Sahib and Kirtarpur in Lahore.

The deputy commissioners as head of district administration are regularly allow them to visit their worship places on special occasions and for making sure their satisfaction special holidays are announced prior the events to let them prepared themselves.

Seminar held: The Pak Navy Malakand Division unit was held one day seminar at GDC Jowar in Buner for guiding students to

become part of Pak Navy and serve for state of Pakistan. The Pak Navy Malakand Division unite head Lt: Mustafa Kamal and Malakand Levi Commandant Allah Nawaz SSG Commander Fazal Ghafar best briefed the students about services opportunities in the Pak Navy.

The Pak Navy Commandant shared that Pak Navy was controlling command of 9 portions of the sea out of 16 and embark training to 39 countries in the world. He shared all about the process the rules and regulations for entry into the cadre and importance of Navy services and Jabs.

Two killed, four drug peddlers held in Naushahro Feroze

NAUSHAHARO FEROZE (INP): Two including a youth were killed while two others injured in separate incidents in different areas of Naushahro Feroze. Police arrested four drug peddlers and recovered narcotics from their possession. A youth identified as Muhammad Akram s/o Ali Asghar was killed and Deedar Ali s/o Ghulam Farid was critically injured after an over speeding trailer hit a

motorcycle near Saleemabad. Robbers hired a taxi from Halani, killed driver Kashif Tangor near Nooriabad during robbery. A youngster Adeel Korai was injured as he fell down bike while attempting to save a pedestrian in Moro city. Two including 11-year-old Chaman Hakro s/o Zafar Hakro and 16-year-old Rehmat Kerio s/o Abdullah Ghaffar Kerio mysteriously went missing

from jurisdiction of Bhira road police station.

The bodies and injured were shifted to different hospitals for medico-legal formalities. The police arrested four drug peddlers including Ahmad Khan Isphani, Rasool Baksh, Majid Soomro and Saddam Machi besides recovering 1100 nexo gram gutkas, paan parag, 550 gram hashish and a stolen bike from their possession.

Countering terrorism in KP through reforms

Laiba Aziz

IN the past few years, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has been a hotbed of terrorism. In 2022, the region was rocked by a series of attacks, including bombings and suicide and terrorist attacks on police check posts, IED explosions, and crossfires among other incidents that killed over 100s of people and soldiers. These attacks caused widespread damage to infrastructure and led to a humanitarian crisis in the country.

Pakistan Army has taken a number of steps to address the issue of terrorism in affected areas of KP. These include: Area profiling to identify areas that are at risk of terrorism. This information is used to target security operations and development efforts. WHAM (winning hearts and minds) activities were carried out to win the support of the local population. These include providing free medical

care, rebuilding homes and schools, and promoting economic development. The military has carried out, disrupting terrorist activities, and killing or capturing key leaders. Military efforts have had a significant impact on the security situation in KP lately. In the past year, there has been a significant decrease in terrorist attacks. In fact, the number of terrorist-related deaths in KP in 2023 is half the number of deaths in 2022.

As the situation improved Pakistan Army rebuilt hundreds of homes and schools that were destroyed by terrorism. It has also invested in new roads, hospitals, and other infrastructure projects. This has also led to a renewed sense of hope and optimism among the people of KP. People are now more willing to invest in their communities, to participate in the efforts to build peace in the region, and to send their children to school.

Some examples of the state and military's combined efforts

to address terrorism in KP are:

1. Over 10,000 homes and 500 schools have been rebuilt in Waziristan. New roads and hospitals have been constructed as well.

2. In Chitral, the Shandur Polo Ground, a popular tourist destination that was destroyed by a terrorist attack in 2022, has been rebuilt and regularly hosts Shandur Polo Festival now.

3. The state has also launched several programs to promote economic development in KP. These programs include providing loans to small businesses and creating jobs in the tourism sector.

Some other steps include: "The military has worked to improve the intelligence network in KP. This has helped to disrupt terrorist activity and to identify and arrest terrorists before they can carry out attacks.

"The army has worked with local communities to build trust and cooperation. This has helped

to create a more supportive environment for counter-terrorism efforts by providing respect to the culture.

"Steps have been taken to enhance border security to prevent terrorists from entering Pakistan from neighboring countries.

Last but not the least, the repatriation of illegal immigrants living in Pakistan has been a major focus of the state in recent months. In August 2023, the state launched a nationwide campaign to identify and deport illegal immigrants. The campaign has been successful in repatriating thousands of people to their home countries, especially ill-legal Afghan citizens living in the country.

The state's efforts to repatriate illegal immigrants are motivated by several factors. First, the state wants to reduce the number of people living in Pakistan illegally. This is because illegal immigrants often do not have access to basic services such as educa-

tion and healthcare. They can also pose a security threat, as they may be involved in criminal activity.

Second, the state wants to protect the jobs of Pakistani citizens. Illegal immigrants often compete with Pakistani citizens for jobs, which can drive down wages and working conditions. Also, they are involved in the black market, which is a kick in the throat of the income source of Pakistanis.

Third, the government wants to send a message to other countries that Pakistan is serious about enforcing its immigration laws.

The repatriation of illegal immigrants has been met with mixed reactions. Some people support the state's efforts, arguing that it is necessary to protect the jobs of Pakistani citizens and to reduce the number of people living in Pakistan illegally. Others argue that the state's efforts are inhumane and that they should focus on providing illegal immigrants with a path to

citizenship.

The state of Pakistan has defended its repatriation policy, arguing that it is necessary to protect the interests of Pakistani citizens. The state and military's efforts to address terrorism in KP have been successful largely in restoring security and improving the lives of the people. However, there is still more work to be done. The state needs to continue to invest in infrastructure, education, and economic development to build a more resilient and prosperous future for KP.

It is safe to say in the end that the state and military's combined efforts to address terrorism in KP are a major success story. It has helped to restore security and improve the lives of the people tremendously. The continued commitment to these efforts is essential to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for KP.

The writer is a Peace & Conflict Studies Graduate and current affairs analyst.



US, Philippines conduct joint air, sea patrols in South China Sea

BANGKOK (AP): The United States and the Philippines are conducting joint air and maritime patrols in the South China Sea, which come as the two countries step up cooperation in the face of growingly aggressive Chinese activity in the area.

The Philippine Air Force said Wednesday its aircraft had taken part in joint patrols the day before in the vicinity of Batanes, the northernmost province of the Philippines, which is only about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as its own. The patrols run through Thursday and also include both the US and Philippine navies. They come only days after Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called the situation in the South China Sea increasingly "dire" as China seeks to assert its presence in an area where multiple nations have competing territorial claims.

Asked about the patrols, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing's position had been made clear to both the Philippines and the US "The Philippines-US joint patrol drill must not undermine China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," she said. The US 7th Fleet said the patrols were part of routine American interaction with its allies and partners in "preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region."

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own waters, which has led to disputes not only with the Philippines but also with Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. These claims have long been regarded as potential flashpoints in the region, and have fueled US-China rivalry. Earlier this month a Chinese coast guard ship blasted a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon in



disputed waters, and last month a Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat near a contested shoal, according to Philippine officials. Speaking in Honolulu, Marcos said China has been showing interest in atolls and shoals that are "closer and closer" to the coast of the Philippines, with the nearest atoll about 60 nautical miles (111 kilometers) away. "Unfortunately, I cannot report that the situation is improving," Marcos said. "The situation has become more dire than it was before."

In announcing the start of the joint patrols, Marcos said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that they were "testament to our commitment to bolster the interoperability of our military forces." "Through collaborative efforts, we aim to enhance regional security and foster a seamless partnership with the United States in safe-

guarding our shared interests," he wrote.

Under Marcos, who was elected last year, the Philippines has been deepening its relationship with the US in a shift from his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who had been closer to China and Russia. In February, Marcos approved an expansion of the US military presence in the Philippines to add four new bases from five existing sites under a 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the longtime treaty allies.

The move, which Marcos said would boost the Philippines' coastal defense, dovetails with the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China. Marcos has also been strengthening ties with others, including Tokyo, signing an agreement earlier in the year to allow Japanese troops to join training exercises.

Two more House MPs announce they won't run for reelection

WASHINGTON: Two House lawmakers announced that they won't run for reelection, the latest in a string of members of Congress heading for the exits. Democratic Rep. Anna Eshoo of California said in a video message that she will not seek reelection in 2024, bringing to an end a more than 30-year career in Congress.

Later in the day, Republican Rep. Bill Johnson of Ohio wrote on X that he "will not be seeking an 8th term in Congress," and said he has accepted an offer to lead Youngstown State University. Johnson said he will "continue serving in the House for several more months." CNN has reached out to his office to ask when he plans to leave Congress. Eshoo, who was first elected to Congress in 1992, currently represents California's 16th Congressional District, a Silicon Valley Democratic stronghold. She is also a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and served for a decade on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors before coming to Washington.

Another California Democrat - Rep. Tony Cardenas - announced that he will also not seek reelection in 2024. "I'm choosing this beautiful season of Thanksgiving to announce that I will not seek reelection - and I do so with a heart filled with unending gratitude," Eshoo said in her video message.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a statement, "For more than three decades, Rep. Anna Eshoo has ably represented her constituents in the Bay Area during an era of tremendous growth and change. As a Member of Congress, Anna has exemplified Silicon Valley's hallmark innovation and brilliance at every step of her public service journey." Eshoo said in her video announcement that she will continue "with vigor and unwavering commitment" as she serves out her remaining time in Congress. — CNN

Ethiopia talks with rebel group OLA end

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters): A second round of peace talks between Ethiopia's government and a rebel group aimed at ending a decades-old conflict in the country's largest region Oromiya has ended without a deal, both sides said.

The negotiations in Tanzania between the government and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) followed talks in April and May that also failed to produce an agreement. The OLA is an outlawed splinter group of a formerly banned opposition party that returned from exile in 2018. Its grievances are rooted in the alleged marginalisation and neglect of people in Oromiya, which surrounds the capital Addis Ababa.

The violence in Oromiya has killed hundreds of people in the past few years and been one of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's main security headaches since the end of a two-year civil war in the northern Tigray region last year.

China ready to work with Argentina despite Milei's criticism

BEIJING (Reuters): China is ready to work with Argentina to keep relations on a "steady" course, a foreign ministry spokesperson said, after the presidential election victory of a right-wing libertarian who said he will not deal with communists.

Argentinian president-elect Javier Milei has criticised China and Brazil, which are among his country's most important trading partners. A few months ago, Milei even likened the Chinese government to an "assassin" and said the people of China were "not free". Milei's tough talk on China stands in sharp contrast with a vow of cooperation by the outgoing president, Alberto Fernandez, who visited Beijing last month and hailed China as a "true friend" of Argentina.

Fernandez also pledged coordination with China under frameworks such as the G20 and BRICS. "Bilateral relations between China and Argentina have shown sound momentum of growth," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. "China stands ready to work with Argentina to keep our relations on a steady course

forward," she said.

But Diana Mondino, an economist tipped to become foreign minister in the Milei government, was quoted as saying by Russian state-owned news agency RIA Novosti that Argentina would "stop interacting" with the governments of China and Brazil, when asked whether Argentina would encourage exports and imports with those countries. Mondino has previously told Reuters that Argentina under Milei had no intention of joining the BRICS grouping, which includes China and Russia. Argentina was among six countries invited to become new members of BRICS, a bloc whose members also include Brazil, India and South Africa.

Mao, asked at a regular news conference about the comments attributed to Mondino, said the characterisation of Mondino's comments was different from the interview published by RIA Novosti. "Mondino said in the interview that some in the world misread President-elect Milei's foreign policy," Mao said. "No countries could step out of diplomatic relations and still be able

to engage in economic trade and cooperation. It would be a huge foreign policy mistake for Argentina to cut ties with major countries like China or Brazil," Mao said.

The Chinese foreign ministry said later that Mao was citing Mondino as saying it would be a mistake to cut ties with China or Brazil. Reuters could not immediately find a version of the interview containing those comments. Mondino did not respond to a Reuters request to clarify her comments to RIA Novosti.

Earlier this month, Mondino said Argentina had no problem trading with Brazil, and as for China, Milei would seek to end opaque state-to-state deals. "What we are not going to do are secret contracts."

Argentina, this government, in the last 20 years, has had multiple secret negotiations," she said. "That is not normal and it is what we have said we are not going to do." Chinese state media has so far played down Milei's comments but said it would be Argentina's loss if it were to shut China out of its market.

N Koreans use fake names, scripts to land remote IT work for cash

LONDON (Reuters): Using fake names, sham LinkedIn profiles, counterfeit work papers and mock interview scripts, North Korean IT workers seeking employment in Western tech companies are deploying sophisticated subterfuge to get hired.

Landing a job outside North Korea to secretly earn hard currency for the isolated country demands highly-developed strategies to convince Western hiring managers, according to documents reviewed by Reuters, an interview with a former North Korean IT worker and cybersecurity researchers. North Korea has dispatched thousands of IT workers overseas, an effort that has accelerated in the last four years, to bring in millions to finance Pyongyang's nuclear missile programme, according to the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations.

"People are free to express ideas and opinions," reads one interview script used by North Korean software developers that offers suggestions for how to describe a "good corporate culture" when asked. Expressing one's thoughts freely could be met with imprisonment in North Korea. The scripts totalling 30 pages, were unearthed by researchers at Palo Alto Networks, a US cybersecurity firm which discovered a cache of internal documents online that detail the workings of North Korea's remote IT workforce.

The documents contain dozens of fraudulent resumes, online profiles, interview notes, and forged identities that North Korean workers used to apply for jobs in software development. Reuters found further evidence in leaked darkweb data that revealed some of the tools and techniques used by North Korean workers to convince firms to employ them in jobs as far afield as Chile, New Zealand, the United States, Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates. The documents and data reveal the intense effort and subterfuge undertaken by North Korean authorities to ensure the success of a scheme that has become a vital lifeline of foreign currency for the cash-strapped regime. North Korea's UN mission did not respond to a request for comment.

Remote IT workers can earn more than ten times what a conventional North Korean labourer working overseas in construction or other manual

jobs earns, the US Justice Department (DOJ) said in 2022, and teams of them can collectively earn more than \$3 million a year. Reuters was not able to determine how much the scheme has generated over the years.

Some of the scripts, designed to prepare the workers for interview questions, contain excuses for the need to work remotely. "Richard", a senior embedded software developer, said "I (flew) to Singapore several weeks ago. My parents got Covid and I decided) to be with family members for a while. Now, I am planning to go back to Los Angeles in three months. I am thinking that I could start work remotely right now, then I will be on board when I go back to LA."

A North Korean IT worker who recently defected also examined the documents and confirmed their authenticity to Reuters: "We would create 20 to 50 fake profiles a year until we were hired," he said. He viewed the scripts, data and documents and said it was exactly the same thing he had been doing because he recognised the tactics and techniques used.

"Once I was hired, I would create another fake profile to get a second job," said the worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing security concerns. In October, the DOJ and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) seized 17 website domains it said were used by North Korean IT workers to defraud businesses and \$1.5 million in funds. North Korean developers working at US companies had hidden behind pseudonymous email and social media accounts and generated millions of dollars a year on behalf of sanctioned North Korean entities through the scheme, the DOJ said.

"There is a risk to the North Korea government, as these privileged workers are exposed to dangerous realities about the world and their country's enforced backwardness," said Sokoel Park of Liberty in North Korea (LINK), an organisation that works with defectors. Last year, the US government said North Korean IT workers were mainly located in China and Russia, with some in Africa and Southeast Asia, and can each earn up to \$300,000 annually.

According to his experience, the former IT worker said all are expected to earn at least \$100,000, of which 30-40% is repatriated to Pyongyang, 30-60% spent on overhead expenses, and

10-30% pocketed by workers. He estimated there were around 3,000 others like him overseas, and another 1,000 based within North Korea. "I worked to earn foreign currency," he told Reuters. "It differs between people but, basically, once you get a remote job you can work for as little as six months, or as long as three to four years." "When you can't find a job, you freelance."

The researchers, part of Palo Alto's Unit 42 cyber research division, made the discovery when examining a campaign by North Korean hackers that targeted software developers. One of the hackers left the documents exposed on a server, Unit 42 said, indicating there are links between North Korea's hackers and its IT workers, although the defector said espionage campaigns were for a select few: "Hackers are trained separately. Those missions are not given to people like us," he said.

Still, there is crossover. The DOJ and FBI have warned that North Korean IT workers may use access to hack their employers, and some of the leaked resumes indicated experience at cryptocurrency firms, an industry that has been long-targeted by North Korean hackers. Data from Constella Intelligence, an identity investigation firm, showed that one of the workers had accounts at over 20 freelancing websites in the United States, Britain, Japan, Uzbekistan, Spain, Australia and New Zealand.

The worker did not respond to an emailed request for comment. The data, collated from leaks on the darkweb, also revealed an account on a website selling digital templates to create realistic-looking fake identification documents, including US driving licences, visas and passports, Reuters found. The documents unearthed by Unit 42 included resumes for 14 identities, a forged US green card, interview scripts, and evidence that some workers had bought access to legitimate online profiles in order to appear more genuine. The "Richard" in Singapore who was seeking remote IT work appeared to refer to a forged profile by the name of "Richard Lee" - the same name on the green card. The US Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment. Reuters found a LinkedIn account for a Richard Lee with the same profile photo who listed experience at Jumio, a digital identity verification company.

Russian diplomacy leverages Israel-Hamas war for moral high ground

MOSCOW: The European Union and the United States have framed their defence of Ukraine as a principled stance against an aggressor and a war criminal, Russia. But Israel's prosecution of the war in Gaza is undermining their moral high ground and weakening criminal prosecutions against Russia, international relations and law experts say. "When attacks on public infrastructure happened in Ukraine, it led to a discussion in terms of how they violated the Geneva Convention," said Christian Bueger, a professor of international relations at the University of Copenhagen.

"Now we're facing a situation where in the Gaza hospital and so on, we are clearly beyond the borders of international humanitarian law," he told Al Jazeera, referring to Israel's siege and subsequent raid of al-Shifa Hospital, where the lack of electricity, water and medicine has put patients' lives at risk. "That opens up a discussion of what justified warfare looks like in terms of our contemporary age," he said, and "shatters what we

thought was the set of norms of how military operations should be carried out". For Ukraine's Western allies, "the moral high ground is shrouded in fog", said an editorial by Chatham House, a British think tank.

This has political and legal ramifications, complicating the task of holding Russia accountable for its crimes in Ukraine. UN and European investigators have been documenting the suspected torture, rape and summary executions of civilians in Bucha, Izyum and elsewhere in Ukraine. These alleged war crimes and atrocities will be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), whose jurisdiction Ukraine accepts. In March, the ICC indicted Russian President Vladimir Putin and his commissioner for children's rights for allegedly ordering the abduction of Ukrainian children, a war crime.

The ICC is also documenting alleged war crimes in what the ICC's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, referred to as the State of Palestine. Israel does not recognise Palestine or the ICC's jurisdiction on what it con-

siders its territory. "The US and UK support the Israeli view. So it would be very difficult for these states now to argue, 'Yes, the ICC has jurisdiction over Russians who commit crimes in Ukraine, but no, it does not have jurisdiction over Israelis who commit crimes in Palestine,'" said Marko Milanovic, a professor of public international law at Reading University. The US-UK view is clearly opposed by several Muslim-majority nations and some countries in the Global South. Five of them - South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti - asked Khan to investigate and prosecute suspected crimes in Gaza. The Global South's more ambivalent view of Russia's actions has further ramifications for Ukraine. For a year, Ukraine has led an international effort to set up a special court that will try Russia for its war of aggression - a crime under the UN Charter. To create this court, Ukraine needs to win a two-thirds majority in the UN General Assembly.

"For that court to have any chance

of being remotely legitimate and successful, it needs to get support not just from Western allies of Ukraine but also from the nonaligned/Global South countries," Milanovic told Al Jazeera.

"And now, after Gaza, most of these countries are not going to be willing to play ball... The West has lost whatever moral leverage it had in pushing for this new institution ... the more the Gaza [war] goes on and the US supports Israel, the less other states will support this." Russia has been quick to capitalise on the moral and legal murkiness Israel's counterattack on Hamas created. Two days after the Hamas October 7 attack on Israel, Russia refused to endorse a US-sponsored United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the attack, which killed about 1,200 Israelis. "Their goal is to portray themselves as peacemakers, and they can't be seen as following the US lead," said Maxim Alyukov, a researcher at Manchester University's department of Russian and East European studies, who monitors Russian official language and

propaganda. Russia's narrative, he said, is that "terrorists have to be punished ... but you don't blame the nation for a few individuals, and you don't bomb Gaza for an Islamist group". That could be seen as indirect criticism of the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq after al-Qaeda's attacks on 9/11. Russian President Vladimir Putin pinned some blame on the United States regarding the latest Middle East conflict. "I think that many people will agree with me that this is a vivid example of the failure of United States policy in the Middle East," Putin said in late October.

Russia claimed to support "a multilateral approach to the Middle East settlement issue" in a November 7 Foreign Ministry statement that also criticised Israeli settlements in the West Bank. "Nobody criticises Israel, and there are double standards here because when it comes to Ukraine, they openly criticise the fact that civilians are dying, but they don't seem concerned that Palestinians are dying," said Alyukov, summarising the Russian position. He called the

Gaza war "a gift to the Kremlin". Russia's position potentially weakens the rules-based international order Western states say they are trying to uphold, said experts, and many countries agree with Russia's accusations of double standards within it.

On November 18, US President Joe Biden asked, in an op-ed published in The Washington Post: "Will we relentlessly pursue our positive vision for the future, or will we allow those who do not share our values to drag the world to a more dangerous and divided place?" Earlier this year, Russia held a summit with African countries, a part of the Global South it is making particular efforts to cultivate with promises of cheap oil and grain, despite the fact that its war in Ukraine has raised the prices of both. "African nations clearly signalled to Russia: 'Yes we are interested in cheaper supplies, but we are not willing to play the game of translating that into diplomatic support for Russia,'" said Bueger. "The countries in the Global South know what game Russia is playing there." — Aljazeera

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Search for a
quality education

SINDH Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Rana Hussain has recently 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 Minister told the conference that the Sindh government has launched a new initiative of People's School Program (PSP) and 34 such state-of-the-art schools have been established in various districts across the province under the Sindh Education Foundation's Public-Private Partnership modality. According to the minister, the Sindh Textbook Board Jamshoro is set to hand over books to SEF next week while over a dozen private partners, INGOs, and businesses are ready to cooperate with the government to make youths educated and skilful.

The caretaker leaders whether in the centre or provincial interim setups are encountered with the same challenges of overwhelming agenda and shortage of time. The self-elected pro-nation leaders aim at revitalizing revolution in all sectors of national life ranging from economy to agriculture, health to education, and industry to tourism and travel but face scarcity of time, resources, and public mandate in manifesting their theory into reality. Although, the interim rulers have an eye on all avenues but health and education have the utmost attraction for them because of an abundance of consumers and the plenty of opportunities that spread across the nation.

The widely advertised People's School Program (PSP) of the PPP-led Sindh government was kicked start in July 2022 by signing a contract between Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), a subsidiary of the Sindh Government, and 20 private organizations to initially operate 34 PSP Schools in the province. As said, the government handed over state-of-the-art infrastructure and education facilities of formally named Sindh English Medium Schools (EMS) and Comprehensive High Schools (CHS) to private entities to dispense modern-day education in a conducive and healthy environment. Meanwhile, ICT-based learning and English medium is being used along with the provision of free-of-cost textbooks to the students. According to government statistics, nearly 13000 students are currently studying in 34 PSP schools across the province. The Sindh government did not disclose the details regarding the government's share in expenses, salaries of teaching staff, and other expenditures being incurred on this magnificent project.

Apparently, the Sindh People's School Program (PSP) is a replica of the Danish Schools program in Punjab that was introduced by the Shehbaz Sharif-led PML-N government in the past. Both towery projects of opposing political factions mostly served their political interests and the number of schools could not grow over a dozen in the past multiple years. Providing a few thousand students with privileged learning facilities is not a solution to the nationwide problem as millions of children are currently out of school in the province. Historically, the education degradation of Sindh province is of such a grave nature that dozens of government schools have no building and numerous school buildings are lying vacant, 35 per cent of schools have no boundary wall, 40 per cent of schools are without electricity and 60 % are short of pure drinking. The reports suggest that over 40, 000 ghost teachers and 5, 229 ghost schools had been identified in the province but the Sindh government failed to resolve that issue along with bringing perpetrators to justice and accountability.

Realistically, no government could ever succeed in implementing its credo regarding the education systems and multiple recipes including the introduction of Danish Schools, the People's School Program, and the Single National Curriculum (SNC) had been launched by successive governments in the past decades but all those ideas failed in providing a unison and quality education to the public. Historically, the leaders' quest for quality education has gradually shifted into a desire for elusion from this important national responsibility as the rulers in Punjab have launched initiatives to hand over government schools to the private sector to reduce the government's burden instead of revitalizing stringent reforms to raise educational standards, elevate public suffering by providing free of cost and quality education to our new generations. So far, all such mechanisms seem to be ill-motivated and insufficient and are less likely to bring any positive outcome in the existing conditions in the country.

Rising climate change risk

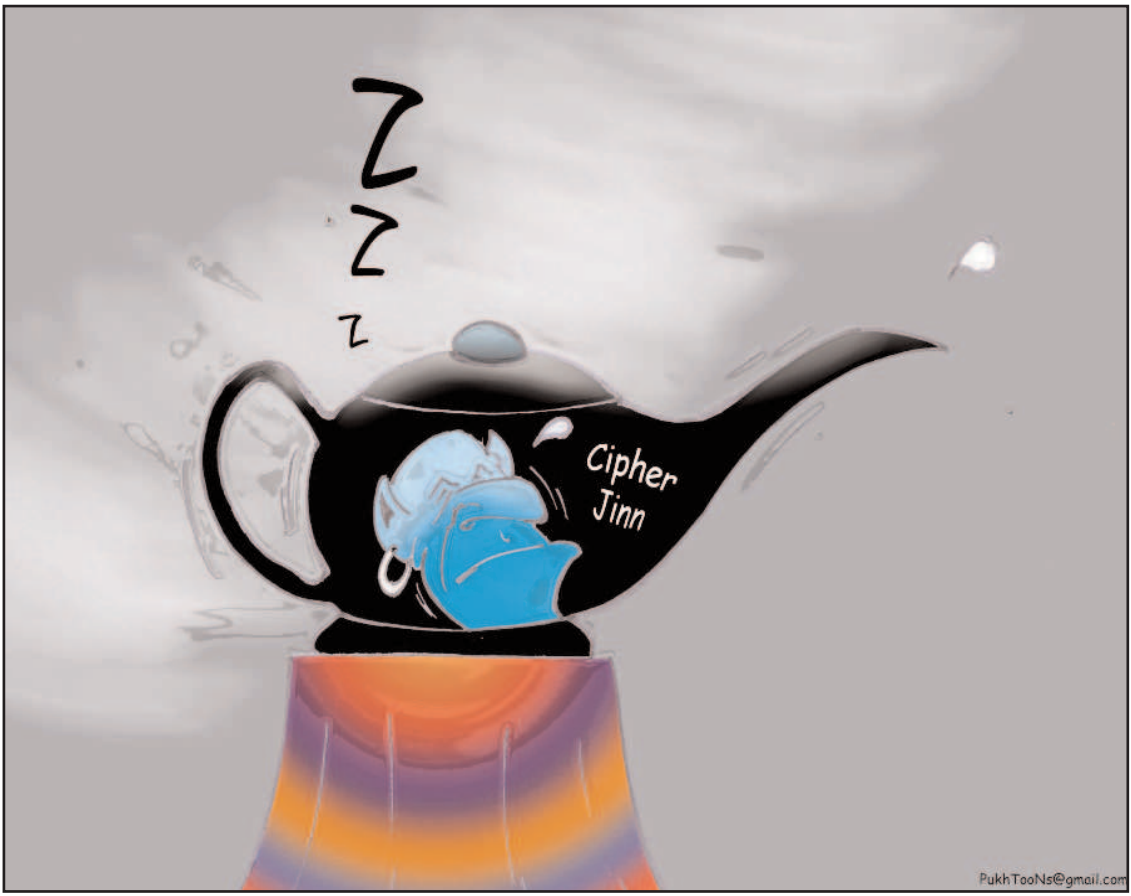
THE annual Emissions Gap Report released by the United Nations has revealed a shocking fact that the countries' current emissions pledges to limit climate change would still put the world on track to warm by nearly 3 degrees Celsius this century. According to the report, countries' promises to tackle climate change compared with what is needed, find the world faces between 2.5C and 2.9C of warming above pre industrial 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. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted that present trends are racing our planet down a dead-end, as the emissions gap is more like an emissions canyon.

Global warming has become an existential risk for the human being and other living organisms because of rapid increase in temperature and Global greenhouse gas emissions rose by 1.2% from 2021 to 2022, reaching a record 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide or equivalent. Historically, the world nations could not uphold their voluntary pledges to bend the emission curve downward. So far, all of the international agreements and the majority of the meetups of the global leaders failed to reduce the rate of decarbonization despite the fact the global community aimed to curb the carbon dioxide emission to zero.

Interestingly, the global climate change agenda fell victim to the mutual blame game and the tendency to persuade others to act first. So far, the major carbon emitters including China, India, the United States, Russia, Japan and others failed to achieve their pledges in respect of phasing out fossil fuel plants and refused to accept liability for damage caused by extreme weather conditions. The recent assessment reports on emission is an eye opener for the world nations who are scheduled for the next Climate Change Summit (COP-28) in Dubai. In fact, it is of utmost importance that the member nations uphold their individual responsibility under the Paris Accord without pointing fingers to their colleagues. This world is currently moving toward complete enhaliation and all have to push it away from an imminent collapse through collective efforts and team work by lowering the temperature below the 1.5C, that is the only way forward for all human beings in this universe.

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Billionaires are out of touch
and much too powerful

Rebecca Solnit

WHEN you talk about the climate crisis, sooner or later someone is going to say that population is the issue and fret about the sheer number of humans now living on Earth. But population per se is not the problem, because the farmer in Bangladesh or the street vendor in Brazil doesn't have nearly the impact of the venture capitalist in California or the petroleum oligarchs of Russia and the Middle East.

The richest 1% of humanity is responsible for more carbon emissions than the poorest 66%. The rich are bad for the Earth, and the richer they are the bigger their adverse impact (including the impact of money invested in banks, and stocks financing fossil fuels and other forms of climate destruction).

In other words, we are not all the same size. Billionaires loom large over our politics and environment in ways that are hard to understand without taking on the shocking scale of their wealth. That impact, both through their climate emissions and their manipulations of politics and public life means they are not at all like the rest of humanity. They are behemoths, and they mostly use their outsized power in ugly ways - both in how much they consume and how much they influence the world's climate response.

Let me put it this way: if you made \$10,000 a week - a princely sum by the standards of most people - you would have to work every week from the year of Jesus's birth until this week to earn over a billion dollars. To earn as much as Elon Musk's net worth at that rate - currently \$180bn, according to Forbes - you'd have to work every week for more than a third of a million years - that is, since before Homo sapiens first emerged in Africa.

Another way to put it is: one day last year, walking on San Francisco's western edge, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, I saw whales spouting, and then I came home and rescued a bee buzzing at my window. The extremely disparate scale of these two wild creatures impressed me, and so I did the sums: a honeybee weighs about 0.11 grams and 4,000 bees weigh a pound; a grey

whale weighs between 60,000 and 90,000 pounds, meaning that, even at the lower weight, it weighs about as much as a quarter of a billion bees. According to Oxfam, 81 billionaires hold more wealth than the poorest half of all humanity, meaning that in monetary terms 81 people are bigger than 4 billion people. So when it comes to wealth and impact, billionaires are whales and poor people are bees. Except that whales aren't a menace to bees.

But billionaires are a menace to the rest of us: their sheer political size warps our public life. Disproportionately older, white and male, they function as unelected powers, a sort of freelance global aristocracy who are too often trying to reign over the rest of us. Some critics think that the superelegant tech corporations that have spawned so many modern billionaires operate in ways that resemble feudalism more than capitalism, and, certainly, plenty of billionaires operate like the lords of the Earth while campaigning to protect the economic inequality that made them so rich and makes so many others so poor. They use their power in arbitrary, reckless and often environmentally destructive ways.

Look at how Musk bought Twitter - a crucial news source for millions of people in disasters and journalists and scientists everywhere - and turned it into X, a haven for antisemitism and unfiltered lies, including climate denial and disinformation, or how he wields huge political power with his satellite network and other assets. As the New Yorker put it: "There is little precedent for a civilian's becoming the arbiter of a war between nations in such a granular way, or for the degree of dependency that the US now has on Musk in a variety of fields, from the future of energy and transportation to the exploration of space."

Look at how Bill Gates (the sixth richest person on Earth, at \$104bn) has decided to influence climate policy. I remember first thinking about Gates's size when he built his house on the shore of Lake Washington decades ago: how much could one man

eat and excrete to occupy a home with six kitchens and 24 bathrooms? In a literal sense, he eats and emits a great deal; he's fond of private jets, and the Pacific-facing beach in front of that mansion is supplied with sand hauled in by barge from the Caribbean, according to an unctuous article in Business Insider. (Other sources say it's hauled in from Hawaii.)

He runs the world's largest private foundation, and the influence it has exerted on health and life, particularly in Africa, has been criticised. Now he's trying to exert an outsized influence on climate policy. A hallmark of tech billionaires is their boundless confidence in their own competence in whatever field they'd like to influence. Money talks - or, rather, shouts.

Gates has insisted we need "energy miracles" and a "clean energy breakthrough", and in 2016 declared: "If the world can find a source of cheap, clean energy, it will do more than halt climate change," while ignoring the existing increasingly cheap solar and wind energy we have and the roadmaps that far more qualified experts have laid out for a clean energy transition. The site Live Science commented on his declaration, "Bill Gates 'Discovers' 14-Year-Old Formula on Climate Change."

The climate scientist Michael Mann writes that Gates's terrible ideas include "a relatively inert but prohibitively expensive proposition known as 'direct air capture' (sucking carbon pollution back out of the atmosphere), and considerably more perilous in my view 'solar radiation management' - a euphemism for schemes that typically involve injecting huge amounts of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere to form a reflective blanket that might help cool Earth back down." That Gates might be wrong about the climate wouldn't matter if he were someone with the same kind of impact as an ordinary citizen; the problem is his excessive power.

The US has a quarter of the world's 2,700 or so dollar billionaires, and two of them - Tom Steyer, who has donated lavishly to various

climate groups and has his own political action committee, and Michael Bloomberg, who has contributed substantially to the Beyond Coal campaign - have actually had a positive impact. But extreme wealth is itself bad for democracy - a one-person one-vote system is compromised when some people have so much influence over who and what gets on the ballot and how it gets talked about (and a lot of American billionaires have backed the candidates, party and campaigns that have undermined voting rights as well as climate action in many parts of the US).

Being a billionaire tends to isolate you from the rest of humanity, and too often places you in an echo chamber of your own making; it's arguably a disqualification for participating in the affairs of ordinary people. Most billionaires are self-interested, protecting the very inequality and exploitation that made them so much richer than the rest of us. Polls in many countries show that most of the public want to see climate action and the funding for it; the obstacles are not public opinion but the fossil fuel companies and vested interests controlled by elites. This is why many US climate and environmental organisations have made democracy and voting rights part of their work.

A few good billionaires among the saboteurs don't justify the existence of the species. That's why in Kim Stanley Robinson's climate-fiction novel The Ministry for the Future, billionaires are eliminated as a climate hazard, their fortunes whittled down to \$50m if they comply. Robinson writes: "There was scientifically supported evidence to show that if the Earth's available resources were divided up equally among all 8 billion humans, everyone would be fine.

They would all be at adequacy, and the scientific evidence very robustly supported that people living at adequacy, and confident they would stay there (a crucial point), were healthier and happier than rich people." On a thriving planet, human beings should be human scale, but the super-rich are on another scale altogether, giants trampling underfoot both nature and our efforts to protect it.

The Guardian

Who caused
the flood?

Ghassan Charbel

MORE important than the Al-Aqsa Flood operation is the situation that will prevail after the war on Gaza ends. What will the situation be like regarding the present and future of Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and the region? Retaliation for the Al-Aqsa Flood with a new Nakba will only fuel instability. Tackling it with the two-state solution will return the Palestinian file to its people and allow the diseased Middle East to catch its breath.

It quickly became evident that Hamas' Al-Aqsa Flood operation, launched on Oct. 7, was a declaration of war, not just a widescale military operation. This was confirmed by the news that first emerged from the scene of the crime and the number of victims and hostages. It was evident that the attack was broader and more dangerous than all the confrontations that had been waged between Israel and Hamas over the past two decades. It was expected for Israel to retaliate to the war with a war, especially since the first blow revealed its security lapses and the slow response by its military. Hours after the attack was launched, I recalled remarks made years ago by a man who operated along the Beirut-Tehran route that passes through Damascus. We used to speak of the need for stability to be restored in Lebanon and the region. He predicted that greater conflicts were in store for the Middle East. Prompted for more information, he said that a journalist must always keep in mind that a confrontation with Israel will always be on the cards and that Israel will one day awaken to a major blow. I asked him what this blow might be, to which he explained that it could be salvos of missiles fired at Israel from Lebanon and Gaza, perhaps even Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The purpose of the attack would be to reduce Israel's strategic importance and force some of its residents to consider returning to the countries from which they came. He revealed that Qassem Soleimani's friends and students shared a firm conviction that this major battle was imminent and that it would force Israel, the US and the West to contend with a new reality. During that same period, the former leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Dr. Ramadan Abdullah Shalah, declared that Israel's settlement policies and disregard for Palestinians would only speed up the eruption of confrontations. He added that these confrontations would inevitably be fiercer than previous ones because the resistance fighters have been supplied with better weapons, as have their allies. I thought about the "major blow" when Hezbollah began fighting Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, when a handful of rockets were fired from Syria and when the Houthis launched rockets and drones from Yemen. I also paused at the attacks launched by Iraqi groups on American bases in Iraq and Syria.

More than 40 days on from Hamas' attack and, in spite of the massive losses caused by Israel's barbaric war on Gaza, the conflict has not yet expanded to other fronts and not yet developed into a regional war. There is no doubt that the international community's top priority should be reaching an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of aid to the besieged enclave. This demand will be conveyed to influential capitals by the ministerial com-

mittee that was formed at this month's Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh. The committee will try to convince major countries that allowing the conflict to persist and escalate will lead to massive dangers to the Palestinian people and gravely harm regional countries and the interests of major powers in them. It will stress the need to resolve the conflict through firmly and seriously adopting the two-state solution. Faced with a new Nakba looming in Gaza, which is claiming civilian lives, hospitals, schools and houses, this observer finds himself confronted by difficult questions. Who planned the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, which took years of training, information gathering and technology development, while misleading Israeli intelligence and the drones hovering over Gaza? Could Hamas alone have taken the decision to wage war on such a scale? Were Hamas' allies really surprised by the operation or just by its timing? Did Hamas really believe that the operation would lead to dealing the "major blow" and that rockets would rain down on Israel all winter?

Did Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif believe that Israel's response would be less barbaric than this? Did they expect tensions to flare up even more in the West Bank or for a regional war to erupt? Could Hamas accept a ceasefire if one of the conditions was an Israeli and Western refusal that it return to power in Gaza? What if Gaza's reconstruction was tied to Hamas being removed from the equation entirely? Would Hamas be willing to sacrifice its military presence in Gaza for returning the two-state solution option to the list of priorities of major countries and the international community? Hamas could not have launched the Al-Aqsa Flood operation without the planning of other parties. A quick review of the negotiations carried out by Yasser Arafat with various Israeli prime ministers reveals the extent of Israel's political blindness. None of these governments tried to reach a settlement with Arafat. They instead preoccupied themselves with trying to defeat him and unleashing settlements and settlers, brusquely slapping away the hand that was extended to them. Israel believed that the Sept. 11 attacks, the invasion of Iraq and the emergence of Daesh were opportunities to eliminate Palestinian rights and the Palestinians as partners. One could even go so far as to say that it rejoiced at the division between Gaza and the West Bank. It saw the weakening of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' authority as a strategic goal, even if it led to the empowerment of factions in Gaza.

The US ended its role as an honest mediator and did not try to seriously mend the peace process so that it could be resumed at a later time. Israeli incursions in the West Bank continued to eat away at Abbas' authority and weaken Palestinian institutions. The weakness of the Palestinian Authority is now the main obstacle to finding a Palestinian solution to Gaza after a ceasefire is reached. Hamas committed a major error when it believed that it would not need cover from Abbas and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Now, the region is paying the price thanks to the barbaric response to the Al-Aqsa Flood launched by Hamas, which other parties helped facilitate after they shunned peace and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

Children must be protected from the worst effects of war

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

AS next Monday is Universal Children's Day, which is also known as World Children's Day, it is important to reassert the rights of children around the world. The international community must ensure all children's well-being and development. We must also recognize the fact that investing in our future requires investing in our children.

At the end of the First World War, Eglantyne Jebb founded the Save the Children organization. She drafted a clear document in which she stressed the rights of children and the duty of the international community to protect them and ensure and prioritize their rights. Her document was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924. This development was important because it was considered to be the first document related to human rights adopted by an inter-governmental organization. Later, it became the

Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

The UN General Assembly subsequently selected Nov. 20 as Universal Children's Day, the same date that it adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959. Three decades later, the UN adopted an expanded version of the document, which is now known as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The importance of this convention is that it includes a wide range of human rights, ranging from social, cultural, educational, political and civil rights to economic rights.

Children's rights include having access to essentials such as food, shelter, healthcare, education and clean water, as well as safety from any form of exploitation and protection from physical and emotional harm. Children must also be able to express their opinions and be treated with respect for their perspectives and views. Three critical pillars of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child are the protection of children from any type of discrimination, prioritization of the best interests of the child and ensuring the rights of children to life, development and survival. Nevertheless, nearly a century after Jebb's draft document on children's rights was adopted, the international community seems to be failing to fully protect children, particularly in times of war. For example, Gaza is today becoming a "graveyard for children," according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Children are the ones that bear much of the brunt of war. "Children ... have started to develop serious trauma symptoms such as convulsions, bed-wetting, fear, aggressive behavior, nervousness, and not leaving their parents' sides," stated Gaza psychiatrist Fadel Abu Heen last month. Even before the latest round of

violence in Gaza erupted, Human Rights Watch released a report titled "West Bank: Spike in Israeli Killings of Palestinian Children." The August report warned that last year was "the deadliest year for Palestinian children in the West Bank in 15 years, and 2023 is on track to meet or exceed 2022 levels." One of the most critical problems is the UN's inability to implement an immediate ceasefire to end the relentless bombardment of Gaza by Israel. The implementation of a ceasefire is supported by a majority of UN Security Council members, but the US, Israel's staunchest ally, has blocked a resolution calling for one. Nearly 100 UN member states have also called for a ceasefire, but the organization is paralyzed and unable to take action. It is fundamentally undemocratic when a single member can prevent the UNSC from calling for a ceasefire to protect

children and allow the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Guterres has already expressed his frustration at the UN's inability to act.

This situation highlights why it is critical for the UN's structure to be reformed so that one member cannot overrule the will of the majority. Instead of a ceasefire, the UNSC on Wednesday passed a resolution that calls for "urgent extended humanitarian pauses" in Gaza and asks that "all parties comply with their obligations under international law, notably with regard to the protection of civilians, especially children."

Millions of children are being exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation, and more than 1,000 children under the age of five have died in nine camps in the country. Another tragedy is that the recruitment of children as soldiers has been seen in Sudan. "The recruitment of children by armed groups for any form of

exploitation - including in combat roles - is a gross violation of human rights, a serious crime and a violation of international humanitarian law," said Siobhan Mullally, the UN special rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Unfortunately, during conflicts and times of instability, some armed groups implement various tactics to recruit foreign children. They often prey on children and families who are vulnerable. Some are kidnapped and coerced, while other families are offered financial incentives to give up their children to fight in conflicts. In addition, many of these children come from lower socioeconomic classes and the recruiters exploit their poverty. In a nutshell, it is the duty of the international community to put children's safety, as well as their social, economic, political and civil rights, at the top of its agenda. If we want to invest in the future, we must start with investing in our children.

Truth is the biggest casualty in this propaganda war

Maha Akeel

THE discourse on the war on Gaza is as much about the images and narratives that shape and influence public opinion and rally support as it is about the realities and sufferings on the ground. The propaganda war is at its highest pitch. The truth is slowly dying as the people of Gaza are suffocating with no electricity, no water, no food, no fuel, and no internet to keep their misery out of sight and out of reach.

A collective punishment of innocent people that is tantamount to a war crime. The UN rapporteur on the Occupied Territories has said that Israel's disproportionate retaliation against the attack it suffered by Hamas on Oct. 7 might lead to "mass ethnic cleansing," justified in the name of self-defense. And now Israel is forcing over a million Gazans to flee as it launches a ground invasion, which could lead to genocide.

Meanwhile, decision makers and financiers who control mainstream Western media have been forcing a specific narrative to keep the public ignorant and consenting of their policies. Nevertheless, the number of images and videos being exchanged by people across the world is overwhelming, thanks to smartphones, digital technology and social media exposing and providing a different narrative.

Consequently, there is a shift in public opinion, as seen in the huge public demonstrations in support of Palestine across the Western world to stop Israel's violations of humanitarian and international law, which are embarrassing to their governments that are stand-

ing in full support of Israel. In response, misinformation and dis-information are rampant, especially when there is a deliberate attempt to manipulate content and messaging to propagate a particular framework and agenda. It becomes convenient for the most "professional" journalists and media outlets to circulate unverified claims voiced by world leaders, thus intensifying hostility and igniting further violence, which could spill over.

Most Western governments have lost almost all their credibility and the moral high ground, and with them their norms on international law and human rights, as they consciously turn a blind eye and take a one-sided view, while pressuring others to see things their way. Flagrant violations of international law and blatant human rights abuses by Israel are tolerated and not even labeled as such but, instead, are further supported politically and militarily. Even the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was vehemently attacked for expressing concern and stating facts on the roots of the conflict.

Targeting and silencing journalists, intimidating news networks, harassing social media platforms to remove posts and close accounts due to their pro-Palestinian content, and even criminalizing the carrying of the Palestinian flag, are acts that are supposed to be the works of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes - not by the "only" democracy in the Middle East, and free and democratic Western coun-

tries.

The more double standards, bias and unbalanced reporting is shown by the bulwarks of freedom, the more it becomes difficult to advocate for and defend freedom of expression.

We stand in solidarity with Palestine and Palestinians' rights. We condemn targeting all innocent civilians; we condemn all violence. However, what the West is asking us to do is condemn the Palestinians' right to resistance, and their right to live in dignity and peace. This is not about Hamas. This is about Palestine and supporting the rights of Palestinians.

Israel scoffed at international law for decades, expanding its settlements, annexing territory, and evicting Palestinians from their homes and forcefully displacing them. Gaza has been under blockade for 16 years. Human Rights Watch has determined that Israeli forces have used the banned chemical weapons of white phosphorus on Gaza and locations along the Israel-Lebanon border. All this under the eyes of international organizations and Western countries, but no one has been able to take any effective action to stop these atrocities. The international community is urgently calling for a ceasefire and has finally been able to send some desperately needed humanitarian aid to prevent the further unfolding of a catastrophe.

Many opportunities and initiatives for peace launched over recent decades have failed because of Israel's adamant refusal to recognize the rights of Palestinians

for an independent state and their obligations as an occupying power. The Arab peace plan proposed by Saudi Arabia has been on the table since 2002. The Kingdom has been steadfast in its stance in support of the Palestinian cause. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has stressed the importance of stopping the military operation, deescalation, and a peaceful resolution that ensures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Unconditional and unabated support of Israel will not end the conflict and will not lead to peace. Polarization is evident. The world is becoming more and more divided. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has repeatedly said that the world is being polarized and warned against the consequences of that. We need more dialogue, he stressed. The UN stands helpless because of the divisions. Guterres has bemoaned the internal divisions and polarization hindering the UN from taking any effective action, which emboldened several countries to challenge its role in maintaining peace and security.

The international system seems to be crumbling. Is a new world order rising? But what kind and to what effect? The space and time for dialogue are narrowing. There is so much misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and biased content that it is leading to more polarization and tension. We need to keep an open mind, an open heart, and open eyes to understand the whole story and act with compassion. There can be no peace without justice.

The decadent West has come face to face with future - and end of its dominance

Daniel Hannan

WE in the West like to imagine that liberal democracy spread because others were attracted by its intrinsic merits. It didn't. It spread through military victories - a fact that the rest of the world has not forgotten.

Only now, perhaps, are we learning how limited its appeal is. Several countries which we thought were in our camp turned out to be pro-Western only contingently and transactionally. The moment they saw our power waning, they began to look elsewhere. We see the shift in the reluctance of states beyond Europe, the Anglosphere and a handful of East Asian democracies to join sanctions against Russia. We see it in the UN votes posting an implicit equivalence between democratic Israel and terrorist Hamas. When the world's dominant power declines, violence and disorder rush to fill the vacuum.

It is against this background that Joe Biden and Xi Jinping held their meeting in San Francisco this week. Biden came across, as usual, as a dotard, fluffing his lines and horrifying his officials by referring to his guest as a dictator. Xi, by contrast, looked comfortable and confident, convinced that time is on his side. Like Winnie-the-Pooh, to whom he has been compared so often that Chinese censors ban references to the portly bear, Xi radiated the Taoist virtues of patience and imperturbability. The two sides had very different takes on the summit. For the Americans, it was all about encouraging China to take up its responsibilities as a member of the international community. They know that Xi wants to escape from the economic restrictions imposed by Donald Trump in 2018. The Chinese economy is faltering, partly because of exceptionally long lockdowns, and partly due to the rise in expropriations leaving people reluctant to invest.

Sensing that they have leverage, the Americans want to draw China into collaborative structures on climate change, artificial intelligence and drugs. To have secured understandings with Xi on these issues, as well as establishing military backchannels, is no small achievement. From the Chinese perspective, though, all that was fluff. The real business of the summit, as they saw it, was to make plain that they intended to annex Taiwan. Sure, they would rather do so without a war. To win without fighting is, as Sun Tzu says, the ultimate achievement. But Xi left Biden in no doubt that reunification is not some vague aspiration, but the policy on which he has staked his leadership. The Chinese autocrat is aware of American concerns about the economic impact. Taiwan produces most of the world's semiconductors, especially the advanced models on which the global economy depends. How long, Xi asks, would it take the United States to build up a domestic manufacturing capacity? Five years?

Fine, then use it. But understand that, after that, Taiwan will be reabsorbed.

Talk of semiconductors brings us to why the world has suddenly become so chaotic. The relative peace and prosperity that followed the Second World War rested, to a greater degree than most people realised, on globalisation. International commerce reduces both the incentive to wage war (without trade barriers, it doesn't matter where resources are) and the capacity to sustain it (a bellicose country can be deprived of critical materials). This consideration, more than any other, motivated the original campaigners for liberalisation. "Do you suppose that I advocated Free Trade merely because it would give us

previous generations, but an unprecedented decline in the number of wars. The relative stability of the Victorian age had rested on the Pax Britannica; that of the post-war boom rested on the Pax Americana. When American power surged after 1989, so did peace and prosperity. Then came the banking crisis, a fall in world trade and, before long, a return to protectionism - a process accelerated by the pandemic.

"Trade wars are good and easy to win," declared Donald Trump as he ordered tariffs on Chinese imports. Joe Biden accelerated America's retreat into autarky, notably through the disastrous (and comically misnamed) Inflation Reduction Act, a classic piece of protectionism disguised as greenery. The EU

The horrors that followed were to a degree products of the end of the Victorian economic order. By 1945, there was a recognition that protectionism, autocracy and war were interconnected.

a little more occupation in this or that pursuit?" asked Richard Cobden in 1850. "No; I believed Free Trade would have the tendency to unite mankind in the bonds of peace, and it was that, more than any pecuniary consideration, which sustained and actuated me."

Cobden was right. While no one has found a way to eliminate war altogether, globalisation has a pacifying effect, because countries like to remain on good terms with their customers. In 1860, Cobden signed the modern world's first trade agreement with his counterpart, Michel Chevalier, a rare French classical liberal. Since then our two nations, which had spent the previous six centuries in a state of semi-permanent war, have not fought. Cobdenism began to run out of steam in the early twentieth century, as challenges to British power led to calls for retaliatory tariffs. The horrors that followed were to a degree products of the end of the Victorian economic order. By 1945, there was a recognition that protectionism, autocracy and war were interconnected. The victorious powers grasped that the dictators had been products, as well as supporters, of autarky, and set up the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to ensure that the world did not slide back into beggary-neighbour mercantilism.

The whole world is concentrating much of its thought and energy on attaining the objectives of peace and freedom," declared President Truman in 1947, the year that the GATT was established. "These objectives are bound up completely with a third objective: reestablishment of world trade. In fact, the three - peace, freedom, and world trade - are inseparable." Truman, like Cobden, was right. As the barriers came down over the next 75 years, we saw not only a global enrichment beyond the dreams of

is now pursuing a similar scheme. China's leaders are determinedly building their own versions of the global companies that withdrew from Russia in 2020. Xi has made clear that he does not want to depend on imports. "You should not rely on international markets," he told his rubber-stamp parliament when Russia blockaded Ukrainian exports. "China must depend on itself." His solution? To reserve 296 million acres of agricultural land for food production - precisely the kind of policy that caused the breakdown of the 1930s.

Protectionism always does the most damage to the country pursuing it. The US Tax Foundation calculates that tariffs on China are "equivalent to one of the largest tax increases in decades," destroying 173,000 American jobs.

Similarly, had Xi not reversed his predecessors' policy of liberalisation, China would not only be growing faster, but would be a trusted partner investing in our nuclear power stations and communications infrastructure. Xi's swerve to economic nationalism has also wrecked the prospect of peaceful reunification with Taiwan. Many Taiwanese had been prepared to countenance some form of political union as long as China was becoming more pluralist, but the authoritarianism of the current regime, and its crack-down in Hong Kong, killed such talk. As during the early twentieth century, a unipolar world order is being succeeded, not just by great power rivalries, but by a return to the disastrous illusion of self-sufficiency, what the North Koreans call "juche". We can already see the consequences in the cascade of conflicts around us. If the West, with all its collective strength, is unable to dislodge Russia from Ukraine, that cascade will become a torrent. The time of troubles is just beginning.

The Telegraph

New study sizes up how countries see US and China

William Yang

AHEAD of the APEC Economic Leaders' Week in San Francisco, where US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are expected to meet, a study comparing views of China and the US across 24 countries shows that people's views of Washington are more favorable than those of Beijing, especially among high and middle-income countries.

The new data essay released by Pew Research Center Monday, compares previously published views of the US and China and highlights the differences across more than 10 measures, including confidence in US and Chinese leaders, perception of their economic power and technological prowess. Countries featured in the study include advanced economies in North America and Europe, as well as middle-income countries in Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.

When it comes to favorable views of the US and China, the study found that high-income countries tend to "skew toward the US." Japan and South Korea favor the US over China by 57% and 62%. There are smaller differences in views of the two countries in middle-income countries surveyed with countries having "generally positive" views of China and the United States. The difference in the confidence in Biden and Xi was prominent in countries such as Germany and Sweden where 53% and 64% more expressed confidence in Biden over Xi. In Indonesia and Kenya, the difference in confidence toward the two leaders was only a few percentage points, with Biden maintaining a slight lead over Xi.

"These gaps in views of the American and Chinese leaders reflect both souring attitudes toward Xi in high-income countries and greater confidence in Biden," the

Pew researchers wrote. Although views of China and the US have fluctuated over the years, according to Pew, they have "rebounded dramatically in many of the countries surveyed" since Biden came to power, while views of China remain "among their most negative."

"Confidence in the US president was relatively low in 2007 when Bush was president but increased when Obama took office in 2008," said Christine Huang, research associate at Pew Research Center and one of the authors of the latest study. "Favorable views of the US likewise because substantially more positive in most countries surveyed during the Obama era. Confidence in China's president has also declined over time alongside favorable views of the country," she told VOA in a written response.

Richard Turcsányi, an expert on Chinese foreign policy at Palacky University Olomouc in the Czech Republic says "high-income countries are more often than not US allies, so they are comfortable with the current international order ...They tend to be democratic and thus dislike China for its authoritarian system." He said middle-income countries are rarely traditional US allies and they are often "not fully democratic," so these countries want to change some things in the world to elevate their roles. "Many of them inhibit various dislikes and feelings of injustice, often targeting the US, Europe, and the West in general and China seems like an alternative. While they may not exactly like Beijing, the difference between the US and China will be less pronounced in their eyes," he added.

While the US enjoys more favorable views than China in general, people in the 24 countries surveyed hold mixed views of Washington and

Beijing when it comes to foreign policy. The study shows that the US is more likely to be viewed as an interventionist power than China in almost all countries. In Greece 93% of the people surveyed viewed the US as a country that interferes in other nations' affairs and 56% viewed the same of China leading to a 37% point difference in China's favor. In Australia however, there is only a two-percentage point difference with Australians surveyed viewing the US similarly as countries that will intervene in the affairs of other countries. More people across the 24 countries, including in Japan, Canada and Mexico, also think the US is more likely to take their countries' interests into account over China. In addition to that, more people surveyed in the 24 countries, including South Korea, the U.K. and India, think the US contributes to global peace and stability than China does. Pew researchers say these results show that global views of the US and China may not be as absolute as the overall favorable ratings both countries receive. "A closer look at each country's image shows areas where China outperforms the US," Huang from Pew told VOA. Compared to the starker contrasts between views of the US and China in measures such as favorability and confidence in leaders, the study found that differences are less prominent in areas like technological power.

Among all the countries surveyed, a median 72% of the people view US technology as "the best or above average," and 69% have similar thoughts about Chinese technology. Despite the small overall difference, people surveyed in Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Argentina, were more likely to rate China's technological achievements positively while US techno-

logical achievements tend to receive more positive reviews in Asian countries included in the study, including South Korea and Japan. Huang from Pew told VOA that regional variations in views of the US and China's technology may be tied to differences in market penetration of various products. "Chinese technology is seen especially likely to be considered well-made in Nigeria, where Chinese companies currently have control of much of the mobile market share," she said.

While majorities in every country surveyed say the American military is above average or the best and only about half of the countries surveyed say the same of China, the Pew study found that "there is little difference" in ratings of Chinese and American militaries between middle-income countries such as Mexico and high-income countries like Germany. Some researchers say results from public opinion studies can serve as important reference points for policymakers around the world. "Policymakers in many countries depend on public opinion because they stand in elections," Turcsányi in Czech Republic told VOA.

"If the general mood around the leaders is that China is seen negatively with little economic promises, leaders will be willingly or unwillingly influenced by this sentiment and will act on it," he added. Pew researchers said they hope findings from the study can help policymakers and government officials establish a better understanding of the geopolitical balance between the US and China. "We can't say for certain how it will be used, and it's up to the officials to hopefully watch programs like this one and learn from our research," Laura Silver, associate director at Pew Research Center and one of the authors of the study, told VOA.

VOA

World must act now to save its life-giving forests

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

IT is an unfortunate fact that deforestation remains on the rise. This means that it is highly unlikely that the world can fulfill its 2030 commitment to end forest degradation. The previous global initiative, the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, also unfortunately failed to meet its key targets and pledges. It is important for governments and corporations to come together in order to tackle this critical issue before it is too late.

Deforestation, the process of permanently removing a large number of trees, or thinning and clearing of forests by human beings, has been a critical global concern. The world has lost nearly one-third of its forests, an area twice the size of the US, with half this loss occurring in the past century with growing industrialization. It is estimated that if the world does not take swift action, we will have only 10 percent of rainforests left by 2030, while all rainforests will be cleared within a century.

By the time you finish reading this paragraph, forests about the size of several soccer fields will have been lost, since almost 2,500 trees are cut down each minute. Since 2016, almost 28 million hectares of forests disappear every year. To put it in perspective, this is an area twice the size of Greece, Africa, South America, and South

Asia have the highest rates of deforestation. Countries with the highest rate of deforestation are Nigeria, Honduras, Brazil, Ghana, Nepal, India, Indonesia, North Korea, Ecuador, Argentina, Zambia and Tanzania. It is important to point out that, while fires and hurricanes can cause deforestation, human activities are the major reason behind the considerable rise in forest degradation.

The leading contributors to deforestation are clearing forest areas in order to increase agricultural land; livestock grazing to produce meat; logging to produce furniture, paper, and packaging materials; and mining. So-called slash-and-burn techniques involve burning an area so that ash will fertilize the land for crops. But this carries a big problem due to the fact that the land can be used only for a few years, and then the technique has to be used in other areas.

Other important contributors to deforestation are population growth; the rapid rise in urbanization; more frequent application of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemical elements to produce crops; over-consumption; and expansion of manufacturing and industrial sites. Without doubt, climate change is another major contributor. This is not only linked to longer periods of droughts, but

also causes more frequent and disastrous floods, wildfires, storms and tropical cyclones, soil degradation, and heat waves. Continued deforestation will have severe consequences for people, the environment and the planet.

It is worth noting that trees and forests play a key role in absorbing carbon dioxide, which will lower the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. As it has become evident, carbon dioxide emissions are the primary driving force behind global climate change. As a result, this phenomenon is creating a dangerous cycle where the rapidly changing climate is, in return, having a damaging impact on the agriculture industry, decimating forests and land, and causing more droughts.

This is affecting the African continent due to its arid environment, which causes water stress or scarcity, with demand frequently higher than supply. There are other negative impacts. Deforestation can lead to greater soil degradation, loss of habitat and biodiversity, extinction of species and wildlife, an increase in flooding, and detrimental effects on public health.

The rising rate of forest clearing also worsens air pollution since trees are important in creating oxygen, as well as regulating

and controlling the level of water in the atmosphere. Forests are also an important source of medicine. Finally, deforestation affects indigenous communities that heavily rely on the forest to provide for basic necessities, such as food and medicine. Often corporations and governments try to evict indigenous groups and communities ahead of the deforestation process. The good news is that the world can halt the current rise in deforestation, and also reverse the process.

To stop and reverse deforestation, governments, companies and individuals must come together before it is too late. Some actions include adopting sustainable agricultural practices; passing strong forest protection policies; supporting indigenous communities and natural habitats; educating people about the negative impacts of deforestation on humans, species and the environment; avoiding overconsumption, along with decreasing the use of packaging and single-use products; going paperless; and definitely planting more trees. In spite of the pledges made, deforestation is on the rise. This is having a severe impact on humans, other species, the environment, climate change and the planet. The world still has time to halt and reverse deforestation, but we must all - governments, companies, and individuals - come together and act now.

Can Cameron fill Boris's boots in Ukraine?

Francis Dearnley

THE decision by the newly-ennobled Lord Cameron to visit Ukraine mere days after his shock appointment as Foreign Secretary has surprised many - in the UK, but not in Ukraine. Over 21 months since Putin's full-scale invasion began, Kyiv still considers London to be its most steadfast and important ally.

It was Britain, after all, which gave the vital weapons which enabled the Ukrainian army to defend the capital back in March last year, and its former prime minister Boris Johnson whose urgent response galvanised the West into action - a move for which he is now immortalised in Ukraine, with even a pastry named after him. As Lord Cameron remarked when meeting President Zelensky today, "I've had some disagreements with Boris Johnson...but his support for you was the finest thing he and his government did." Yet in the wider West, that support appears to be

waning. Many eyes are drawn to events in the Middle East; others grow weary of the economic cost. As such, London's role as Ukraine's champion remains vital. It will provide some welcome clarity to other nations that the UK, at least, stands firm, at a time when other countries are said to be pursuing avenues for the war to end without a comprehensive Russian defeat. As a former prime minister, Lord Cameron's clout will be much larger than that of former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly whom he succeeded. When he speaks, world leaders will listen.

The US will be his most important audience. Worryingly for Kyiv, Jake Sullivan, the White House's national security adviser, said earlier this week that the US's ability to protect Ukraine gets "harder and harder" with "each week that passes": a tacit acknowledgement of tensions in Congress as Republicans follow former

President Donald Trump's lead and criticise what they see as "blank cheques" being sent to Kyiv. The 'special relationship' is often viewed with cynicism, but in this context a concise and clear communicator - in English - about the importance of American support for Kyiv will be another boon for the Ukrainians. So too will be Lord Cameron's decision to drive a small lorry containing supplies for Ukrainian refugees to Poland last year, well before his dramatic return to frontbench politics - suggestive of a personal interest in the issue long-predating his new role. In his meeting with Zelensky, the former prime minister pledged to support Ukraine "not just this year and next year, but however long as it takes." Afterwards he visited the port city of Odesa, where in a nearby town Boris Johnson has a street named after him. It will take similarly bold action for him to earn one of his own, or a pastry for that matter.

The Telegraph



Pakistani technologies shine at CHTF

SHENZHEN (INP): The 25th China International High-Tech Fair (CHTF) took place from November 15th to 19th in Shenzhen, China, attracting participants from over 105 countries and regions and featuring the participation of 4,925 companies.

Among the participants, Pakistan stood out by setting up a national pavilion where representatives organized various themed activities and showcased the nation's latest technologies and products.

"This is a fantastic exhibition that helps us understand the overall market in China, and our aim is to

foster more collaboration with China. I have come across many innovative ideas and high-tech companies and products from around the world," said Muhammad Shirjeel Jamal, an exhibitor from Pakistan.

He further mentioned that they brought innovative ideas and solutions related to VR, software services, and digital media markets. "We have a total of four products, including a comprehensive restaurant management system that provides operational solutions for the restaurant industry.

Additionally, we offer customer relationship serv-

ice systems and UCN systems that facilitate communication between companies and clients," he added.

"I believe CHTF is one of the best exhibitions in China, providing us with an excellent platform for communication," Rehan Wali, another exhibitor from Pakistan, told us that this was his tenth time participating in the fair, and expressed his plans to establish his own company in Shenzhen.

"Our company provides real-time chat services through a web-based live streaming system. Customers can utilize this system for instant messaging, and

the system ensures uninterrupted response services. Even if one is unable to respond to customers online, the system can handle the queries and respond to questions." He introduced.

The 25th CHTF broke records as the largest fair in scale and with the highest number of participating countries and regions compared to previous editions.

Over 680 new achievements were unveiled during the event, and the cumulative transaction volume reached USD 5.226 billion, demonstrating the significant economic impact and success of the fair, according to Gwadar Pro.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor share prices during trading session at Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Exports in Pakistani currency up 29.96%

LAHORE (INP): An increase of 29.96% has been recorded in exports in Pakistani currency during the first 4 months of the current financial year. Exports of 2,767,606 million rupees were recorded during the period of July to October, compared to 80 million rupees last year. Exports of Rs.2,129,652 million were made during the period.

The report said that the main commodities exported during October 2023 were knitwear (104,025 million rupees), ready-made garments (76,920 million rupees), bed wear (68,298 million rupees), rice (66,558 million rupees), cotton cloth (47,758 million rupees), oil seeds, nuts and fruits and grains (Rs 33,897 million), towels (Rs 26,312 million), cotton yarn (Rs 25,838 million), basmati rice (Rs 18,783 million) and towels and other manufactured goods (Rs 17,980 million).

The main goods imported during October 2023 included petroleum products (181,138 million rupees), crude petroleum (151,331 million rupees), natural gas, liquids (78,020 million rupees), electric machinery and equipment (73,778 million rupees), plastic materials (57,994 million rupees), palm oil (57,674 million rupees), iron and steel (51,121 million rupees), mobile phones (46,523 million rupees), wheat (33,815 million rupees) and fertilizer (31,994 million rupees).

Increasing local production way to address gas crisis

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that for last 15 years, the masses and economy are suffering due gas crisis. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that increasing local gas production which was currently insignificant, was the only solution to country's gas crisis.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that after wasting gas for decades, now this clean fuel was less than its requirement in the country.

He said, "Importing gas from Central Asia and Iran has become very difficult. Domestic resources do not allow importing expensive LNG according to the requirement, so, the only solution to the problem is to increase local production."

The business leader said that the gas crisis continues

throughout the year, but its severity increases in winter, which affects people and businesses as gas exploration and production have declined.

He noted that LNG could not be over-relied because rich countries pay more to buy gas, and suppliers often ignore Pakistan despite the deal. Apart from this, the price of LNG increases a lot in winter.

To solve these pressing problems, the government should encourage foreign companies to explore gas in Pakistan; formalities should be completed in time, and all the permits should be given without unnecessary delays, he urged.

Most companies coming to Pakistan are involved in such issues that they cannot get out despite years of effort and leave the country in the end, which results in their losses and tarnishes

Pakistan's reputation.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the share of gas in Pakistan's energy mix is 38 per cent. The production of gas was four billion cubic feet per day, while its demand was six to eight billion cubic feet per day, which has become a big problem. He informed that gas was the third-largest energy source consumed around the world. Pakistan has less than a 1 per cent share in world gas consumption. It meets its energy demand through imported and indigenous resources. Natural gas and imported LNG contribute more than 40 per cent to the country's current energy mix.

The business leader said that harassment of foreign investors interested in the energy sector should be stopped; otherwise, the gas crisis will continue to increase.

Share prices go through roof at PXE

ISLAMABAD (INP): Share prices went through the roof at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday tossing the index over the 58,000 mark, a historic high for the national bourse.

Amid positive signs that the country's economic heartbeat is growing, the benchmark KSE-100 index maintained its upward trajectory during the trading session.

By midday, the index was hovering at 58,203 level, an increase of 832.27 points or 1.45 per cent.

Across-the-board buying was witnessed with the index-heavy sectors including automobile assemblers, cement, chemical, commercial banks, fertilizer, oil and gas exploration companies and OMCs trading in the green.

On Tuesday, the index had gained 294 points or 0.51% to settle at 57,371.59.

The ongoing bullish trend came amid the country's improved economic indicators, and the interim government's successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the first review, which would unlock \$700 million in funding.

Analysts expect that after the review Pakistan would be able to attract further inflows from its other multilateral and bilateral partners.

More doors of employment

RIYADH (INP): Contracts for thousands of new jobs were concluded with five major companies in Saudi Arabia, opening up more doors of employment abroad for Pakistanis.

Under the agreement, 15 to 20 thousand Pakistanis will get jobs in Saudi Arabia in various sectors, including construction, health, finance, engineering, IT, and overhead transmission.

Agreements were reached with the Saudi construction companies Nisma Partner and Al-Rashid Group, as well as the Saudi company Mahara Human Rahsus, Al-Bwani, and Al-Fanar Company.

‘101 connections disconnected’

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 101 connections while 145 under billing cases processed; Rs 11 million against gas theft cases.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 9 connections on illegal use of gas and another 5 on use of compressor. The team also imposed Ofine of Rs 0.32 million against gas theft cases.

In Bahawalpur the company disconnected one connection on illegal use. The regional team in Multan disconnected 4 connections on illegal use of gas, 36 Under billing cases have

been processed. The team imposed fine of Rs 0.03 million against gas pilferers.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 50 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 5.13 million against gas theft cases.

The regional team in Islamabad disconnected 6 connections on illegal use of gas. During the crack down the team of Rawalpindi disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas and fine of Rs 0.12 million against gas pilferers.

In Mardan 7 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and 30 under billing cases have been processed and booked an amount of Rs2.76 million against Under billing and gas theft cases.

In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on illegal use while another one on use of compressor. In Faisalabad 1 connection was disconnected on illegal use and 10 under billing cases processed and amount of Rs 0.03 booked against gas pilferers.

The team disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas and 1 Under billing case has been processed in Sialkot. In Sargodha 38 under billing cases have been processed and amount of Rs 0.02 against Under billing cases.

The team of Sheikhupura disconnected 14 connections on illegal use of gas and 30 under billing cases have been processed and amount of Rs 2.69 against Under billing and gas theft cases.

OGDCL successfully completes project

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: While adopting a strategic fast-track strategy, the Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has successfully completed the Khewari (Suleman 1 & 2) Development Project. The Khewari Development Project has potential of 10 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) which is being processed at the Sinjhora Plant in the Sanghar district of Sindh

province. Currently, the wells are undergoing choke optimization process to further enhance gas supply.

To expedite the project, OGDCL implemented a fast-track strategy, ensuring swift processes and timely delivery. This included laying a 6-inch diameter pipeline covering a distance of 14.5 kilometers from the Gathering Facility near Suleman-1 to the Chabaro Tie-in point, facilitating early first gas injection into the SSGC system.

The Khewari Development Project is a joint venture with OGDCL serving as the operator and holding a 77.50% stake.

GHPL holds 22.50% share. This achievement is part of OGDCL's broader initiative to enhance efficiency, optimize production, and contribute in mitigating energy demand through indigenous resources. OGDCL is committed to ensuring a sustainable and reliable energy future for the nation.

Pakistani businessman explores textile opportunities in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (INP): "Recognizing the importance of the textile industry for Pakistan's economy, the country has been actively seeking opportunities to upgrade its manufacturing capabilities.

China, renowned for its expertise in textile machinery, has emerged as a valuable partner in this endeavor," said Waseem Bari, a Pakistani businessman with a keen interest in the textile industry who visits the ongoing ITMA Asia + China International Textile Machinery Exhibition

(CITME) in Shanghai, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. The event, which runs from November 19 to 23, is renowned as Asia's leading textile machinery exhibition, attracting more than 1,500 textile machinery manufacturing enterprises from 23 countries and regions.

The exhibition, which showcases the latest advancements in textile technology including machinery, materials and digital solutions, presents an ideal setting for Waseem, who has

10-20 years of collaboration with over 10 Chinese manufacturers, to gain insights into the latest trends and innovations in the textile machinery sector.

As his 4th time visiting ITMA Asia + CITME, Waseem noticed that many new products were added to the exhibition, including the promotion of low carbon energy saving, the use of artificial intelligence, the improvement of quality control, the ease of production and the reduction of labor input, reflecting the future trend of the industry.

To maintain the textile industry's leading position in the country's export contribution, Pakistani textile enterprises have been striving to meet global standards in terms of efficiency, productivity and sustainability amid a new wave of scientific and technological revolution.

Waseem highlighted the need for continuous innovation and investment in modern machinery to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Pakistan's textile industry.

Emirates world's first airline to operate A380 demonstration flight with 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Emirates has become the world's first airline to operate an A380 demonstration flight using 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Today's flight, proudly commanded by Captain Khalid Binsultan and Captain Philippe Lombet, took off from Dubai International Airport (DXB) with one of four engines powered on 100% SAF, helping demonstrate its potential as a drop-in replacement that matches jet fuel's technical and chemical requirements, while being a more sustainable alternative. SAF can reduce carbon emissions by up to 85%* over the fuel's life cycle when compared to conventional jet fuel.

The Emirates A380 demonstration flight comes as the aviation industry, international organisations, regulatory bodies and high-level officials driving poli-

cy-related decisions converge in Dubai for the Third International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3). Dedicated collaborators from Airbus, Engine Alliance, Pratt & Whitney, Neste, Virent and ENOC have been working on the testing, technical assessments and data analysis for today's flight.

The 100% drop-in SAF used on today's flight includes renewable aromatics and closely mimics the characteristics of conventional jet fuel. This is the first time that drop-in SAF has been used on an A380 aircraft, with the expectation of full compatibility across the aircraft's existing systems. The flight carried four tonnes of SAF, comprised of HEFA-SPK provided by Neste (hydro processed esters and fatty acids synthetic paraffinic kerosene) and HDO-SAK

from Virent (hydro deoxygenated synthetic aromatic kerosene). ENOC helped to secure the neat SAF comprised of HEFA-SPK, and blended it with Sustainable Aviation Kerosene (SAK) at its facility in Dubai International Airport ahead of the demonstration, and also carried out into-plane services.

The 100% SAF was used in one Engine Alliance GP7200 engine, while conventional jet fuel was used in the other three engines. The PW980 auxiliary power unit (APU) from Pratt & Whitney Canada also ran on 100% SAF.

Last week, robust engine testing for one A380 Engine Alliance GP7200 engine using 100% SAF was carried out, with the objective of validating the engine's capability to run on the specially blended 100% drop-in SAF without affecting its performance or requiring any modifica-

tions. Ground engine testing took place at the state-of-the-art Emirates Engineering Centre in Dubai.

Adel Al Redha, Chief Operating Officer, Emirates Airline said: "Emirates is the first passenger airline in the world to operate an A380 with 100% drop-in SAF powering one of four Engine Alliance GP7200 engines. This is another proud moment for Emirates and our partners, as we put words into action with the research into and the trialling of higher concentrations of SAF to eventually lead to industry adoption of 100% SAF flying. This marks another significant step in validating the use of SAF in one of the engines of the A380, a wide-body aircraft with four engines. The growing global demand for lower-emission jet fuel alternatives is there, and the work of producers and suppliers to commercialise SAF and make it

available will be critical in the coming years to help Emirates and the wider industry advance our path to lower carbon emissions."

Earlier this year, Emirates successfully completed the first 100% SAF-powered demonstration flight in the region on a GE90-powered Boeing 777-300ER.

Last month, the first Emirates flights operating with SAF provided by Shell Aviation took off from Dubai International Airport (DXB). Shell supplied 315,000 gallons of blended SAF for use at the airline's hub in Dubai. The airline recently expanded its partnership with Neste for the supply of over 3 million gallons of blended SAF in 2024 and 2025 for flights departing from Amsterdam Schiphol and Singapore Changi airports.

Emirates currently uplifts SAF in Norway and France and the airline con-



tinues to seek opportunities to use SAF at various airports as supply becomes available.

Emirates participates in a range of industry and UAE government working groups, along with ongoing stakeholder engagements to

help scale the production and supply of SAF. Last year, together with the UAE GCAA, the airline contributed to the development of the UAE's power-to-liquid (PtL) fuels roadmap, driven by the UAE Ministry of Energy

and Infrastructure and the World Economic Forum, and has been an active participant in the UAE's National Sustainable Aviation Fuel Roadmap launched in January 2023 by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and GCAA.



In brief

Luke returns to training

MANCHESTER (Agencies): Manchester United defender Luke Shaw has returned to training after three months out with a muscle injury. The England international, 28, has made just two appearances this season after sustaining the injury in late August. Fellow left-back Tyrell Malacia has also been suffering from a knee problem and has yet to feature this campaign. Sergio Reguilon, the loan signing from Spurs, has provided cover, with Diogo Dalot, Victor Lindelof and Sofyan Amrabat also filling in at left-back. Manager Erik ten Hag has had to deal with a number of injuries this season, with goalkeeper Andre Onana the latest to pick up a knock playing for Cameroon during the international break. Onana is being assessed as the Red Devils prepare for a Premier League trip to Everton on Sunday and a Champions League visit to Galatasaray three days later. Leandro Martinez (foot), Casemiro (thigh) and Christian Eriksen (knee) are all definitely out while Jonny Evans (thigh), Aaron Wan-Bissaka (illness) and Rasmus Hojlund (thigh) are doubtful.

Lionel says he may resign

LONDON (Agencies): Argentina's World Cup-winning boss Lionel Scaloni says he is considering resigning after five years in the role. Scaloni made the surprise announcement after Argentina's 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. The 45-year-old also led Argentina to the Copa America in 2021 before their World Cup triumph in Qatar last year. "Argentina needs a coach who has all the energy possible and who is well," said Scaloni. "I need to stop the ball and start thinking. I have a lot of things to think about during this time. "It's not goodbye or anything, but I need to think because the bar is very high and it's complicated to keep going and it's complicated to keep winning. "These guys are making it difficult, so I need to think about it for a while. I will talk to the FA president and the players afterwards." Scaloni succeeded Jorge Sampaoli as Argentina boss in August 2018 after a brief spell in charge of the under-20 side. Their 2021 Copa America win was Argentina's first major title for 28 years and meant they qualified for the Finalissima against European champions Italy in June 2022, which they won 3-0 at Wembley.

DP World ILT20 Season 2

DUBAI (INP): The tickets for all 34 matches of DP World International League T20 Season 2, the biggest cricket league in the Gulf region, are now available online as well as on all 14 Virgin Megastore outlets across the UAE. The tickets start at an affordable 20 dirhams for all General spectator stands at the Zayed Stadium Abu Dhabi, Dubai International Stadium and Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The month-long tournament will be an incredible opportunity for cricket fans in the UAE and those from around the world to watch some of the biggest stars of the game represent the six DP World ILT20 franchises in the month-long cricketing extravaganza that begins at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium with a clash between defending champions Gulf Giants and Sharjah Warriors on Friday, 19 January.

Davis Cup: Novak Djokovic wants finals to move around the world

MADRID (BBC): Novak Djokovic says the Davis Cup knockout phase "has to travel" around the world as he prepares for Serbia's quarter-final against Britain in Spain.

Since a revamp of the men's team event in 2019, the final stages of the tournament have always been played in Spanish cities.

On Thursday Serbia play Britain in Malaga, where the semi-finals and final will be held at the weekend.

"This is a competition that is played globally," Djokovic said.

"It shouldn't stay in one place more than a year."

Eight nations have been competing in the week-long event, but Spain failed to qualify. The Davis Cup, which started in 1900, used to be played in a home-and-away format, often creating a partisan atmosphere but regularly missing top players. It led to a controversial revamp the tournament and the final stages were turned into a season-ending event, as part of a 25-year £2.15bn plan funded by the Kosmos investment group fronted by former Spain footballer Gerard Pique.

Billed as the World Cup of Tennis, the inaugural event featuring 18 teams was held in Madrid in 2019 and the final stages of the 2020-21 event were also

held in the Spanish capital.

The 'Final Eight' of the past two editions have been played at the Palacio de Deportes Martin Carpena in Malaga. In January this year the International Tennis Federation (ITF) ended the deal with Kosmos after less than five years. World number one Djokovic, who has won a record 24 Grand Slam men's singles titles, urged for more communication between the ITF and the

top players about the Davis Cup. "Everyone should have their say because so far no-one has been really communicating with us from the ITF," said Djokovic, whose nation have not played a Davis Cup tie on home soil since 2018.

"I don't think we all agree. We will have probably difference of opinions, but the home-and-away ties is something the Davis Cup historically has been very famous for.

Finland stun champions Canada to reach Davis Cup semis

MÁLAGA (AFP/APP): Finland eliminated reigning champions Canada with a 2-1 Davis Cup last eight triumph, buoyed by fervent support as the finals began in Malaga on Tuesday. Following their triumph in the Billie Jean King Cup earlier in November, Canada hoped to continue their success in the men's World Cup of tennis, but were ousted as Finland reached the semi-finals for the first time.

Canada's Milos Raonic eased to a 6-3, 7-5 win over Patrick Kaukovalta in the first singles rubber before Otto Virtanen kept Finland's hopes alive by beating Gabriel Diallo 6-4, 7-5. Virtanen returned alongside Harri Heliövaara to triumph 7-5, 6-3 in the decisive doubles against Alexis Galanteau and Vasek Pospisil to delight a few thousand Finnish supporters on the Costa del Sol. "We played really great doubles today ... we played really great together," said Virtanen. Heliövaara revealed he had never even played with his team-mate in training as a doubles pairing before defeating Canada. "We have never, ever practised even one point together before today... we went through the tactics 15 minutes before the match," he said. Neither country had their top-ranked player available, with Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime and Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori both hurt.

'It could have been a tragedy': Messi on police-fan clashes

BRASILIA (Agencies): Lionel Messi believes there "could have been a tragedy" during the crowd trouble that delayed Argentina's World Cup qualifier against Brazil.

Police charged at away fans following scuffles before kick-off in a section of the Maracana Stadium that Messi says contained players' friends and family.

Argentina captain Messi and his players went over to try and calm the situation before returning to the dressing room.

"It was bad because we saw how they were beating people," said Messi, 36.

"The police, as happened in the Libertadores final, were once again repressing the people with night sticks. "We went to the locker room because it was the best way to calm everything down, it could have ended in tragedy.

"You think about the families, the people who are there, who don't know what's going on and we were more concerned about that than playing a match

that, at that point, was of secondary importance."

The trouble began when rival fans clashed in a stand behind one of the goals at the stadium in Rio de Janeiro during the national anthems, prompting police to charge at Argentina's supporters, some using batons. Some supporters

ripped out seats and threw them at police in response, while others spilled out onto the pitch to escape the trouble. The Argentina players and some members of the Brazil team walked over to try to calm the situation, with Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez trying to grab a baton out of a police officer's hand. The players eventually left the field before returning after police had gathered the Argentina fans into a separate section of the stand and the game was able to begin after 30-minute delay.

The trouble unfolded a fortnight after scuffles between fans of Brazilian side Fluminense and Argentine club Boca Juniors before the Copa

Libertadores final - the South American equivalent of the Champions League final - which was also staged at the Maracana.

Brazil captain Marquinhos, who joined the Argentina players on the pitch calling for calm in the stands, added: "We were worried about the families, women and children that we were seeing in panic up there in the stands."

"Down on the pitch it was hard for us to understand what was going on, it was a very scary situation." World champions Argentina won 1-0 thanks to a goal from former Manchester City defender Nicolas Otamendi.

Newcastle United midfielder Joelinton was sent off for Brazil, who lost a home World Cup qualifier for the first time.

The five-time World Cup winners have now lost three successive qualifiers to sit sixth in the South American qualifying table, eight points behind leaders Argentina and in the last spot that guarantees a place at the 2026 finals.



PCB, Khelo Cricket to empower women cricketers

KARACHI (PPI): Cricket stands as one of the strongest binding forces in our nation's fabric. The increasing number of young women eager to showcase their cricketing talent has not gone unnoticed. Cadbury Dairy Milk Pakistan has embarked on a groundbreaking partnership with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Khelo Cricket to support female cricketers in the country.

Sami Wahid, Managing Director, Mondelez Pakistan, shared his sentiments, "For me, the most significant factor is the empowerment of genuinely talented young sports-women who have all the

potential to make a mark globally. I could not be happier to carry on the legacy of equitable opportunities that Mondelez identifies with. Cadbury Dairy Milk's 'Get in The Game' is a wave of change, a surge of inspiration, and a bright new future for our young girls."

The scholarship program, introduced by Cadbury Dairy Milk Pakistan, will be executed by Khelo Cricket. It will be rolled out in Karachi, Lahore, and the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, with the primary goal of providing a level playing field for aspiring women cricketers in

Pakistan. The response has been overwhelming; the brand has received over 1700 entries from girls interested in applying for the scholarship program, providing insights into its mechanics and benefits.

This pioneering partnership between Cadbury Dairy Milk, PCB, and Khelo Cricket is a significant step towards fostering gender equality and nurturing talent in women's cricket. It is poised to make a lasting impact by empowering women cricketers to contribute to the growth of cricket in Pakistan and highlighting the country's potential for equitable opportunities in sports.



HYDERABAD: A view of netball match played between Pigged Memorial Girls Higher Secondary School and Government Girls High School Latifabad teams during PNF Netball Cup 2023 at Shah Latif Girls College.

Ferrari chairman says team '100%' moving in right direction

ROME (BBC):Ferrari chairman John Elkann says he "couldn't be happier" about the prospect of the team returning to the top in Formula 1 under Frederic Vasseur.

Elkann, who picked Vasseur to replace Mattia Binotto as team principal last year, says Ferrari are "100%" moving in the right direction, and he has "definitely" seen the positive change he was hoping for.

The team are "much tighter, much closer" under Vasseur, Elkann says, and "so many incredibly talented people want to come to Ferrari, and that's a very strong sign".

Appointed chairman of Ferrari in July 2018, Elkann rarely gives interviews of any kind, and when he does they tend to be about the corporate side of the Ferrari business. BBC Sport has been chosen exclusively for his first for more than a year about Ferrari in F1.

The interview - conducted at the Las Vegas Grand Prix last weekend - comes at the end of a difficult season for F1's most celebrated team. Ferrari finished second in 2022, after a strong start was punctured by a series of operational errors and reliability failures, before the car fell from competitiveness.

Those failings were the final straw for Elkann when it came to Binotto, who had presided over a controversy about the legality of Ferrari's engine in 2019, and a 2020 which was the team's worst season in 40 years. The trauma of 2020 clearly still haunts Elkann as he brings it up numerous times during the interview.

There was progress through 2021 and 2022, but Elkann still did not like what he was seeing.

"What's really important, and this is the thinking we had, is that accountability is really one of the biggest determinants in what our competitors have achieved well," he says. "And also nimbleness, despite their larger organisations. "They tend to be nimble, faster. And Fred had those attributes, having been working in motorsport all his professional life and having been very successful in different categories, but also in F1 having managed a smaller team [both Renault and Sauber/Alfa Romeo].

Disciplinary action against the five players - world champion Luca Brecel, four-time world champion John Higgins and Mark Selby, Thepchaiya Un-Nooh and Ali Carter - was averted when the event in Macau, a special administrative

Pakistan's tour of Netherlands in 2024 postponed indefinitely at PCB's request

LAHORE (Cricinfo): Pakistan's tour of the Netherlands in 2024 has been postponed indefinitely at the PCB's request.

Pakistan were scheduled to play three T20Is against Netherlands in early May 2024 as part of a tour of Europe that also included three T20Is against Ireland, and four against England. All those games were scheduled in the build-up to the T20 World Cup which starts in June 2024, to be held in the West Indies and USA. Koninklijke Nederlandse Cricket Board (KNCB)'s high-performance manager Roland Lefebvre confirmed to ESPNcricinfo that the tour had been put off, with the PCB citing scheduling clashes, and concerns about player workload.

"The KNCB understands

the predicament the PCB are in, given the busy playing schedules and at the same time keeping the well-being of players in mind," Lefebvre said. "We value the good relationship we have with the PCB, and look forward to rescheduling this series to a later date." The postponement will come as a blow for Netherlands, who were scheduled to get three T20Is against a Full-Member side in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup, for which they have already qualified. That also means Netherlands and Pakistan are yet to face each other in a bilateral T20I fixture, with their only two meetings in the format having come at the T20 World Cup.

In fact, there was significant on-field bonhomie between the Pakistan and Netherlands players after

their fates were tied together at last year's T20 World Cup, with each side doing the other a favour. Netherlands beat South Africa to keep Pakistan alive in a tournament that saw them go on to reach the final, while Pakistan defeated Bangladesh in the following game to ensure direct qualification to the 2024 T20 World Cup for Netherlands.

Last year, Netherlands had hosted Pakistan for three ODIs as part of the Super League. Pakistan went on to win the series 3-0, but two of those matches were decided by margins of only 16 runs and nine runs. The PCB acknowledged to ESPNcricinfo that the series had been postponed at their request, and said they were actively working on finding an alternate window.

Ronnie says he could quit over row with governing body

LONDON (BBC): Ronnie O'Sullivan says he is at a "crossroads" with snooker's governing body and could quit the sport if he has to reduce the time he spends in China.

The seven-time world champion, 47, is facing disciplinary action for publicly criticising the World Snooker Tour.

His comments related to five players being threatened with punishment for playing in an exhibition event in Macau instead of the Northern Ireland Open.

"I know that they're going to throw the book at me," O'Sullivan told the BBC. "I can't speak out. I've accepted that. So that's the situation that I'm in. I'm under disciplinary," he said in an extensive interview for BBC Two.

Disciplinary action against the five players - world champion Luca Brecel, four-time world champion John Higgins and Mark Selby, Thepchaiya Un-Nooh and Ali Carter - was averted when the event in Macau, a special administrative

region of China, was moved to December, with World Snooker Tour (WST) permission.

O'Sullivan backed the players in their dispute with WST in October.

Specially organised events in East Asia are a lucrative proposition for stars like O'Sullivan, who can attract large crowds whenever they play.

"I have no option now," O'Sullivan added. "If I can't go out and do what I need to do - which is play a lot in China - then I won't ever play again."

"We are at a sort of crossroads now.

"There's not enough here for me in the UK to justify the effort that I put in. When I go to China I play in great venues, great crowds, great prize money. And I love it.

"If that gets to the point where I'm not able to do that or I'm not allowed to do that, then I probably won't play. I'll probably go and play Chinese 8 ball (pool) because I still want to play snooker. I still want a cue in my hand."

In response, WST said: "While we are delighted for Ronnie to build his profile in China, and to play in his private exhibition events, our priority is to protect the interests of all players."

The main snooker circuit also confirmed that prize money in the sport was now at pre-Covid levels - worth around £14m over this season - having dropped post-pandemic to around £10-11m with the loss of several, now reinstated, events in China. In September, O'Sullivan collected a winner's cheque of £210,000 for triumphing in the Shanghai Masters.

However, the three largest prizes for winners remain the Triple Crown events hosted in the UK - the World Championship (£500,000), UK Championship (£250,000) and the Masters (£250,000). The largest winner's cheque for an overseas ranking event is £175,000 at the International Championship, which was held in northern China in November.

History for LeBron as Lakers advance in NBA in-season tournament

LOS ANGELES (AFP/APP): LeBron James claimed another piece of NBA history on Tuesday, becoming the first player to break the 39,000-point barrier as the Los Angeles Lakers routed the Utah Jazz to reach the knockout stage of the league's new in-season tournament.

The 38-year-old, needing just five points to reach the milestone heading into the game, etched his name into the record books with a three-pointer in the first quarter of a 131-99 Lakers win. James, who passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar last season to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer, saluted the crowd as his achievement was announced. "I haven't had an opportunity to wrap my head around what it means," James said of his latest scoring milestone.

"There's been so many great players in this league since the beginning of time, and so many great scorers."

"To be able to be the first of anything is always pretty cool. A wild

moment, for sure." James' landmark set the mood for a celebratory occasion at the Crypto.com Arena as the Lakers went on to score a wire-to-wire win and reach the in-season tournament's quarter-finals.

James finished with 17 points from 6-of-10 shooting, while Anthony Davis led the Lakers scorers with 26 points, 16 rebounds and four assists.

Elsewhere, Kevin Durant also passed a scoring milestone, moving up to 11th place on the NBA's career scoring list in Phoenix's 120-107 drubbing of the Portland Trail Blazers. Durant needed 14 points to overtake Elvin Hayes on the scoring charts and duly knocked them down in a free-scoring first quarter. Durant finished with 31 points to lead the Phoenix scoring, taking his career tally to 27,331 points.

The Indiana Pacers beat the Atlanta Hawks 157-152 in a rollicking shootout to also reach the knockout stages. Indiana's Tyrese

Haliburton, who said this week the new tournament gave "more juice" to early season games, scored 22 of his 37 points in the third quarter as the Pacers erased a 20-point first-half deficit. In the fourth quarter, it was Buddy Hield who stepped up, scoring 13 of his 24 points as the Pacers came out on top of a furious back-and-forth finish. "It's good to clinch," Haliburton -- who also handed out 16 assists -- said after the Pacers improved to 3-0 in tournament play and locked up first place in East's Group A.

"Buddy won us the game down the stretch, a lot of big buckets."

Hield's three-pointer put Indiana up 152-150 with 1:20 remaining. After Saddiq Bey pulled Atlanta level with a layup, Hield drained another three-pointer for a 155-152 Pacers lead with less than a minute to go.

Hield capped the outrageous scoring with an alley-oop dunk with five-tenths of a second remaining.



In brief

IRSA releases 89,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 89,800 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 45,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1505.37 feet and was 105.37 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 23,100 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1183.40 feet, which was 133.40 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 53,700, 44,800, 43,800 and 12,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,300 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 2,500 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest two bike lifters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession, said a police spokesman on Wednesday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Taxila Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Tariq and Ijaz and recovered five stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operation against the bike and car lifters have been accelerated.

AIOU holds seminar

ISLAMABAD (APP): A one-day seminar titled "Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on World Cities Day 2023. Executive Director of United Nations Habitat, Memona Sharif, was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the crucial role of urban areas in accomplishing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. She further explained that ensuring safe and stable cities is an integral part of achieving sustainable development goals. Javed Ali Khan, Country Program Manager of UN-Habitat Pakistan, congratulated Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Vice Chancellor of AIOU on the university's 50th anniversary. He praised the university's educational services, stating that they are truly commendable. Javed Ali Khan and a consultant from the World Bank, Gul Najam Jami, delivered presentations that highlighted the facilities, opportunities, and problems faced in the urban areas. They also shared valuable information about the services and financial assistance provided by the United Nations and the World Bank about urbanization. The seminar was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad. He explained that this seminar is a part of the series of events organized in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of AIOU, and it aims to provide intellectual training and mental upbringing to the new generation.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid Imam e Khatib at Masjid al Haram met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi.

Shah reiterates to launch Virsa Channel to air dramas in local languages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah Wednesday reiterated the launch of a new heritage channel, Virsa, dedicated to showcasing dramas in Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, Pushto, and other languages. The minister expressed these views in a meeting with Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Muhammad Asim Khichi, during his visit to the offices of premier news agency where he was briefed about the organization's efforts to promote local languages and the

country's rich cultural heritage. He emphasized the importance of culture and heritage in fostering unity in diversity.

The APP MD assured the minister his organization's full support for the launching of Virsa Channel. He highlighted the pivotal role of films and dramas in educating the younger generation and shaping societal values.

The minister expressed concern over the decline of drama production at Pakistan Television (PTV), stressing the need to revive the local drama industry instead of airing foreign content. He said that no

country could move forward unless its people had a strong cultural identity connecting them to their motherland. Shah also discussed his ministry's plans to revive cultural sites in Islamabad, which could be used as platforms by artists to showcase their talent.

He said the caretaker government's tenure was short, but he wanted to take some good initiatives that the elected government could continue. Shah said after the 18th Amendment, heritage sites were given under the control of provinces. "Our ministry wants to work with the provinces to preserve these sites," he added.

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

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

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Orchard Scheme, Sitara Market, Iqbal Town, Park Enclosure, UC Road, Charah, F-9 Park, G-10/1, High Court, I-8/4, F.H.S., Old Exchange, G-13/2-1, Peer Mehr Ali Shah, Isolation Hospital, T&T, Sunny Bank, Cecil, Kohala, Pearl Cantinal, Patriata, Upper Topa, Peer Suhawah, I-10 /1, I-11/1, I-10/2, Upper Topa, Patriata, TDCP Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Ghosia Colony, New Milpur, Shkrial, Khanna, II, Tariq Shaheed, Gangal, Tamasmabad, Iqbal Road, II, Major Masood, Sarafa Bazar, Bani, Mingtal, Khayaban Sir Syed, Jinnah Road, People's Colony, Miltabad, New Race Course, Dhok Chowdhury, Radio Pak-I, Zircon Heights, MFM, KTM, Chakra, Saham, Range Road, Mohanpura Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Kashmir Road, Tipu Road, PAF, Car Chowk, Model Town, National Park, Park View, Lala Zar, Gulshanabad, Hayal, UC Lakhana, RA Bazar, Priyal, Dhok Awan, Zaraj, IST, Sagri, Lahtar, II, Khawaja, Panjar, Mandra, Industrial, Bengali, Syed Kasran, Gagan Feeders, Attock Circle, Ghazi Kohli, Taxila, Pathargarh, Hameed, Mansar, Kamra Rural, Maskinabad, Bagh Nilab, Sarka, Shadi Khan, PM Housing Colony, City, Batiot, Jhang, Nara, Kohar, Fateh Jang Rural, Laniwala, Amanpur Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Ajmal Shaheed, F-7 Kachhari, Abbaspora, Sanaullah Shaheed, CMH Jhelum, Bolani, Fatehpur, Kohar, F-6 Mashin Mohalla, Jakar, M Riaz Shaheed, Gadari, Bhagwal, Chakkiam, New Sanghui, Dinah, 4, Mumtaz Shaheed, Gujjar Khan, Ghoori Dhamek, Baba Shaheed, Galiana, Islampur Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Kariala, Line Park, Jamalwal, Kallarkahar, Sarkap, Daulatala, Dhadyal Rural, Khanpur, Sarkal, Basharat, Jalib River.

Ministry allocates Rs 5.80m for electricity bill of Qasr-e-Naz lodge

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Housing and Works has allocated an amount of Rs 5.80 million in the current financial year 2023-2024 for electricity bills of Qasr-e-Naz Lodge, South Zone Karachi due to financial constraints.

"Out of the total Rs 5.80 million, only an amount of Rs 0.87 million have been released at the rate of 15 percent in this regard so far," an official source told APP here on Wednesday.

He said that the Karachi Electric Supply Company bill was Rs 7.26 million for the month of September,

2023 along with arrears and the electricity connection had been disconnected in June, 2023. As per the statement of K-Electric, the official said that the electricity connection would be restored after payment of complete amount along with arrears.

To a question, the official source said that the Federal Government Housing Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) had opened registration to allot plots to general public in sectors G-12 and F-12, Islamabad in August 2023.

He said the award of land of Sectors F-12 and G-

12 was announced by the Deputy Commissioner Capital Development Authority (CDA) in April and June 1985 under section 25 of CDA Ordinance 1960. The official said the said sectors were allocated by the Federal Cabinet to the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) in July 2020. Since, he said there is no provision for de-notification the award once announced. Neither is there any provision in the Land Acquisition Act 1894, which allows for setting aside of an award.

Police launch program to uncover wanted criminals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police have initiated a program aimed at unveiling information about wanted criminals and their involvement in various crimes.

The program, which is being broadcast on social media platforms, sheds light on Register No. 10 (Monitoring of Criminals), a comprehensive record maintained by the Islamabad Police documenting proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in crimes of various nature.

The Police Register Number 10 holds crucial information about individuals wanted by the police for their alleged involvement in criminal activities.

The program seeks to inform the public about these wanted individuals, urging citizens to be vigilant and collaborate with law enforcement to ensure the apprehension of these offenders.

The Islamabad Police emphasized the importance of bringing such criminals under the full force of the law, stating that their program serves as a tool to create awareness and garner public support in the fight against crime.

The police have urged the public to

watch the program in its entirety to stay informed about the criminals listed in Police Register Number 10 (Monitoring of Criminals). Islamabad Police have called on citizens to actively participate in the collective effort to bring these offenders to justice. If anyone possesses information about the whereabouts or activities of these wanted individuals, they are encouraged to promptly report it to the police. This collaborative approach is seen as crucial in ensuring the safety and security of the community.

The program marks a proactive step by the Islamabad Police to engage with the public and harness community support in the ongoing battle against crime. By leveraging social media platforms, the police aim to reach a wider audience and encourage citizens to play an active role in maintaining law and order.

It is anticipated that this program will lead to valuable tips and information that will aid law enforcement agencies in their mission to apprehend and bring these criminals to justice.

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 Wednesday.

He said that distributors, pharmacies and medical stores are 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. He said that the 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, Tramel Injection and Augmentin DS Suspension Hydriylne Syrup were 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. He said that the Minister for Health started the process of legal action against the pharmacy owners under the DRAP Act.

Meanwhile, the minister said that strict action will be taken against the elements who are looting the people. He said that no person is above the law.

Imam-e-Kaabah meets Madad Ali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid Imam e Khatib at Masjid al Haram met with Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi the other day.

The minister welcomed the Imam e Kaabah with the highest of honors and said that the love and respect of people of Pakistan for Saudi Arabia has no limits, said a press release issued here Wednesday. He said the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is the strongest relationship that Pakistan has, adding, both countries share cultural, religious and historic ties.

He said that Saudi Arabia is like a second home for the people of Pakistan. He said that due to Makkah and Madina, the love and respect for Saudi Arabia cannot be measured.

Madad said that we appreciated deeply the role played by Saudi Arabia in addressing the global issues of the Muslim Umma.

Madad said that he had put special focus on the teachings of Islam especially Seerat-e-Nabi (PBUH).

He said that only through true teachings of Seerat-e-Nabi, we can educate our nation and ensure that they follow the right track. He said that due to his instructions, a special research centre would be formed through collaboration of Saudi and Pakistani Universities which would focus on the Seerat of Nabi (PBUH) especially on the issues of politics, social reform and law. The minister said that he had prioritized the quality of education, reduction of out of school children and research on Seerat Nabi (PBUH) since taking over as the education minister. He said that the political aspect of Seerat-e-Nabi (PBUH) has not been given due importance.

Madad Ali Sindhi warmly welcomed

the delegation. He said that the work and efforts of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi has been exemplary. He appreciated the upgradation of the systems in the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The federal minister said that the standard of education at the IIUI has been consistently on the rise under the leadership of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi.

The education minister said that 30 thousand Madrassas have been registered in Pakistan and now they are also providing religious, scientific and conventional education. He also highlighted the need to train religious leaders of Madrassas.

He said we need to enlighten our religious leaders and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can help by giving trainings to clerics of Madrassas in Pakistan.

Madad Ali Sindhi also highlighted the plea of the Muslims of Gaza and said that in such times of hardships, it was imperative that the Muslim Ummah should stand fast and present a unified front to protect our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Dr. Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid said that there should be collaboration on topics of mutual interest such as medicine, cyber security, climate change, engineering, artificial intelligence, distance learning, and renewable energy.

He appreciated the role of education minister in bringing the two countries together. He further praised the devotion of Madad Ali Sindhi in reforming the public education sector of Pakistan.

His Excellency Dr. Salih said that he has been coming to Pakistan for more than 20 years and now it always feels like home. He said that his teacher who taught him Quran was also a Pakistani.

The two countries are like brother and this relationship will always remain like this, he expressed.

Chairman HEC conferred World Excellence Award

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has been conferred "World Excellence Award in Higher Education" by World Business Angels Forum (WBAF - an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion) on the sidelines of World Congress of Angel Investors being held at Durban International Convention Centre, South Africa.

Ambassador of Pakistan to South Africa, Aftab Hasan Khan received the award on behalf of the

chairman HEC, said a press release issued her on Wednesday.

The World Excellence Award in Higher Education is conferred upon world leaders for their outstanding achievements in higher education globally.

This award underscores the indispensable work of leadership and innovative policy development in shaping the future of higher education and ensuring the transfer of impact on society and students globally.

The World Excellence Awards are also given to startup founders, angel

investors, crowd-funders, early-stage venture capital investors, NGO leaders and, policy makers across the globe, in recognition of their services in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of entrepreneurial world. It is pertinent to mention that the Congress of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is an event held annually for early and post early-stage equity and capital markets to exchange ideas on best practices and collaborations to forge new connections and pursue business opportunities.

Railways spend over Rs 18m for rehabilitation of track between Kotri-Khanpur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is spending Rs 1862.84 million for the rehabilitation of 518 kilometers of track between Kotri-Khanpur under the project of Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-I).

Despite financial constraints, the management of Pakistan Railways was putting maximum effort into improving infrastructure including tracks, bridges, and stations, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Under the project of rehabilitation of Karachi

Port tracks, 24-kilometre tracks, 17 level crossings and seven bridges had been rehabilitated, along with the replacement of turnouts, he added.

The official said that Railway Dry Ports at Lahore (Mughalpur), Badami Bagh, and Azakhel had been upgraded.

He said under the Immediate Track Safety

Works (ITS W-II & IMTS W-III), the railway track between Tando Adam-Khanpur covering 456 kilometers would be rehabilitated at a cost of Rs 4830.437 million and Rs 4875.461 million, respectively, by replacing the US components of the track and ensuring the safety of train operation.

A PC-I amounting to Rs 4930.22 million for the rehabilitation of track machinery has been approved, which would ensure the quality of track maintenance work.

Meanwhile, as many as 11 stations have been upgraded, including Peshawar, Hassan Abdal, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Raiwind, Okara, Sahiwal, and Bahawalpur, under PSDP projects.

The assets of Pakistan Railways are mainly related to the track (11881 kilometers), and rolling stock

(15699), and most of these assets have lived their useful life. Therefore, he said the department took several measures for efficient maintenance of these assets, which included an increase in fiscal space for maintenance through the transfer of pensions, reduced utility bills through solarization, improved procurement management through prioritized procurement, and an efficient fuel management system.

Regional Connectivity is an important aspect of the Pakistan Railway development framework. Presently, Pakistan Railway had planned to improve its functional links with regional countries, including India and Iran, he added. Furthermore, the official said the following new rail links would be established, including the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway Connectivity Project through Kohat-Kharlachi.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for extension work of Islamabad Expressway during development work in Federal Capital.

Shipment of EU aid arrived

KABUL (BNA): Another shipment of humanitarian aid from the European Union (EU) has reached Kabul, according to the EU Charge de'Affairs in Afghanistan, Raffaella Iodice. She posted on her X page that the aid arrived last night and was jointly provided by Italy, Ireland, and relief partners. The aid is intended to support the people affected by the earthquake in Herat province, as well as those who are suffering from the crisis in Afghanistan.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 07, 1445 — Thursday, November 23, 2023

Collaboration to be enhanced

KABUL (BNA) Mawlawi Mati-ul-Haq, the Acting president of ARCS, had a meeting with the President of the Swedish Red Cross during his visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, for an international conference. President of the Swedish Red Cross pledged to expand their collaboration with the ARCS. This collaboration will focus on providing assistance to migrants and earthquake victims in Afghanistan, thereby extending the Swedish Red Cross's activities within the country.

Over 1,000 deaths due to diabetes complications

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan has revealed alarming statistics concerning diabetes, stating that 1,000 individuals succumb to the disease annually, highlighting the severity of this health crisis.

On World Diabetes Day in Kabul, acting Deputy Minister of Public Health Habibullah Akhundzadah expressed deep concern over the escalating diabetes rates, citing that in 2022 alone, a staggering 17,499 people were diagnosed with the condition.

Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, Akhundzadah emphasized the nationwide capacity of health centres to diagnose and treat diabetes, assuring that concerted efforts are underway to enhance public awareness about the dis-

ease.

The Deputy Minister's disclosure underscores the pressing need for proactive measures to curb the rising prevalence of diabetes, urging a comprehensive approach that involves both diagnosis and treatment.

It is worth mentioning that most Afghan patients choose neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Iran as treatment destinations due to lack of facilities and medical equipment in Afghanistan.

Naeemullah Safi, a representative of the World Health Organization, echoed the concern during the meeting, stating that the WHO collaborates closely with the Ministry of Public Health in the battle against diabetes.

Safi highlighted the multifaceted collaboration

between WHO and the Ministry, emphasizing their joint efforts in controlling and providing essential services to counter the diabetes epidemic.

The revelation of over 17,000 new diabetes cases in a single year underscores the critical role of international partnerships, as organizations like WHO actively engage with local health authorities to address the growing health challenges.

The collective commitment of the Ministry of Public Health and international entities like the World Health Organization emphasizes the importance of collaborative strategies to raise awareness, enhance healthcare infrastructure, and effectively combat the escalating diabetes crisis in Afghanistan.

Supreme Leader leads Council of Ministers meeting for first time

KABUL (Ariana News): Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said Wednesday the IEA's supreme leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzadah led a Council of Ministers meeting for the first time this week.

"Your responsibilities are very heavy and in the case of good service, they are the source of success in this world and the hereafter," Mujahid quoted Akhundzadah as saying.

He added that the current Islamic system was created as a result of the unprecedented sacrifices of the Afghan mujahid people, "thus the implementation of Sharia law and service to the people is called the primary duty of the officials. The rights of about 40 million people of Afghanistan are related to each ministry. So, if any official is negligent, the rights of 40 million people will be lost."

Akhundzadah said the IEA must value and serve its people, because the people have been very loyal to the IEA.

"Be careful not to be disloyal, look at the whole nation, because you are not the officials of a district or a

province; rather, you are responsible for the whole of Afghanistan," said Akhundzadah.

He went on to say that the IEA should try to leave behind good principles, good laws and good morals for the next generation.

He added, officials must try to call people to religion and Islamic principles through encouragement, persuasion and good morals instead of force.

He advised them to learn from the actions of people in the past. "The habits of the scholarly and Jihadi period should not be forgotten or left behind. Don't be happy if the responsibility is given to you, and don't be sad if it is taken away from you," Akhundzadah added.

After Akhundzadah's speech, the deputy minister of economy Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, and the acting minister of commerce and industry Nooruddin Azizi gave reports on their recent trips to Iran and Pakistan respectively, and discussed the selection of different routes for the country's exports, imports, and transit.

Also, the necessary plans were made in connection with the preparation and timely delivery of food and fuel for the coming winter.



Later, the President of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), Hidayatullah Badri, presented information about the preservation of the value of the afghani (currency) and related topics, and on the strengthening of the monetary policy of the Islamic Emirate.

Necessary decisions were taken regarding better transparency. The commission headed by the deputy prime minister Abdul Salaam Hanafi, reported on the issue of migrants, and on returning refugees.

Hanafi detailed the measures, which were directed by the supreme leader, in place to assist these refugees.

Officials also discussed the current situation in the country, and political activities regarding the development of relations with neighboring and other countries. Solutions to existing problems were sought and the need for constructive policies came under the spotlight.

Necessary decisions were taken regarding the improvement of academic capacity in various (religious and modern) areas of education and that of problems faced by teachers and students.

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Necessary decisions were taken regarding the improvement of academic capacity in various (religious and modern) areas of education and that of problems faced by teachers and students.

Women's tailoring banned in Herat — specialized women's market closed



BALKH (Khaama Press): Sources from Herat confirm that the Taliban administration has prohibited women's tailoring in the central region of this province. Simultaneously, some media outlets have reported establishing a specialized women's market in Balkh.

The source, who preferred not to be named in the report, informed Khama Press that Taliban forces entered the city Wednesday morning to inspect commercial markets. Several markets, including all women's clothing tailoring centres, have been closed as part of this inspection.

The source added that

over the past week, "whispers about the Taliban administration blocking women's tailoring were heard, but no one believed that these warnings could become a reality."

The exact number of tailoring shops that have been closed is not specified. It is worth noting that earlier this year, the Taliban had also banned women's tailoring in Balkh province.

The Taliban has not provided any statement regarding this action so far. This contrasts with reports from some media outlets that indicate establishing a specialized women's market in Balkh. It is noteworthy that at the beginning of

November, the Taliban had imposed a ban on women's tailoring in Balkh as well.

According to its sources in Mazar-e-Sharif, the daily newspaper "Ettelaat-e-Roz" reported that a women's commercial market called "Khadija Kubra" has been closed due to tax liabilities.

This commercial market consists of around 200 shops for women, all managed by women. One of the women shopkeepers stated,

"This market has been in debt for a long time; why should we suffer? The government should hold accountable those who have had outstanding debts."

Poor situation of children

KABUL (TOLONews): Coinciding with International Children's Day, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund has emphasized the observance of children's rights around the world.

UNICEF emphasized the rights of children while some children in Afghanistan are unaware of this day. They have told TOLONews that they do hazardous work to earn bread for their families.

"I earn 70-80 Afis every day. I take bread home and I walk all these places," said Asif, a child who does hazardous work.

"I come out here and work to find bread to take home," said Mustafa, a child laborer.

Sohrab, who is polishing boots on the side of one of the roads in the capital, told the TOLONews reporter that he has a family of seven and his parents are disabled. Besides working, he studies in the fourth grade of school.

"There are seven of us in the house. My parents are also disabled, so I don't have any workers at home, so I come to work here and to find something for my family," Sohrab said.

"We are poor, what should we do? we just find a piece of bread for our parents, for our brothers and sisters who are small," said Shirzad, a child laborer.

Samiullah Ebrahimi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said that efforts are being made to prevent children from hazardous work and support their families. Children engaged in hazardous work will be stopped and support will be given to their families when possible and in various ways they will be supported with technical training.

Afghan families struggle: women face work ban, social restrictions

KABUL (Khaama Press): The prohibition of women from work and numerous other restrictions that exclude them from the workforce and other social interactions have led to one of the most alarming crises.

However, no hopeful initiatives have been taken to support women's freedom and family economies. In this report, you will read the story of a family whose members have lost their jobs due to imposed restrictions, experiencing "the worst days of their lives." This narrative sheds light on the pressing need for actions that champion women's freedom and the economic well-being of families.

Medina, a young makeup artist living in the western part of Kabul, is the breadwinner for her six-member family. She told Khaama Press that she used to cover her family's expenses through her makeup artistry.

However, she is no longer able to support her family because, according to the ideology of the Taliban administration, women are not allowed to work or provide for their families. This highlights the stark challenges faced by women like Medina, who, despite having the skills and determination, are denied the opportunity to contribute to their families' well-being due to restrictive ideological beliefs.

Medina lost her father approximately 11 years ago, and her mother served in the ranks of the former government's police forces in Ghazni province. These two family breadwinners have once again become confined to their homes

with the return of the Taliban. The mother, afflicted with diabetes, requires medical attention, and Medina herself suffers from the anguish of unemployment and challenging economic conditions.

Since the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, Medina and her two sisters, Mursal and Farahnaz, have been deprived of education, and their motivation for learning has now dwindled.

Medina says, "I am responsible for providing for a six-member family. When my two beauty salon jobs were blocked, the distress of finding bread for my family tormented me. There are even nights when we go to bed hungry."

The leadership of the Taliban issued a decree in July of this year, immediately implementing a nationwide ban on beauty salons. According to

reports from United Nations agencies and statistics compiled by the Khaama Press, this decree has destroyed the livelihoods of 60,000 women in the beauty industry.

Mursal, Medina's younger sister, was in seventh grade when the school gates were closed to girls beyond the sixth grade. Mursal reveals that she clandestinely attended a "hidden school." Still, after a while, authorities of the Taliban administration became aware of this and shut down the secret school as well.

At that time, Medina's younger sister also played football. She shares, "I used to play football with a group of girls my age near our school, but the Taliban warned the sports club officials not to allow us anymore."

Before the arrival of the

Taliban, Medina spent her days at the beauty salon and shared her evenings at the "night school." Farahnaz, another sister of Medina, was in the tenth grade when, with the establishment of the Taliban regime, the three sisters were simultaneously deprived of education.

However, the weight of responsibilities still rests on Medina's shoulders, and she remains concerned about her and her sisters' futures.

She describes a night when she, along with her sisters and a younger brother, went to bed hungry: "One day, my mother had gone to Ghazni, and there was no money with me. My sisters, my little brother, and I slept hungry that night and spent the morning still hungry until I borrowed money for a bag of flour from a friend."

Afghanistan tops global list for highest landmine-affected areas



KABUL (Khaama Press): The Danish Refugee Council recently announced that Afghanistan is recognized as one of the countries in the world with the highest landmine-affected areas. The pervasive presence of landmines in Afghanistan poses a significant humanitarian challenge, affecting the safety and livelihoods of the population.

This issue not only contributes to the displacement of communities but also underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts to address the landmine threat and ensure the well-being of the Afghan people. International collaboration and support are crucial in mitigating the impact of landmines and fostering a safer environment for the residents of Afghanistan.

In its latest report, the Danish Refugee Council has highlighted that the lands in Afghanistan, where 70% of the population currently resides in rural areas, are heavily contaminated with landmines.

This is particularly concerning given that 80% of the Afghan population is

directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. The prevalence of landmines not only poses a direct threat to the safety of the people but also significantly hinders the agricultural activities that form the backbone of the country's economy.

Addressing this issue is imperative to ensure the well-being and sustainable livelihoods of the Afghan population, emphasizing the critical need for concerted efforts and international support to mitigate the impact of landmines in the region.

In the Danish Refugee Council's report, it is stated that access to areas that were previously inaccessible has increased since August 2021.

This comes in contrast to the recent statement by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which mentioned on the Ex network that since the commencement of demining operations in Afghanistan in 1988, mine action organizations have

cleared over 13 million explosive remnants of war, nearly 764,000 anti-personnel mines, and 33,460 anti-vehicle mines.

Despite these efforts, the report underscores that the remnants of war, including landmines, continue to threaten the population, particularly those engaged in agriculture-based livelihoods such as farmers, shepherds, and livestock keepers. It is noteworthy that OCHA had previously highlighted the vulnerability of livelihoods dependent on agriculture, stating that families, including farmers, shepherds, and livestock keepers, are particularly at risk of dangers resulting from explosions.

Recent incidents of mine explosions in various provinces of the country, mainly affecting children, further emphasize the ongoing risks. In a recent case a few days ago, an explosion in a residential home in Nangarhar province resulted in injuries to three members of a family, highlighting the persisting threat of unexploded mines from past conflicts.

Kandahar traders urge reopening of Chaman-Quetta Highway



KANDAHAR CITY (TOLONews): Following the closure of Chaman-

Quetta highway in Pakistan, traders in Kandahar province say that

trade issues should not be politicized and asked for the reopening of the route.

The highway was closed on Monday in reaction to Pakistan's decision to halt movement from Spin Boldak because drivers did not have visas.

"The closure of this way will affect people's lives. We ask the protestors to reopen the route," said Abdul Ahad Sediqi, head of Kandahar's dried fruit union.

"The apples of Wardak province and pomegranates of Kandahar and other fruits of Afghanistan are exported to Pakistan. Some dried fruits are also exported to India and other countries," said Masoud Ahmad Rahat, a trader in Kandahar.

In the meantime, officials at the chamber of commerce and investment of Kandahar said that the disturbance of trade will

affect people in both countries. The officials urged that traders not be used in political games.

"We hope both the Islamic Emirate and Pakistan's government negotiate the issue and a committee of trade be formed to talk to the protesters," said Abdul Baqi Pana, deputy head of chamber of commerce and investment of Kandahar.

Since the start of the closure of Chaman-Quetta highway, around 300 fruit-laden trucks have been stranded in Chaman of Pakistan while a large number of pomegranate-loaded trucks are waiting in Spin Boldak to cross into Pakistan. The fruits from both sides are at severe risk of spoiling if trucks are not allowed to cross.



GAZA: Relatives of Palestinians who lost their lives in Israeli attacks offering funeral prayers after the bodies were taken from the morgue of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah.

SC seeks responses from FIA, federation on Imran's bail plea

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices to the federation and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and sought responses from them on PTI Chairman Imran Khan's bail plea in the cipher case. A three-member SC bench, comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Yahya Afridi took up Imran's plea and declared it as admissible.

At the outset of the hearing, PTI counsel Salman Safdar read out loud the first information report registered against Qureshi and Imran in the case after which Justice Masood inquired how far the matter dated back to. It is from 2022, the lawyer replied. At that, the judge said the PTI had spent an entire year on the case. He also highlighted that some sections in the FIR mentioned two-year punishment while others entailed lifetime imprisonment and the death penalty. Justice Masood also chided the FIA investigating officer for appearing in court without notice.

Meanwhile, Justice Afridi noted that the cipher case inquiry had said the role of the co-accused would be determined during the investigation. "What did the investigator say about Azam Khan in the final investigation report?" he asked. In his response, Safdar said the probe did not convey a clear stance. "Azam Khan was abducted, his family had even registered a case ... afterwards, his statement came forward," the lawyer said.

This is how the truth comes forth, Justice Masood remarked here. It must be recalled that an alleged confession from Azam, Imran's principal secretary when he was prime minister, surfaced on social media earlier this year wherein he claimed that the narrative behind the cipher — which the PTI chief has for long presented as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" — was fabricated. During the SC hear-

ing, the PTI counsel also contended that his client was being made a victim of political revenge and recalled how he had presented arguments before the court for hours. However, Justice Masood remarked that this happened because the cases were being run in a political manner.

"The accused is not under 60 years and the case pertains to further inquiry, so let's come to that," the judge added. Here, Justice Ayesha asked about the basic grounds of the case, to which Safdar said the main argument was that the case should not have been registered in the first place. He added that the sections invoked apply to crimes such as espionage. "The investigation does not mention anywhere how an enemy state benefitted," he further argued.

The case, Justice Masood highlighted, says the code of the cipher was compromised. "Although the code keeps changing, it can change even after a week," he said. For his part, the PTI counsel contended that the sections invoked in the FIR were incorrect as compared to the complaint. "The cipher was declassified as per the law and then presented in the National Security Committee," he said, adding that the same was also mentioned in the SC verdict on the no-confidence motion against Imran.

However, Justice Masood directed Safdar to stick to arguments pertaining to the current case while Justice Afridi asked if the cipher was a secret document. It was not a secret document after declassification, the lawyer responded. "Did the accused show the cipher before it was declassified?" Justice Afridi asked, to which Safdar replied in the negative. The judge also clarified that the court was currently looking at the charges.

At one point during the hearing, Justice Masood asked: "If the cipher is waved in the air and its contents are revealed, then does it not fall under the category of communica-

tion?" Subsequently, the court issued notices to all the respondents in the case and adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period. Moved through Safdar on behalf of Imran, the petition pleaded that it was an unequivocal and well-established principle of the Supreme Court that bail should never be wielded as a form of punishment.

The grant of bail is a remedy primarily vested in the discretion of courts, a discretion that must be exercised with the utmost care and caution, as it constitutes a fundamental facet of the judicial power, the petition said. Each bail application must be meticulously considered in light of the relevant facts and circumstances as they pertain to liberties of citizens, he added. The liberty of a citizen has been elevated to a high pedestal by provisions of Articles 7 and 9 of the Constitution which ensure that no citizen should be deprived of his life or liberty, save in accordance with law, nor any accused person should be detained without lawful authority of the competent court.

Unfortunately, a disheartening trend has emerged where the state machinery, in a questionable display of power and authority, has made strenuous attempts to concoct and fabricate false cases, the petition alleged, adding that the registration of the cipher case was another facet of this malevolent campaign, with the sole objective of settling scores with the petitioner. The petition alleged that the initiation of the cipher case, orchestrated at the behest of the interior secretary and executed by the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA), represents yet another endeavour to subject the petitioner to political victimisation. This orchestrated effort to target the petitioner is part of an ongoing pattern of the abuse of the Criminal Justice System, all under the directive of political adversaries.

Ex-KP Minister approaches Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Former provincial minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shaukat Yousafzai challenged his offloading from airplane in Bacha Khan International Airport as well as stopping him from going aboard at Peshawar High Court (PHC).

The writ filed by Syed Sikandar Hayat Shah advocate pleaded the petitioner was elected as Member Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 2013-18 and served as Provincial Minister but he stopped from going for Ummrah to Saudi Arabia at 9.00 clock at Bacha Khan International Airport.

The petitioner is neither enlisted on Exit Control List nor Stop List but former provincial minister was uploaded illegally, the writ stated. Immigration and Passport department issued boarding pass to petitioner after clearance but still returned from plan unlawfully, the petition argued.

The local administration seized vehicle of former provincial minister despite his daughter is ill and added that the act had created hurdles for petitioner's child in going to school, the writ added. The petitioner is neither involved in anti-state activities nor any case is registered against him but he is didn't allowed for going aboard, the petition pleaded.

Federal's government, Directors Federal Investigation Agency Islamabad and Peshawar, both Directors Immigration and Passports Islamabad and Peshawar have been made respondents in the writ plea. The writ pleaded to declare the uploading from airplane is illegal and allow petitioner for performing Ummrah in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, PTI's former parliamentarian Mujahid Khan approached PHC seeking record of cases registered against him as a legal right. The petitioner had obtained interim bails in three inquiries but arrested another case after his appearance in Anti-Corruption Establishment, the writ argued. FIA, provincial's government, National Accountability Bureau and Anti-corruption Establishment were made respondents in the case.

Rupee continues upward flight

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani Rupee continued to strengthen against the mighty US Dollar, and started the currency trading session with an exchange rate of Rs285.36 in the interbank market after experiencing gains of 43 paises, appreciating by 0.15%.

On Tuesday, the Pakistani Rupee closed the day's session with a rate of Rs285.79 against the US Dollar in the interbank market after witnessing an increase of 18 paises. It had reached an exchange rate of Rs285.60 against the mighty US Dollar in the interbank market in the afternoon after experiencing gains of 37 paises, appreciating by 0.13%.

In the morning, the Pakistani Rupee witnessed another increase against the mighty US Dollar in the interbank market and started trading at Rs285.50. With this rate, the Rupee saw an upward trend of 0.18% in the interbank market, as it jumped by 47 paises against the Dollar.

On the first day of the new trading week on Monday, the Pakistani Rupee had witnessed further gains against the US Dollar in the interbank market and was traded at Rs285.90. Around Monday noon, the Dollar saw a drop of 60 paises in interbank trading against the Rupee, depreciating 0.21%.

The currency had closed Monday's session by trading at Rs285.97 against the Pakistani Rupee. In the open market also, the Pakistani Rupee saw a marginal gain and was available for Rs287.50 for selling and Rs284.50 for buying. In other news, Pakistan's current account deficit improved significantly to \$1.1 billion during the July-October period of the ongoing financial year, as compared to \$3.1 billion during the same period last year in fiscal year 2023.

Solangi, Kazakhstan envoy discuss ties in diverse sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that Pakistan valued its relations with Kazakhstan and was working on strengthening them in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin important issues including bilateral relations, strengthening cooperation in the media sector, promoting public relations and regional situation were discussed. Murtaza Solangi and the ambassador agreed to establish offices of state media organizations of both countries in Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

"There is a need to promote public relations and exchange of cultural delegations between the two countries," he said and stressed for further promoting the cooperation between state media institutions of two countries. He said that the PTV and Radio Pakistan were the main source of access to information on both sides. The issue of signing an memorandum of understanding between the

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan was also discussed in the meeting.

In this regard, it was also agreed to hold a Zoom meeting between the Information Ministers of Pakistan and Kazakhstan. A memorandum of understanding for media cooperation was signed between Associated Press of Pakistan and Kazakh Information Agency in 2018, Murtaza Solangi said. A team from Lahore was leaving for Kazakhstan for film shooting, which was an important step towards promoting cultural relations between the two countries, he said. Pakistan, he added, was a key member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization and next meeting of the SCO was being held in Kazakhstan.

Terming SCO a dynamic platform for building relations with regional countries, Murtaza Solangi said Pakistan maintained deep, historical and cultural ties with members of the SCO as "Our interests and objec-

tives are broadly intertwined". The Ambassador of Kazakhstan invited the minister to visit Kazakhstan to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan. He said that the President of Kazakhstan profoundly loved Pakistan and the people of Pakistan.

The Ambassador said the President of Kazakhstan will visit Pakistan next year. This visit of the President of Kazakhstan will be a milestone in terms of trade, which will further promote bilateral trade relations, the ambassador said. "We want to further strengthen the cooperation between the state media of the two countries", he added. He said Pakistan was an important country for access to warm waters in the Middle East.

He pointed out that Sialkot was a leading centre for manufacturing football and surgical instruments. Murtaza Solangi also highlighted the importance of promoting close economic ties, including increasing bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

US thwarts plot to kill Sikh man, issues warning to India

WASHINGTON (Reuters): US authorities thwarted a plot to kill a Sikh separatist in the United States and issued a warning to India over concerns the government in New Delhi was involved, the Financial Times (FT) reported on Wednesday, citing unnamed sources.

There was no immediate response from India's foreign ministry, or from the US embassy in New Delhi to requests for comment on the report. The Financial Times said that the sources did not say if the protest to India resulted in the plot being abandoned by the plotters, or if it was foiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The protest to New Delhi was registered after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was welcomed on a state visit by President Joe Biden in June, the report said.

The report comes two months after Canada said there were "credible" allegations linking Indian agents to the June murder

of a Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in a Vancouver suburb. India has rejected Canada's accusations. Apart from the diplomatic warning to India, US federal prosecutors have also filed a sealed indictment against at least one suspect in a New York district court, the FT report said. The paper identified Gurbatwant Singh Pannun as the target of the foiled plot.

The FT report said Pannun had declined to say whether US authorities had warned him about the plot, but quoted him as saying he would "let the US government respond to the issue of threats to my life on American soil from the Indian operatives". Pannun, like Nijjar, is a proponent of a decades-long, but now fringe demand to carve out an independent Sikh homeland from India named Khalistan.

India's anti-terror agency recently filed a case against him for threatening not to let flag carrier Air India operate anywhere in

the world while warning its passengers of danger to their lives. The case against Pannun was registered under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the National Investigation Agency had said in a statement on Monday.

"Pannun threatened that Air India would not be allowed to operate in the world ... in his video messages, released on Nov 4," it had said, adding that he had urged Sikhs not to travel on Air India flights from Sunday, "claiming a threat to their lives". Canada worked very closely with the United States on intelligence that Indian agents were potentially involved in Nijjar's murder, a senior Canadian government source told Reuters in September. The FT report mentioned that the US shared details of the thwarted plot with a wider group of allies after Canada's public accusation.

Court extends interim bail of Imran's sisters

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court of Lahore on Wednesday extended until December 9 the interim bail of PTI chairman's sisters Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan in May 9 violence and arson case.

Anti-terrorism court judge Arshad Javed conducted hearing of the pleas filed by PTI chief's sisters, Asad Umar and others seeking extension in their interim bails. Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan appeared before judge after expiry of their interim bails. However, Asad Umar and Zain Qureshi did not attend the court. The court accepted applications of both accused for exemption from attending court.

The investigation officer said the accused were not joining the probe so the investigation was still incomplete. He prayed to the court to give him time for completing the investigation. It may be recalled that court had granted Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan interim bail till today (Wednesday). The court had also sought investigation report of the case.

Hanif Abbasi acquittal challenged

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has challenged acquittal of PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in the ephedrine quota case in the Supreme Court, it emerged on Wednesday.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench had acquitted Hanif Abbasi in the case on October 18. The ANF had sought time from the apex court for preparation and getting concerned documents of the case. The Supreme Court Registrar office granted 14 days' time to the ANF.

Indian rescuers drill two-thirds of way to 41 trapped workers

NEW DELHI (AFP): Indian rescuers have drilled two-thirds of the way through debris towards 41 workers trapped in a collapsed road tunnel, officials said on Wednesday, warning that the next 24 hours could be critical. Engineers are working to drive a steel pipe through at least 57 metres of the tonnes of earth, concrete and rubble that have divided the trapped men from freedom since a portion of the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand collapsed 11 days ago.

Looking into the Silkyara tunnel entrance on Wednesday, an AFP journalist could see sparks flying as workers welded metal tube sections together, with the site busy as excavators and heavy trucks brought in equipment. "I am very happy to share ... that 39m of drilling has been completed," said Mahmood Ahmad, a road and highways ministry official involved in the operations.

"If there is no blockage, we hope there could be happy news late tonight or tomorrow," Ahmad told reporters at the site. "We are moving forward at a fast pace," he added. "Stay hopeful, pray that the pace continues." However, he warned that the remaining section yet to be drilled was critical.

Rescue efforts have been slow, complicated by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of crucial heavy-drilling machines. The giant earth-boring machine last week ran into boulders, and drilling was put on hold for more than three days after a cracking sound in the roof.

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhumi on Wednesday spoke of the "positive progress made in

the last 24 hours", without further details. But a government statement also noted that "timelines provided are subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain and unforeseen emergencies." In case the route through the main tunnel entrance does not work, blasting and drilling have also begun from the far end of the unfinished tunnel, nearly half a kilometre long. Preparations have also been made for a risky vertical shaft directly above.

On the forested hill above, rescuers have cut an entirely new track to bring heavy equipment above the men, where a machine to dig an 89m vertical shaft is being installed — a complex dig above the men in an area that has already suffered a collapse. The workers were seen alive for the first time on Tuesday, peering into the lens of an endoscopic camera sent by rescuers down a thin pipe through which air, food, water and electricity are being delivered.

Though trapped, they have plenty of space, with the area inside 8.5m high and stretching about 2km in length. Bhaskar Khulbe, a senior government official overseeing rescue efforts, said he had spoken to the trapped men on Wednesday morning. "All of them are in high spirits," he said.

On Wednesday, a Hindu priest sat close to the site holding prayers for the trapped men, with rescue workers pausing briefly at a shrine erected at its entrance. The tunnel is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's infrastructure project aimed at cutting travel times between some of the most popular Hindu sites in the country, as well as improving access to strategic areas bordering rival

China. However, experts have warned about the impact of extensive construction in Uttarakhand, large parts of which are prone to landslides.

"The development model in this young, fragile mountain range has been disastrous and needs course correction," environmental campaigner Priyadarshini Patel wrote in the Times of India on Wednesday. "Mega-projects are not what the Himalayas are about, culturally or geologically."

Chairperson BISP visits Abbottabad

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib visited BISP office Abbottabad and directed officials to facilitate people without hurting their respect and self-esteem.

Addressing employees of BISP in Taqwa Masjid Abbottabad, he said that it is our collective responsibility to further improve efficiency and make it best program of the country. He said that financial assistance should not be deemed as charity but it is the right of poor and needy. Dr. Amjad Saqib directed provision of facilities to senior citizens and said that disbursement must be ensured without any deduction. He also directed to improve cleanliness at office premises. He directed staff to work with dedication and come to the expectation of people who need support and assistance of society adding that we should perform duties as a religious obligation for maximum facilitation of people especially women.