

**PPP forms committee**  
**E.P. Report**  
 KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Chairman Asif Ali Zardari formed two different committees to hold dialogues with political leaders ahead of general elections. The PPP co-chairman has formed Sindh and Balochistan committees to hold contacts with politicians belonging to these respective provinces.


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# Projects under SIFC to be signed before polls: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that projects with 'sizable figure' of investment under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would be signed before end of the current caretaker setup.

"In the coming weeks, the nation will hear good news as we are soon going to Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia and to other countries to sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) of the projects worth billions of dollars," the prime minister said in an interview with a private news channel. Pakistan and Kuwait will sign seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for investment worth \$10 billion in Pakistan through seven projects in multiple fields including environment, mining and food security during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to Kuwait.

PM Kakar said SIFC was a fully professional initiative that was being run under best international practices. "I see a natural and organic growth in it." To a question, the prime minister explained that the investment never came so early. He said first the government had to pass through a negotiation process on bankable projects, then there came the feasibility stage, then MoUs are signed and then it transformed into tangible projects.

He said the SIFC had the

institutional support, and changes of governments would not affect the progress of the projects under the Council. PM Kakar said some segments were misleading the people that all the estimated investment amount worth \$70 billion would at once be deposited in the Pakistani banks by the friendly countries.

To a query, the prime minister pointed out that the caretaker setup with the support of the state, had successfully halted the cross-border smuggling of dollars and other goods that would continue in future as well. As regards upcoming general elections in the country, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was fully prepared to hold general elections on the given date. He said the caretaker government was also well aware of its role to assist the ECP in ensuring transparent and secure election process.

To a question about the security situation in the country, the prime minister maintained that there were serious security threats, especially in Balochistan which were expected to increase in the days to come. However, he said he did not want to relate these security concerns with elections. To another question about complaints by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for not being given level playing fields for the election campaign, PM Kakar clari-

fied that the government was not denying the field to any political party. "Normally, the political parties use multiple tactics to attract the sympathies of their voters, and the victim card is quite common among those tactics," he said.

The prime minister said the government was neither discriminating any party nor giving undue favour to any other. He said the caretaker government was not imposing restrictions to hold political rallies or gatherings in Islamabad or any other part of the country. However, he said the caretakers were bound to restrict those involved in the 9th May incidents as per the law as their matter was under trial in the counts.

He said the basic role of the ECP is to give equal opportunities to all the political parties in general election. As regards, the missing persons in Balochistan, the prime minister made it clear that no institution was involved in enforced disappearance in the country. He said the people involved in terrorism should be presented in the courts. "Our view is that this is a campaign by some activists to malign the state institutions," he added. As regards trial of PTI Chairman Imran Khan and PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the Judicial Complex, the prime minister said the government would follow the court order in this regard.

## Petition filed against President in Apex court

**E.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: An application was filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against President Dr Arif Alvi to stop him from working and remove him from office on Saturday. The petition against the President was filed by a citizen, Ghulam Murtaza Khan, under Clause 3 of Article 184 of the Constitution.

The President and the Ministry of Law have been made parties to the petition. In the petition, it has been stated that President Alvi misused his powers, which made a mockery of the position of the President of the country. The President belongs to the entire nation and not just a political party. Arif Alvi is not acting as a President of Pakistan, rather he is working as a leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

The petition says that the President has failed to perform his constitutional responsibilities. In April 2022, he unconstitutionally dissolved the National Assembly. He did not ensure compliance with the Constitution under Article 5 of the Constitution. The President has committed so many illegal things including one by not giving election date. He is not fit to hold the office of the President. In the petition, it has been requested that Arif Alvi should be stopped from working as President and action should be taken against him for violating the constitution and law.

## 3 children die in mortar shell blast

**E.P. Report**

PARACHINAR: At least three children were killed while five others sustained injuries on Saturday when a live mortar shell exploded in Lower Kurram Tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Kurram district.

Five other children were critically injured in the devastating incident, which happened in a village area of Lower Kurram Tehsil. The police said the children, all under the age of 11, were playing when they saw a live mortar shell at a mountain.

The children started pelting stones at the shell which exploded, killing three of them on the spot. The injured children were shifted to district hospital for medical assistance, the police added. Earlier in September, a woman and her four children died after a mortar shell struck their home in the North Waziristan tribal district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). Two other family members were critically injured in the incident, which happened in the Garyom area of the district.

## LHC moved for Kakar's removal as PM

**E.P. Report**

LAHORE: A fresh petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court seeking the removal of the Caretaker Prime Minister following the completion of his constitutional term. According to sources, Advocate Mushtaq Saleem submitted the petition, contending that after the expiration of the stipulated term, the continued tenure of the caretaker prime minister has become ineffective.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, and others are named as respondents in the petition. The lawyer contended that the legal tenure of the Caretaker Prime Minister's tenure expired on November 15. The petitioner also noted that neither the Election Commission nor any constitutional court has granted an extension to Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar's tenure after November 15.



KARACHI: Rescue workers shifting bodies to hospital after fire erupted at shopping mall.

# 11 dead as fire erupts in Karachi's shopping mall

**E.P. Report**

KARACHI: As many as 11 people lost their lives while several others were feared trapped as a massive fire erupted in a multi-storey shopping mall at Karachi's Rashid Minhas Road on Saturday morning. The rescue officials said the fire broke out on the fourth floor and engulfed the other floors of the RJ Shopping Mall caught fire at 6:30am.

The officials faced difficulty in the rescue operation due to huge smoke in the building. The victims died due to suffocation or severe burns. Several people fainted due to the fire. The condition of seven people is stated to be critical. The blaze suddenly broke out on second floor of the building but very soon it spread to fourth, fifth and sixth floors of multi-storey RJ Mall, a shopping centre located on Rashid Minhas Road. According to fire brigade authorities, a faulty generator placed on the roof of the shopping centre was the cause of the fire.

Chief Fire Officer Ishtiaq Ahmed said the intense fire erupted at 6:30am. He said there were 45 people inside the mall that were rescued. He claimed that there was no fire fighting or alarm system in the building, adding that the fire that erupted on the second floor reached till the sixth.

Rescue officials said that two vehicles of the fire brigade were busy extinguishing the flames while two more fire tenders and a snorkel were rushed to the

spot after receiving information about the fire. Later the number of fire-fighting vehicles rose to 10 including two snorkels and eight fire tenders. More than 50 people were rescued from the burning building but a number of people were still trapped inside, said rescue officials. The injured people were shifted to a nearby hospital where condition of eight them was said to be serious.

An emergency was declared in Jinnah Hospital as an unspecified number of people were still stuck inside the shopping centre. Due to the smoke filling the upper floors of the building, rescue personnel faced difficulties in carrying out the relief operation. Later, the fire spread to the lower floors of the building, said the fire-fighters.

The rescue officials later said the fire was brought under control to a great extent and the cooling process was underway on one of the floors. Dozens of shops in the building were reduced to ashes due to the blaze which was brought under control after three hours of hectic efforts. The chief fire-fighting officer said there was no fire-fighting equipment installed in the building, nor there was any emergency exit. Dozens of shops and offices adjacent to the building were also gutted. The injured people were shifted to a nearby hospital where the condition of eight of them was said to be serious.

Three of the deceased have been identified as

Kareem Bakhsh, Muhammad Younas and Kashif, said Jinnah Hospital's Dr Nosheen. She further said that Kashif was a finance manager with a call centre. She said the deceased had burn injuries on their bodies. One of the deceased shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital was identified as 32-year-old Salman. One body and an injured were taken to the civil hospital also. The injured was identified as 14-year-old Atif. Officials said eight fire engines, two snorkels and a bowser were engaged in the fire extinguishing operation, which took at least four hours to complete. After dousing the flames, a cooling and rescue operation was underway.

Taking to X, the Mayor wrote: "KMC Fire Department has so far confirmed that there have been 9 casualties in the fire incident."

"Search process for trapped people still continues," he added in the post. Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar has expressed profound grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident. He directed the Karachi commissioner to expedite the rescue operation.

The chief minister has asked authorities concerned to provide immediate medical aid to the injured. Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori also took notice of the incident and expressed grief over the loss of lives. He has sought a report into the incident from the Karachi commissioner.

## ECP wants army deployment in elections

**E.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has on Saturday written a letter to the Ministry of Interior to deploy the army in general elections. The letter also demanded a detailed report on security arrangements for the upcoming elections by November 27.

The letter highlights the shortage of police personnel and proposes the deployment of the Pakistan Army and other law enforcement agencies to address this gap. The Election Commission highlights the need for details on the availability of security personnel in the four provinces and Islamabad, underlining its commitment to ensuring fair and transparent elections through constitutional and legal measures. Law enforcement agencies are called upon to enhance the law and order situation in all constituencies.

## Maneka files case against Imran

**E.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Khawar Maneka, the ex-husband of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, on Saturday filed a case against the former prime minister and first lady over the allegation of fraudulent marriage and fornication.

Maneka submitted a private complaint today against the husband and wife in the court of Islamabad East Senior Civil Judge Qudratullah under Sections 34 (common intention), 496 (marriage ceremony fraudulently gone through without lawful marriage) and 496B (fornication) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The complaint urged the court that Imran and Bushra be "summoned and punished strictly in accordance with law in the interest of justice". It said Imran was introduced to his family through Bushra's sister "during the Islamabad dharna", likely referring to the PTI's 2014 sit-in.

Maneka that the PTI chief often visited his house for hours in his absence "under the guise of spiritual healings", which was "not only undesirable but unethical". He further said that Imran used to call Bushra at late hours, with the latter also given separate contact numbers and mobile phones for communication.

Maneka said he "half-heartedly" divorced Bushra on Nov 14, 2017, and had reconciliation in mind before February 2018 but "premature nikah during iddah" between Bushra and Imran "frustrated his plans". The plea claimed that Farah Khan asked him to change the date of divorce on the papers but Maneka refused to do so. Regardless, Imran and Bushra got married to each other on January 1, 2018, the petition said, with a copy of the purported nikah papers also attached.

# Hamas to release 14 Israeli hostages

KHAN YOUNIS: Hamas will release 14 Israeli hostages in exchange for Israel freeing 42 Palestinian prisoners Saturday as part of an ongoing swap during a four-day cease-fire, according to a senior Egyptian official.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to talk about details of the ongoing negotiations, said that mediators Egypt and Qatar have given Israel a list of those hostages to be released provided by Hamas. A second official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the details. The upcoming swap on day two of the truce follows Hamas' release Friday of 24 of the approximately 240 hostages it took during its Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war. In exchange Israel freed 39 Palestinians from prison.

Those freed from captivity in Gaza were 13 Israelis, 10 Thai nationals and a citizen of the Philippines. Iran facilitated Friday's release of 10 Thai hostages from Gaza, providing a list of names to Palestinian group Hamas after a request to do so by Thailand's Foreign Ministry

and parliamentary speaker. Iran's embassy in Thailand said on social media. Thailand's government says that 20 of its nationals are still being held by Hamas.

It was not immediately clear if any non-Israeli captives may also be released Saturday. During the four days, Hamas is to release at least 50 Israeli hostages, and Israel 150 Palestinian prisoners. Israel has said the truce can be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed — something United States President Joe Biden said he hoped would come to pass.

The start of the truce Friday morning brought the first quiet for 2.3 million Palestinians reeling and desperate from relentless Israeli bombardment that has killed thousands, driven three-quarters of the population from their homes and leveled residential areas. Rocketfire from Gaza militants into Israel went silent as well. The United Nations said the pause enabled it to scale up the delivery of food, water, and medicine to the largest volume since the resumption of humanitarian aid convoys

on Oct. 21. It was also able to deliver 129,000 liters (34,078 gallons) of fuel — just over 10 percent of the daily pre-war volume — as well as cooking gas, a first time since the war began.

In the southern city of Khan Yunis on Saturday, a long line of people with gas cans and other containers waited outside a filling station hoping to get some of the newly delivered fuel. For the first time in over a month, aid reached northern Gaza, the focus of Israel's ground offensive. A UN convoy delivered flour to two facilities sheltering people displaced by fighting.

The UN said it and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society were also able to evacuate 40 patients and family members from a hospital in Gaza City, where much of the fighting has taken place, to a hospital in Khan Yunis. The relief brought by the ceasefire has been tempered, however, for both sides — among Israelis by the fact that not all hostages will be freed and among Palestinians by the brevity of the pause. — Arab News





LAHORE: ETPB Additional Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid Saleem receiving Sikh Yatrees Jatha Leader Khushminder Singh Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Amritsar at Wagha Border.

## CM Baqar orders safety audit of commercial, public buildings

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar has taken serious notice of the absence of safety and security arrangements at commercial and government offices. The interim CM said that the fire eruption incidents in commercial and government offices were claiming valuable lives, thereby destroying families and causing huge losses to the concerned private and public properties.

The CM said that such incidents were taking place because we had abandoned the inspection system. "I have developed an inspection regime under which inspection of all the installations, offices, commercial buildings and public spots would be carried out in a scientific and systematic way," the CM said.

He directed the SBCA,

PDMA, Civil Defence, and concerned deputy commissioner/assistant commissioner to carry out safety audits of all public and commercial buildings, educational institutions, and government offices and submit their report along with recommendations.

Baqar said that most of the commercial buildings and even government offices had stopped installing fire extinguishers at the establishments. "As a result, when fire erupts, there is no system or mechanism to extinguish," he said.

The CM also directed Commissioner Karachi to inquire into the incident of fire eruption in a shopping mall, near Dalmia. "This is a grave incident which has claimed valuable lives," he said and directed the commissioner to fix the responsibility so that necessary action could be taken.

## PU seminar on Iqbal's 'Khudi'

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University Hailey College of Banking & Finance (HCBF) Literary Society organised seminar on Allama Iqbal's Kalam "Khudi". On this occasion, HCBF Principal Dr. Ahmed Muneeb Mehta, Dean Faculty of Languages and Islamic Oriental Learning at Government College University, Lahore Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Shahid, faculty members and a large number of students were present. In his address, Dr Ahmed Muneeb Mehta shed light on the services of Allama Iqbal. He said that Pakistan's movement got intellectual strength from Iqbal's words. Dr. Iqbal Shahid talked about Allama Iqbal's Kalam "Khudi" and described Iqbal's thoughts as indispensable for building the Pakistani society. He emphasized on setting up such forums in educational institutions to make the youth aware of Iqbal's thoughts. Students gave speeches on Iqbal's thought and presented Iqbal's words. Later, Dr Mehta presented the shield to the chief guest.

## LESCO detects 371 power pilferers in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 371 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) on the 77th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Saturday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against 371 electricity thieves, out of which 227 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 20 accused have been arrested.

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

The LESCO chief vowed that the operations

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

On the 77th consecutive day (Nov. 25) of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections 14 were commercial, 01 agricultural, 01 industrial and 355 domestic, and all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 440,583 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 17.773 million.

Apprising the media about some major power pilferers, he explained that LESCO charged Rs 216,800 detection bill

against 2,960 units to an electricity pilferer in Ravi Riyan area; Rs 200,000 fine in the form of detection bill against 2,500 units to a customer stealing electricity in Yousaf Park area of Shahdara Town; Rs 200,000 detection bill against 5,076 units to another power thief in Empress Park area of Garhi Shahu; and Rs 200,000 detection bill to a power thief in Gawal Mandi Lahore.

During the 77 days of grand anti-theft campaign, the spokesman mentioned, the LESCO detected pilferage on 30,000 power connections and submitted 29,630 FIR applications against electricity thieves in the relevant police stations out of which 28,596 FIRs have been registered, while 13,304 accused have so far been arrested by the police. The LESCO has so far charged a total of 52,428,648 detection units worth Rs 2,101,562,523 to all the power pilferers.

## Ashrafi urges swift justice for May 9 incidents

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony, and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Saturday expressed concern over the delay in judicial proceedings regarding the May 9 incidents.

Addressing the Inter-Religious Conference, he emphasized the need for a united effort to ensure a secure and tolerant 'Islamic Republic of Pakistan'.

Ashrafi, who also chairs the Pakistan Ulama Council, highlighted the importance of fostering an environment where children of all faiths could attend school and go their worship places without fear.

He highlighted that nations that engaged in conflict with their security forces sow divisions between the populace and the country's security

institutions.

He mentioned that parallel instances could be observed in Libya, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, where the deliberate cultivation of animosity based on religious sects had led to detrimental divisions.

Ashrafi warned that adversaries were seeking a replication of such discord within our borders.

Commenting on the meeting between religious scholars and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, he dismissed baseless narratives surrounding the event. He stressed the unity and understanding achieved in the meeting, underlining the collective responsibility for the defense, security, and protection of Pakistan.

In a significant development, Ashrafi applauded the recent court decision sentencing individuals, including Major (Rtd) Adil Raja and Captain

(ret'd) Haider Mehdi, for their involvement in anti-state activities. However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the perceived leniency of the sentences and called for more stringent punishment for those threatening the nation's integrity.

Ashrafi urged the administration and chief justice to expedite justice for all criminals involved in the May 9 events, emphasizing that a nation could not be governed effectively without swift legal proceedings.

He said under these circumstances, nations could not be effectively governed, adding that the current stability witnessed in Pakistan was a direct result of a meticulously crafted policy.

He said the collaborative efforts of the government and the army materialized in the establishment of an investment facilitation council, attracting

substantial investments amounting to billions of dollars. He said noteworthy contributions were being made by nations such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and Qatar.

On international matters, Ashrafi reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with Palestine, commending the government's aid efforts and rejecting any diplomatic ties with Israel. He called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Sharif as its capital.

Prominent figures at the conference, including Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, echoed Ashrafi's sentiments. The gathering concluded with a diverse range of leaders emphasizing the importance of interfaith dialogue and national harmony.

## Rs129m fines imposed during crackdown on tackling smog: LHC told

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has submitted a report to the Lahore High Court regarding actions it has taken to eliminate smog. The report says 6,700 units were sealed for violating smog-related restrictions.

It further says that in three months, about 60,000 small and large units were checked, and more than 6,700 units were sealed over violations. In the last three months, fines worth more than Rs129 million were imposed during the crackdown on tackling smog. 540 cases were registered against those causing smog and 118 people were arrested, the report mentioned. It further says that 735 smoke-emitting factories were sealed in Lahore division, while 187 brick kilns were sealed during the crackdown.

Fines of Rs8.6 million were imposed for burning crop residue, as per the report, adding that 216 cases were registered for setting fire to crop stubble. On the other hand, the air quality index of Lahore was recorded at around 211 shortly after noon, due to which the city fell to the third spot on the list of most polluted cities in the world for the first time in months. Previously, it consistently held the first and second spots due to the hazardous levels of air pollution.

Earlier in the morning, the AQI of Lahore was recorded at a hazardous level of 371, which drastically dropped later. Within the city, the most polluted areas were Polo Ground Cantt with an AQI of 291, and Phase 8 DHA 259.

## PR urges China for swift action on ML-1

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railway administration has urged swift action from Chinese authorities on the ML-1 (Mainline-1) project. Pakistan Railway CEO Amir Baloch made the request during a warm reception of a high-level delegation from China's National Railway Administration.

The 21-member delegation, led by Zhu Mengrui, team leader of the ML-1 project, expressed full support and commitment to the timely initiation of the transformative ML-1 project. Baloch highlighted the unprecedented cooperation between Pakistan and China in energy and transport sectors, emphasizing ML-1 as a game-changer that will revolutionize Pakistan's transport and boost revenue in the freight sector. Mengrui assured collaborative efforts in addressing all aspects, including financing schemes and design proposals, marking a significant step towards enhancing economic ties and reducing transportation costs with the establishment of economic zones linked to ML-1. Wang Chen from the Science and Technology Department of the Chinese Railways was also a prominent member of the 21-member delegation.

## Aniq advocates global interfaith dialogue for lasting peace

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aniq Ahmed stressed the crucial need for dialogue among religions and cultures globally to establish lasting peace.

In his address at the Interfaith Harmony Conference held at the Badshahi Masjid here on Saturday, he highlighted the government's commitment to promoting interfaith harmony in Pakistan, emphasizing the prevailing unity among different religious denominations.

He underscored the importance of tolerance and respect, integral to Islamic teachings, and assured that minorities in Pakistan enjoy complete religious freedom. He called for col-

lective efforts to foster interfaith harmony, citing Islam's principles and Prophet Hazrat Muhammad's (PBUH) legacy of dialogue with Christians and Jews.

The minister detailed concrete measures taken by the government to promote interfaith harmony, with a focus on understanding differences and finding commonalities among religions. He urged both the Muslim majority and minorities in Pakistan to contribute positively to the nation's progress and dispel false rumors.

Highlighting Pakistan's diverse society, he announced his visit to Karachi during the Hindu festival of Diwali and issued directives for guide-

lines to resolve issues facing minorities. Bishop of Lahore Nadim Kamran and Pastor Asher Nazir praised the government's initiatives for minorities, expressing commitment to contributing positively to the country's peace.

The conference, attended by prominent figures including Prime Minister's Special Representative Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi and Provincial Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, aimed to strengthen religious harmony, mutual brotherhood, and collaborative roles for the progress of the nation. Participants praised the government's efforts and expressed dedication to fostering a harmonious society.

## PM Kakar appoints Fahd Haroon as SAPM

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a reaffirmation of trust, Fahd Haroon has been appointed Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister by caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar.

Fahd Haroon's current portfolio given is Digital Media. As one of Pakistan's most senior and well respected media personalities, Fahd brings a wealth of experience and a relentless drive for innovation to his new role.

Previously, Fahd served as the Special Assistant to the PM/Minister of State on Public Communication and Digital Platforms in the Shahbaz Sharif-led PDM government.

He also held the position of Focal Person to the Prime Minister on



Information Analytics and Special Assistant to CM Sindh for Media Affairs.

Fahd has held leadership positions in international and local media houses, including Chairman of the Press and Electronic Media committee of FPCCI and membership in the Pakistan Broadcasters Association. Fahd serves on the advisory

committees of several prominent educational institutions, and his leadership has been recognized by numerous industry awards including the prestigious Sitar-i-Imtiaz.

He is the son of late Fariha Razak and grandson of late Nishat Afza, both prominent media personalities and former parliamentarians of Pakistan.

## Murtaza Wahab for fire control arrangements

KARACHI (NNI): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the loss of life and property due to the fire in the Rashid Minhas Road mall is extremely saddened.

"I express my condolences to the families of 11 people who lost their lives in the fire," Murtaza Wahab said in a statement Saturday. He said lack of arrangements for fire control in the building is very worrisome, strict rules need to be made in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to the media representatives on visiting the accident site, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Chief Fire Officer KMC, officers of Rescue Unit 1122 were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi said that KMC fire brigade department has proved its

responsibility by saving 45 lives by snorkel, 7 fire tenders, snorkel and bowser were used in extinguishing the fire.

He said that this area falls under the Cantonment Board but KMC fire brigade and rescue personnel worked together. Replying to a query he said that he is at the site of incident and you can see which Cantonment vehicles are working here, the fire erupted on the third floor of the building and will be fully investigated to bring out the facts, he said that another floor was being constructed on top of this mall, I want to ask if it is allowed, who gave the permission for this.

Everyone knows how the plans are approved for the construction of the building. In response to a question, he said that extinguishing fire is not the mayor's job. I was in

full contact with the staff at work here and we were trying hard to rescue as many people as possible, he said that those who have regularized the maps of this building should be caught and asked how this building was constructed and how permission was given to build another floor.

Mayor Karachi said that human lives are very precious and I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who died in this accident. He said that if people have seen this building, it can be seen that there is no fire control arrangement and no place for smoke emission in case of fire.

Mayor Karachi said that most of the people who died in this accident died due to suffocation. He appreciated the performance of the officers and staff of Fire Brigade and Rescue 1122.

پی اے ایف کیمنپ بڈہ بیر

ایئر ہیڈ کوارٹرز (یونٹ) پشاور

ٹینڈر نوٹس

ٹینڈر نوٹس برائے کنسرپٹیو آکسز، مالیاتی سال 2023-24 ایک سال کی مدت کے لیے

پی اے ایف کیمنپ، بڈہ بیر میں مندرجہ ذیل اشیاء کے لیے سربمہر ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔

۱۔ آٹو، ۲۔ پچھار، ۳۔ سرف، ۴۔ واپچر، ۵۔ پلاسٹک ڈھا،

۶۔ تیل، ۷۔ ڈرائی، ۸۔ ڈسٹ بن، ۹۔ فائل، ۱۰۔ ٹوائٹ برش،

۱۱۔ ٹوائٹ پیپر، ۱۲۔ چونا، ۱۳۔ تیزاب، ۱۴۔ کوپٹی

صرف گورنمنٹ رجسٹرڈ کنٹریکٹرز ٹینڈر رجسٹر کرانے کے مجاز ہوں گے۔ سربمہر ٹینڈر کپ کاڈنٹ

پی اے ایف کیمنپ بڈہ بیر، پشاور کے 11 دسمبر 2023 بوقت 10 بجے تک کپ کاڈنٹ

آفس، بڈہ بیر میں وصول کیے جائیں گے۔ ٹینڈر دائی ران بوقت 11 بجے کو ملے جائیں

گے کیمنپ انتظامیہ کو یہ حق حاصل ہے کہ وہ ٹینڈل و جوب کی بناء پر کوئی بھی ٹینڈر رد کر دے۔ ٹینڈر

کے قواعد و ضوابط کیمنپ کاڈنٹ آفس، بڈہ بیر سے حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ مزید معلومات ان

نمبروں سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ / (5201) 091-9210888

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# Governor emphasizes merit-based tests

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Saturday emphasized transparent and merit-based entry tests for admission in medical colleges, urging Vice Chancellors and the Health Department to ensure fairness.

In a special address at the annual convocation of Khyber College of Dentistry 2023, the Governor said that I extend heartfelt congratulations to the students and their parents on their educational achievements.

Haji Ghulam Ali acknowledged and highlighted Khyber Dentistry College's performance nationally and internationally.

Acknowledging the changing global landscape, Governor Ghulam Ali stressed the need for embracing new trends and technologies in all fields, particularly in medical education and healthcare.

"The integration of modern technology has not only revolutionized dental medical education but has also facilitated advancements in healthcare," he remarked.

Addressing the graduates, the Governor urged them to raise awareness about health and take preventive measures, contributing to the welfare of society.

Providing free medical treatment to the average and poor is a duty to alleviate human suffering, said Governor Ghulam Ali.

He emphasized making healthcare affordable rather than expensive for socially disadvantaged individuals, asserting that the future of the country lies in the hands of the youth.

The youth must make progress and success their mission in all fields, utilizing their strength and available resources for a successful life, said Haji Ghulam Ali.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali giving Degrees to students during annual convocation of Khyber College of Dentistry 2023.

## Children protection key for society uplift

F.P Report

PESHAWAR: Director of the Khyber Education System and Chairman Nadir Welfare Foundation, Nadir Khan has said that children are the future of this country and educating them is tantamount to educating entire community.

He told this during a program held in Peshawar last day in which notable and members including Abdul Wahid and Mufti Rahim Dad were also in attendance. Community members applauded the efforts of Nadir Khan for the welfare and betterment of children in society.

Talking on the occasion, Nadir Khan told and stressing needs for swift endeavors for protection of the children and working for their bright future so that they work for the welfare of the state.



PESHAWAR: Chairman Qaumi Watan Party Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao addressing during meeting of federal and provincial councils of QWP.

## Ibrahim called on Ayub Zakori

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: CEO Zakori Group and President Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) Ayub Khan Zakori hosted the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture of the Republic of Ghana Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, as a WBAF Senator on the second day of the WBAF 2023 World Congress of Angel Investors in South Africa.

During the meet-up, a fruitful discussion was held on bilateral trade and investments between Pakistan and Ghana as well as on the expansion of Zakori Industries (Private) Limited on international grounds in Africa as a part of bilateral trade and industrialization.

Amritaa Singh, a legal consultant and international partner of the WBAF from Australia, was also present on the occasion and showed great interest in international collaborations.

Talking to the minister of Ghana, Ayub Zakori expressed his gratitude and said that Zakori Group always believed in international collaborations and in this regard, the expansion of Zakori Industries to Africa would play an important role in such a global development.

The minister warmly welcomed Ayub Zakori and responded that he would try his best to facilitate bilateral relations by playing a crucial role in this regard, adding that he appreciated the role of Pakistan in multiple areas and would be very happy to further strengthen mutual ties.

## Shahidullah posted as Secretary Estt KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior officer of Pakistan Administrative Service (APP), Shahidullah Khan, was posted as Secretary Establishment and Administration, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with immediate effect.

Shahidullah is a senior bureaucrat who has served in various key positions in KP, including IG Prisons, Secretary Environment, and Forests, among others, according to a notification. He assumed charge of his office and started his official duties.

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao was elected as the central Chairman of the Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) and Ahmad Nawaz Jadoon as General Secretary for a four-year term.

The election took place at Watan Kor on Saturday, the main Secretariat of QWP, which was attended by members of the federal and provincial councils of the party. A large number of party workers from all over the province were also present on this occasion.

Haji Mohammad Ghufraan was elected as Senior Vice-Chairman, Anisa Zeb Tahirkheli as Vice-Chairperson, Hashim Babar as Vice-Chairman, Tariq Ahamd Khan as Secretary Information, Hashim Raza Advocate as Joint Secretary, Mohammad Yousaf Khan as Coordinator Social Media and Hanif Shah as member Executive Committee.

Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Khan served as the Election Commissioner who supervised the intra-party election.

Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao was elected as provincial Chairman of the QWP and Dr Farooq Afzal as General Secretary.

The other newly elected provincial office-bearers included Asad Afridi as Senior Vice-Chairman, Faiza Rasheed, Prof Hameedur Rehman, Syed Fayyaz Ali Shah, Baidar Hussain Shah, Mohammad Hashim Khan, Shamsheer Khan were elected as Vice-Chairmen.

Akhundzada Sikandar Zaman was elected as Secretary Finance, Dr Alam Yousfzai as Culture Secretary, Shakeel Waheedullah Khan as Secretary Information, Mehmoodul Islam Advocate as Deputy General Secretary, Mumtaz Khan Yousafzai as Media and Social Media Coordinator, Iftikhar Khan Zaida as Additional Secretary, Arshad Afridi as Additional Secretary Social Media.

Tania Gul Advocate, Engineer Yousaf Zaman, Amanullah Khan, Saeed Khan Bamkhel, Shadad Khan and Neelum Gigyani were elected as Joint Secretaries.

Later, speaking after getting elected as QWP Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao thanked the members of the federal and provincial councils for reposing confidence in him and said he would not let them down.

Shedding light on the prevailing political situation in the country, he said that main challenge facing the government was to revive the economy. He said that poor law and order and political instability impacted the economy badly, therefore, efforts were needed to put the economy on the right track.

He said that the QWP's mandate was stolen in the 2018 general election, but the party continued working hard to help the Pakhtuns get their due rights. He recalled that his party was part of the

Pakistan Democratic Movement that unmasked the conspiracy under which PTI leader Imran Khan's government was installed.

He said the caretaker government was supposed to ensure the holding of the free, fair and transparent general election, but it had indulged in non-issues.

He said that caretaker government was not focusing on the holding of the election which was causing political and social uncertainty.

"Our party had suggested at the time of making the 18th Amendment to do away with the caretaker setup," adding that under the original 1973 Constitution, there was no concept of installing the caretaker setup.

He said that the ECP should be strengthened to conduct the polls.

He said that whichever political party formed the next government after the general election should amend the constitution and abolish the role of the caretakers in future.

He cited the example of India, Bangladesh and other regional countries, where there was no role of the caretakers.

He said that ladla (blue-eyed person) was imposed on the country under a conspiracy.

The QWP leader said that Imran Khan was ousted through the no-confidence movement to save the country from becoming bankrupt.

He said the QWP believed in neo nationalism, which meant independence from clutches of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and multinational companies.

QWP provincial Chairman Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao also addressed the gathering.

He urged the workers to convey the party's message of peace, development and prosperity to every household. He said that the QWP would spare no effort to help the Pakhtuns get their due rights. He also demanded the provision of the level-playing field.

## Civil servants navigate unprecedented challenges, says Secretary Estt Division

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Civil servants should be under no illusion about the scale and enormity of the challenges of governance and service delivery confronting us in the current national and global scenarios. Now is the time for civil servants to justify the tag of the "best talent of the country" by being knowledgeable, skillful, and resilient during the execution of their professional responsibilities.

These views were expressed by Inamullah Khan Dharejo, Secretary, Establishment Division, while delivering his key note address as chief guest on the eve of graduation ceremony of the 38th MCMC at NIM, Peshawar.

Dr. Nawaz Ahmad, Additional Secretary, Establishment Division was also present on the occasion. Chief instructors, faculty members and administrative officers of the three institutes, graduating officers of 38th MCMC and participants of ongoing SMC and 1st SMC of Superintending Engineers were in attendance. The chief guest awarded graduation certificates to the outgoing MCMC participants. He added that public service is currently undergoing one of its most daunting challenges. The general public desires for high quality governance and looks to leaders like you who can elevate our government's performance to higher levels. He emphasized the participants to channelize your energy, motivation and desire to serve your country as your careers progress.

Later, Capt. (Retd.) Usman Gul, Director General, NIM/PARD/PPSA gave a detailed overview on the role of the three institutions and said that PARD a premier training institute under the control of Establishment Division has been organizing trainings for capacity building of officers of the government of Pakistan as well as provincial and state governments. He disclosed that since inception PARD has trained more than 43970 officers while more than 2215 officers have been trained during the last three years from all the federating units and geographic areas of the country. Government of KP recently assigned the responsibility to PARD for conducting 24-weeks mandatory training course for PPS Officers. This customized and highly structured training programme was devised by the collective wisdom of P&D Department and PARD wherein 44 PPS Officers were trained. Similarly, PARD conducted collaborative courses for KMU, UNDP, PDMA, UNICEF, PITE, FEF, Ex-FATA and



PHED. PARD has accomplished research in collaboration with NIFA, PARC, SRSP, ARI Tarnab.

The Director General highlighted the completed infrastructure projects on the campus including newly renovated hostels, guesthouse, classrooms, syndicate rooms, sports complex, construction of classrooms and training facilities, five kilometer roads, Security Posts, Tube well, Establishment of High-Tech Skill Centre, library renovation, repair work at residential units and landscape improvements are the few major projects. While ongoing projects include construction of 50 rooms hostel for PPSA and construction of auditorium for NIM, similarly, separate Mess and IT Lab for NIM are near completion. An approved project "Reconstruction of boundary wall, sewerage system and provision of solar tube-well at PARD" will be financed through PSDP 2024-25. The Director General articulated special thanks to the Government of KP particularly Chief Secretary for their contributions for PARD and PPSA.

The Chief Guest appreciated Capt. (Retd.) Usman Gul, Director General for his dynamic leadership and untiring efforts of his dynamic team members under which PARD has become one of the best Academy in Pakistan and valued the uphill struggle and dedication of the Director General for extraordinary development of the physical infrastructure and its high-quality maintenance on the camps by fully utilizing the training facilities of the three institutions in harmony through simultaneous engagement in both in-service and pre-service training for federal and provincial officers representing a valuable addition to our national assets and facilities for training excellence.

Later, Chief Guest made a detailed tour of the PARD campus and inaugurated snooker room, and Model Lychee Orchard at PARD campus.

## Harm reduction narrative, a devious tactic to hoodwink youngsters towards vaping, e-cigarette

PESHAWAR (APP): Tobacco control experts have termed 'Harm Reduction' narrative by Tobacco industry as a devious tactic aimed at diverting attention of youth from conventional smoke inhalation to hooking on vaping and use of newer products like e-cigarette, heated tobacco.

The concept of harm reduction and its application in the context of tobacco industry's newer products is contentious and fraught with challenges, they warned.

The narrative of harm reduction should not be used as a tool for the tobacco industry to perpetuate its market under a different guise, the experts stressed.

In the wake of awareness about health hazards associated with smoking, the tobacco industry has been adept at adapting to changing markets and consumer preferences.

"In recent years, this adaptability has manifested in the promotion of newer nicotine and tobacco products, such as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes, and heated tobacco products (HTPs)," apprises Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell.

These products have been marketed under the guise of harm reduction, a narrative that warrants critical examination, especially in the context of public health landscape of our country, Ajmal explains.

"Harm reduction, in general, refers to strategies aimed at reducing the negative consequences of risky behaviors, not necessarily eliminating the behavior itself. In the realm of tobacco, harm reduction could mean using products that are purportedly less harmful than traditional cigarettes," he commented.

"The tobacco industry's marketing of ENDS and HTPs as safer alternatives to conventional cigarettes is a sophisticated tactic to sustain its market presence. These products are often advertised as tools for quitting smoking, yet evidence

regarding their effectiveness and safety is mixed," observed Mian Attiq ur Rehman, a Public Health activist and member of Provincial Alliance for Sustainable Tobacco Control.

"The harm caused by tobacco reaches much further than what many of us think, causing over eight million deaths from non communicable diseases, Attiq adds.

In Pakistan, where smoking rates and associated health burdens are already high, the introduction of these newer products could exacerbate the public health challenge, he cautioned.

"Switching to a vape is just swapping one harmful addiction for another," stressed Mian Attiq ur Rehman.

He said the slogans used by Tobacco industry are misleading and paving a path for newer products to enter our markets and get the attraction of youth. According to Drug Strategy surveys in different countries, significant increase in use of e-cigarettes and other products are being registered, observed Waseem Ahmad of SDPI.

Sharing some estimates, Waseem said the number of tobacco users at global level has reached to 1.3 billion and alarmingly, tobacco claims a life every four seconds, with half of its

users falling victim to its lethal consequences.

Consumers have right to know about the products they are buying be it cereal, yoghurt, bread, we need to be adequately informed about what we are consuming, Waseem argued.

He underscored the need of a robust and vigilant regulatory framework for tobacco control in our country against the industry's tactics.

Policies should be based on sound scientific evidence and public health principles, not swayed by the industry's harm reduction narrative.

This includes stringent regulations on the marketing and sale of newer tobacco and nicotine products, especially to protect young people, Waseem suggested.

Firstly, it is essential to understand the concept of harm reduction in the context of tobacco and nicotine products.

However, this narrative becomes problematic when promoted by the tobacco industry itself, which has a vested interest in maintaining and expanding its consumer base, he continued.

While some studies suggest that e-cigarettes might help individual smokers quit, they are not without harm. Concerns about youth uptake and dual use with both new and conventional tobacco products are significant.

In our country where the youth demographic is substantial, the risk of initiating nicotine addiction through these newer products is particularly troubling.

He also opined that there may be reduced exposure to certain harmful chemicals, there is currently no independent evidence suggesting these new products are less harmful than cigarettes in terms of reduced disease or mortality.

If the introduction of new tobacco and nicotine products leads to increased overall tobacco use, especially among non-smokers or young people, then it cannot be considered harm reduction, he concludes.





## In brief

### Sister-in-law gunned down

SHUJABAD (INP): A youth gunned down sister-in-law over domestic disputes here on Saturday and escaped the scene, police said. According to details, the incident took place in Haveli Shujabad of Multan where accused after exchange of hot words opened straight fire at wife of elder wife. As a result of firing, 30-year-old Sameena was killed on the spot and culprit fled the scene of crime. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident started raids to arrest the accused.

### Smuggler gang held

JACOBABAD (INP): The police arrested three members of an inter-provincial smuggler gang and seized huge quantity of smuggled cloth, powdered milk, Iranian dry fruits and other items worth millions here on Saturday. According to details, the police on a tip-off conducted operation near Madanpur Lahro area of Jacobabad. During operation, the police searched three passenger coaches and recovered huge quantity of smuggled items including cloth, Iranian powdered milk, Iranian milk cream, Iranian plastic, shoppers, cashewnuts, mobil oil, raisins, Iranian plastic rope, Iranian cloth, Kabul tyres, engines and other material worth over Rs20 million. Three smugglers including Saleem Pathan, Mukhtiar Nandwani and Riaz Koso belonging to an interprovincial smuggler gang were held. The police confiscated the recovered items and after registering a case against the detainees at Dil Murad police station have started investigations.

### 2 Elite Force cops die

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): An Elite Force vehicle met an accident near Rojhanwali Morr in Bahawalnagar in which two officials of the force were killed and three others sustained injuries on Saturday. As per details, the driver of a speeding vehicle of Elite Force lost control due to fog and the vehicle fell into Seem Canal. Resultantly, two Elite officials died on the spot while three others sustained injuries. The dead and injured were shifted to the District Hospital. The dead were identified as Hawaldar Muhammad Kashif and driver Constable Rizwan, while the injured included Abdullah Tariq, Mehmood, and Jafar. The Elite Force vehicle was going after some criminals when it met an accident. After getting news of the accident, police officers and other officials reached the District Hospital.

### Teenager killed, three injured

NAUSHAHRO FEROZE (INP): A teenager was killed and three others injured in collision between two over speeding motorcycles at Naushahro Feroze Link road on Saturday. According to details, two motorcycles collided head-on near Chahiwa stop. As a result of accident, 15-year-old Ali Arian s/o Ramzan Arian was killed on the spot while Sarmad Ansari s/o Ghulam Qadir Ansari among three was injured. The body and injured were shifted to civil hospital Naushahro Feroze. The police impounded both motorcycles and after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

# Siraj flays leaders for silence over Israeli atrocities in Gaza

F.P. Report

PAKPATTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has denounced the leadership of mainstream political parties for maintaining a conspicuous silence regarding Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

Addressing a public gathering in Pakpattan on Saturday, he asserted that the ruling parties prioritized their own self-interests over the collective interests of the Ummah. Sirajul Haq contended that the country's ruling elite was hesitant to provoke the ire of the international establishment, fearing potential repercussions that could jeopardize their continued rule over Pakistan. He argued that the past governments led by the so-called democratic political parties had engaged in resource

plunder, resulting in the deprivation of basic facilities for the masses.

He attributed the escalation of national debt, inflation, unemployment, and poverty to their flawed economic policies. The ruling elite safeguarded the future of their own progeny at the expense of the nation's well-being, he said. The JI leader emphasized the pivotal role of the upcoming polling day, urging the people to make good decisions about their fate. He cautioned against voting for parties that had already been tested, contending that doing so would effectively compromise the future of the country.

Appealing to the people, he encouraged them to cast their votes in favor of Jamaat-e-Islami in the upcoming February 8 elections.

He envisioned the establishment of an Islamic welfare state that would actively champion the causes of Palestine and Kashmir. Siraj pledged that, if elected, Jamaat-e-Islami would institute comprehensive accountability measures, emphasizing the urgent need for the rule of law. He criticized the established parties, asserting that they not only failed to provide solutions to the country's problems but also exacerbated crises during their prolonged periods in power.

JI Central Punjab Emir Javed Kasuri and JI Youth President Rusal Khan Babar also addressed the audience. Haq, set to embark on a two-day journey to southern Punjab from Sunday, aims to draw attention to the issues facing the region.

# JUI hold rally to show solidarity with Palestinians

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A protest rally was held in front of Jamia Islamia Larkana under the leadership of JUI Sindh Secretary General Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro against the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people by Jamiat Ulema Islam in Larkana.

Attending the rally, JUI Sindh Secretary General Maulana Rashid Mahmood Soomro, District Amir Maulana Nasir Mahmood Soomro, District General Secretary Mohabbate Ali Kharo and others addressed the rally saying

that Israel's aggression in the hospitals of Gaza State of Palestine and Hundreds of Palestinians were martyred in atrocities and heavy shootings, which clearly shows that this is a war crime and cowardice, while the war in Gaza has exposed the ugly faces of the Western powers and the end of the war in Gaza is a sign of shame for Israel. But the innocent Palestinian people will end.

Why is the international humanity a silent spectator on the massacre of children and women? Do they not have their own children? A

program will be held to express solidarity with the people, while Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the head of JUI, said that the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people has become a role for the freedom of the Palestinians in the entire Islamic world. Play an important role in ensuring that this is an important duty on the Muslim countries, while it is necessary for the Muslim rulers to take bold steps because all the Israeli countries are united in efforts to bring down mountains of atrocities on the Palestinians.

# PML-N, a true protector of minority rights

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz (PML-N) is the real political platform that safeguards rights of minorities of the country. The party has the competency to expel the country out of the financial crises.

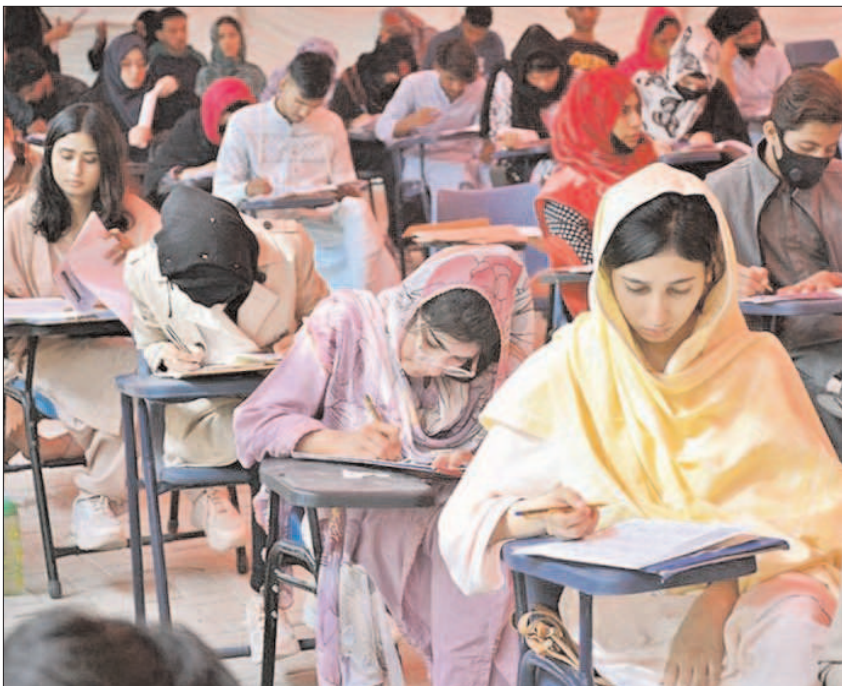
In a press statement Chairman Christian community, Khyber and Neighborhood counselor Arshad Masheh said that PML-N under the dynamic leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Shrief

was the poor representative political party in the country and always facilitated the minority and under privileged groups during its government.

He added that since 1914 the community had been deprived of their basic rights and after the PML-N party came in power in 2015, for the first time ever, the local Christians granted category-B domicile. We have affiliation with PML-N and intend to serve the minority of the merged district under the banner of the party, he added and asked

the authorities concerned to provide an opportunity to represent the minority in Provincial or National Assembly.

He demanded of the PML-N central leadership to nominate their unanimously applicant, Khurram Shehzad as candidate for Provincial or National Assembly minority seats for the merged tribal district. The nominee, Khurram Shehzad is educated and well aware of his community problems and has been serving the community since long.



HYDERABAD: Students solving their question papers during pre-entry test for admission at the Government Collage University.

# Rain lashes Gwadar amid PMD forecast rainfall in Balochistan

GWADAR (INP): Port town of Gwadar and surrounding areas received winter rainfall on Saturday. Turbat and Kech districts of Balochistan also received sporadic heavy rainfall amid forecast of downpour in western and southwestern Balochistan by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

The Met Office has forecast cold and cloudy weather for most parts of the country with chances of rain-wind/thunderstorm in Balochistan. The met office has predicted rain with wind or thunderstorm in Nokkundi, Chaghi, Dalbandin, Kalat, Khuzdar, Noshki, Washuk, Kharan, Panjgur, Kech, Turbat,

Pasni, Makran, Lasbela, Gwadar and Jiwani districts in Balochistan.

The PMD has also forecast cloudy weather in most districts of Sindh. During the last 24 hours, dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while partly cloudy in upper parts. Cold and cloudy weather is expected in Islamabad, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan during the period. Smog/ fog is likely in Sialkot, Lahore, Gujranwala, Narawal, Sargodha, Okara, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Khanewal, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera

Ghazi Khan and surrounding during the morning.

## Smuggled fuel seized, accused held

FAISALABAD (INP): The FIA Composite Circle seized thousands of litres of smuggled fuel worth millions of rupees and arrested an accused.

The FIA Composite Circle on an intelligence tip-off raided a godown in Ghona Faisalabad. During operation, over 10,000 litres of smuggled fuel worth Rs2.2 million was seized and an accused Muhammad Asif was arrested.



ABBOTTABAD: Elite force personnel standing alert during mock exercise in a school.

## Three tourists killed in Kalam mishap

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Three tourists were killed and 20 others injured when a vehicle carrying them fell into a ditch near Kalam area, rescue officials said on Saturday.

The rescue officials said the accident took place in the Pashmal area located in the north of Kalam valley in Swat in which three tourists were killed while 20 were injured. As per rescue sources, the tourists were traveling back from Kalam and headed towards Mingora during which the accident took place.

However, the rescue officials are busy shifting the injured individuals to the hospital for immediate medical assistance. In yet another incident last month, at least 29 passengers including women and children suffered multiple injuries after a bus carrying wedding guests skidded off the road in Swat's Kabal Kotlai on Thursday. The bus was heading towards Ali Garam from Kabal when it met with an accident, say rescue sources.

After being informed, rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to Kabal Civil Hospital. The victims with critical injuries were later shifted to Saidu Sharif Central Hospital. Police are investigating the incident.

## Infant killed in road mishap

F.P. Report

SWABI: A six month old infant was killed and four including two women injured in a road mishap occurred near Karnal Sher Khan Interchange on Saturday.

According to rescue sources, a passenger van veered off near Karnal Sher Khan Interchange. A six-month-child, Sanan was killed while four others including two women sustained injuries.

Meanwhile, team of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and shifted injured to Mardan Medical Complex. In another incident three riders injured when their motorcycle slipped on Swabi-Jhangira Road near Chota Lahor.

## Four shot dead in rivals clash

F.P. Report

TANGWANI: Four people of a family were killed and several others injured when an armed clash broke out between two rivals groups in Sindh town of Tangwani on Saturday. The exchange of fire between the two groups is continued and the area is depicting a scene of battleground.

According to police, the incident took place due to an old enmity between the rival groups of Jamal Tehana and as soon as the information was received, a heavy police contingent was sent to the scene of the incident.

The deceased have been identified as Nawab Gadhi, Rahim Bakhsh Gadhi, Seefal Gadhi and Hafeez Gadhi and all the deceased belong to one family.

# Various local leaders join PTI-P

F.P. Report

BUNER: The PTI-P here on Saturday was held grand gathering at the residence of former MNA PTI candidate PTI-P for NA Buner Sher Akbar in Swari. The PTI-P central chief Pervaz Khan Khattak the vice chairman Mehmood Khan and Sher Akbar Khan addressed. On the occasion strong political figure from thehsel Chaghorzai Salahuddin Khan quit from PTI joined PTI-P.

The ANP strong figure from Totalai Zafar Khan quit ANP and joined PTI-P. The thehsel Gagra strong figure Hashamand Khan quit JUIF and joined PTI-P with families relatives friends and comrades. On the occasion one Anand Lal of Daggar quit JI and joined PTI-P.

The PTI-P leaders welcomed them and decorated them with party caps and assured them opportunities in the PTI-P. Addressing the grand gathering Sher Akbar Khan claimed numbers of contacts from

weighty figures and hoped many more grand gatherings in parts of Buner before a grand district level gathering before general elections. The ex chief minister KPK and PTI-P vice chief Mehmood Khan claimed becoming victorious in the upcoming general elections and presented Pervaz Khan Khattak as to be next chief minister KPK.

The PTI-P chief Pervaz Khan Khattak claimed his party is past entering into main stream in the national politics and to be emerged winning party in KPK. He himself claimed to be next chief minister KPK and boldly announced non of soul to dare stop him from this high slot. Pervaz Khattak criticized the PTI PPP JUI JI for their tall claims adding their promises were false. He bitterly condemned Imran Khan for his alleged anti state anti army and anti Pushtoon agenda. He branded Imran Khan a political dictator who was dreaming to become president for life long under presidential

form of government in the country which he (Pervaz) opposed.

He continued to argue Imran Khan was dealing with party leafer and elected members like a dictator and argued that was why he (Pervaz) with other comrades opted to part way and form own party. Pervaz Khattak argued he himself was witnessed to his negative sentiments about the state army and Pushtoon. He continued to say those were claimed of new Pakistan were totally against it and argued that was why the country pushed to unrest lawlessness poverty prices hike and economically pushed it the verge to collapse. He claimed over coming all of evils and right tracking the province as party slogan Peace progress and prosperity. He repeatedly asked public not to trust on those were deceived them for the last many decades rather cost their vote in favour of PTI-P to materialize its slogans Peace Progress Prosperity.

# Newly constructed Masjid inaugurated

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Sundas Irshad and District and Session Judge Ali Raza Awan inaugurated newly constructed Masjid, water filtration plant and momentum of solidarity with Muslim of philistine at district court Hafizabad. President Bar Malik Waqas Raza Awan and General Secretary Bar Muzammal Aziz Gujjar, Additional Session Judge Malik Shahid Awan, Additional Session Judge Umar Akbar Qurashi, Senior Civil Judge Shaban Hameed Mughal and senior lawyers were also present on the occasion.

While giving briefing about different development schemes for welfare of lawyer and other people on the occasion, President District Bar Association Hafizabad Malik Waqas Raza Awan said that welfare of lawyers and development of the district bar is may top priority while historic and revolutionary steps were taken during last 10 months were taken for the welfare of lawyers and people with the cooperation of senior members of the bar.

DC Sundas Irshad lauded performance of present body of District Bar Association and said that development schemes for the welfare of the people and renovation of the judicial complex was a role model for other people. Meanwhile, on the directions of the Punjab government, complete lockdown was observed till 3 pm in the district Hafizabad, on Saturday. Government and private educational institutions, markets, offices and restaurants were remained closed till 3 pm. On the directions of the DC Sundas Irshad the officers of district administration and other departments were remained in the field for ensuring implementation on government directions.

# PTI's convention turns violent as workers, police clash

F.P. Report

UPPER DIR: Panic and tension gripped Upper Dir district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and police clashed over holding a party's convention in the area.

According to details, the PTI workers were arriving at the site to participate in the workers' convention in

Sahibabad area of Upper Dir district. However, the district administration had imposed Section 144 – under which the gathering of more than five people was banned – and blocked roads leading to the site of the gathering.

The clash broke out when policemen attempted to stop some PTI workers at Chukiatan, as they pelted stones at police. During the clash, a PTI worker and a

policeman sustained bullet injuries and were shifted to hospital for medical assistance.

Taking to X, PTI's Omar Ayub Khan claimed that the police resorted to firing on the PTI workers who arrived to participate in party's convention. "The Election Commission of Pakistan should tell if it is busy in holding rigged elections?" he wrote.



CHINIOT: A lengthy line of women patiently waits for their turn to buy flour and ghee at subsidized rates from the Government at Kachery Road Utility Store.





# Lord Cameron says UK must engage with China

LONDON (BBC): Lord Cameron has defended his pro-China policy as prime minister, insisting that it is still right to "engage" with Beijing. In his first full interview since becoming foreign secretary, Lord Cameron said China is key to solving big issues like climate change. The comments risk angering Tory MPs, some of whom China has sanctioned.

But he told the BBC he supported the government's current "realistic, hard-headed policy" towards China. In a wide-ranging conversation, Lord Cameron also denied he had become foreign secretary because he was bored. "Being prime minister for six years was a good apprenticeship for being foreign secretary," he said. Lord Cameron has been criticised for his close involvement with Chinese investment in recent years. He has given speeches praising a port development in Sri Lanka owned ultimately by a Chinese state company. He tried to set up a £1bn China-Investment fund. And he met senior Chinese figures on visits to Beijing.

This has raised fears among some MPs that Lord Cameron could seek to soften the government's attitude towards China. But he told the BBC the world had changed since he was prime minister. "China has become much more aggressive, much more assertive, over the Uighurs, over Hong Kong, the 'wolf warrior' diplomacy," he said. "And so that's why security and protection is such an important part of our policy. 'We also need to align more carefully with our allies to make sure we can counter any malign threats coming from China. So, it is a realistic hard headed policy."

But he defended his previous policy in Downing Street that sought a new "golden era" in Sino-UK relations. He said: "When I became prime minister, the greatest need was for Britain to grow again, trade again, with exports to help our businesses around the world. 'I loaded up planes, I took them to India, I took them to China, I took them to Africa to get the economy moving again.'"

And the government, he said, should still deal with Beijing today. "Engaging China is one part of the approach we need to take," he said. "Not least, because China

is a fifth of humanity. We're not going to solve challenges like climate change, unless we engage. "And hopefully I can be a part of that." Lord Cameron also risked angering pro-Brexit Tory MPs by saying Britain should engage more closely with the European Union on foreign, defence and security policy. He said Britain had decided not to be a member of the EU but had to be "a friend, a neighbour and the best possible partner" and the UK had to make that work. "When you look at the engagement in Ukraine, that probably is the best example of how it's worked," he said.

"There's no doubt that Britain is the leading European power in helping Ukraine. 'I heard that over and over again from the president downwards. But we're doing that in partnership with our European colleagues. 'So, I think we can make friend, neighbour and partner work. And I'm determined to do so.' Even in his first few days back in office, Lord Cameron has been a strong advocate for boosting Britain's international development policy.

But he suggested he would not push for a return to the target of spending 0.7% of national income on foreign aid. "I took this job accepting collective Cabinet responsibility," he said. Lord Cameron gave his "100% support" to the government's Rwanda migration policy, saying "we have to do what it takes to break the model of the people smugglers". He said: "What I'm absolutely ready to do is to support the government's policy and 100% because we have got to stop the boats.

"And I don't say this glibly. I know that there's nothing more destructive to a country's immigration system and immigration policy than large scale, very visible illegal migration. "And that is what we have. That's what we got to stop. "Now the number of small boat crossings is down by a third. But we have to do whatever it takes to break the model of the people's workers." Asked if he was willing to countenance pulling Britain out of the European Convention on Human Rights, he ignored the question and said: "I'm very happy to say I 100% support the government policy and whatever it takes."

# Diplomats from S Korea, Japan and China will meet

SEOUL (AP): The top diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China are to gather in South Korea over the weekend to discuss resuming their leaders' summit, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

An annual trilateral meeting among the leaders of the three Northeast Asian nations hasn't been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the often touchy ties among them. The three-way summit began in 2008. While the three nations are close economic and cultural partners with one another, their relationships have suffered on-and-off setbacks due to a mix of issues such as Japan's wartime atrocities, the US-China rivalry and North Korea's nuclear program.

The foreign ministers of the three countries are to meet in the southeastern South Korean city of Busan on Sunday to prepare for their leaders' summit and exchange views on ways to strengthen three-way cooperation and other regional and international issues, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The three ministers are to hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines as well.

In September, senior officials of the three nations

agreed to restart the trilateral summit "at the earliest convenient time." South Korea and Japan are key United States allies in the region and they host about 80,000 American troops on their soils combined. Their recent push to bolster a trilateral Seoul-Tokyo-Washington security partnership triggered rebukes from Beijing, which is extremely sensitive to any moves it sees as trying to hold China back.

When North Korea launched its first military spy satellite into space, Seoul, Tokyo and Washington spoke with one voice in strongly condemning the launch. They said the launch involved the North's efforts improve its missile technology as well as establish a space-based surveillance system. But China, the North's major ally, asked all concerned nations to keep calm and exercise restraints, echoing statements that it previously issued when North Korea inflamed tensions with major weapons tests. United Nations Security Council resolutions prohibit any satellite liftoffs by North Korea, viewing them as covers for testing its long-range missile technology. The North says it has a sovereign right to launch

satellites.

Ties between Seoul and Tokyo soured badly in recent years due to issues stemming from Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula. But bilateral relations have improved significantly recently as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol pushes to move beyond history disputes and bolster cooperation to better deal with North Korea's nuclear threats and other issues. But in a reminder of their complicated relations, a Seoul court this week ordered Japan to financially compensative Koreans forced into sexual slavery for Japanese troops during the colonial period. Japan called the ruling "absolutely unacceptable," arguing that it violated the international law and bilateral agreements.

Japan and China have also long tussled over Japanese WWII atrocities and the East China Sea islands claimed by both. Recently, the two nations became embroiled in a trade dispute after China banned seafood imports from Japan in protest of its discharge of treated radioactive wastewater from its tsunami-hit nuclear power plant.

# US thanks Mexico's government

MEXICO CITY (AP): The US government thanked Mexico for arresting a hyper violent alleged Sinaloa cartel security chief, but according to details released, the detention may have been highly personal for the Mexican army.

Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval said Nestor Isidro Pérez Salas, who was arrested, had ordered a 2019 attack on an ungaurded apartment complex where soldiers' families lived. "He was the one who ordered the attack ... against our dependants, our families," Sandoval said. The Oct. 17, 2019 attack was a result of a humiliating failed effort to capture Sinaloa cartel leader Ovidio Guzman, one of the sons of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. Pérez Salas served as head of security for Guzman and his brothers, who are collectively known as the "Chapitos."

Soldiers caught Guzman but later were ordered to release him to avoid bloodshed. In order to pressure the army to release Guzman, cartel gunmen had surrounded the army families' housing complex in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa, and sprayed it with gunfire. They took one soldier hostage, burst into four apartments looking for more potential hostages, and tossed in two hand grenades that

failed to explode. The army had apparently relied on an unwritten rule that soldiers' wives and children were not to be targeted. "It was an area that was not even guarded," Sandoval said. In January, when soldiers finally managed to detain Ovidio Guzman, Pérez Salas also allegedly participated in setting off violence that left 30 people dead, including 10 military personnel. The army was forced to use Black Hawk helicopter gunships against the cartel's truck-mounted .50-caliber machine guns. Cartel gunmen hit two military aircraft, forcing them to land, and sent gunmen to the city's airport, where military and civilian aircraft were hit by gunfire.

Sandoval revealed that there had been a special operation that day to get Pérez Salas, but it failed. The army continued to follow his movements, and later tried to detain him a second time, but "he was able to escape," Sandoval said. The third time was a charm; video posted on social media showed that Pérez Salas was surrounded but managed to climb onto the roof of a house before he was caught. The US Drug Enforcement Administration had posted a \$3 million reward for the capture of Pérez Salas, though it was

unclear if that will be distributed to the army and National Guard forces that caught him this week.

President Joe Biden issued a statement praising the arrest. US prosecutors have asked that Pérez Salas be extradited — as his boss Ovidio Guzman was in September — to face US drug charges. "These arrests are testament to the commitment between the United States and Mexico to secure our communities against violence, counter the cartels, and end the scourge of illicit fantasy that is hurting so many families," Biden wrote. But it appears Pérez Salas's arrest was personal for the Mexican army.

"He was also responsible for a series of attacks against military personnel that caused a significant number of casualties," Sandoval said. Pérez Salas is wanted on US charges of conspiracy to import and distribute fantasy in the United States. But he also allegedly left a trail of killings and torture of police and civilians. An indictment in the Southern District of New York says Pérez Salas allegedly participated in the torture of a Mexican federal agent in 2017. It said he and others tortured the man for two hours, inserting a corkscrew into his muscles, ripping it out and placing hot chiles in the wounds.

## Kim reviews satellite photos of US bases

SEOUL (AFP): North Korean state media said Saturday that leader Kim Jong Un has reviewed images taken by his country's new spy satellite of "major target regions" including the US military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and sites across South Korea.

Pyeongang successfully put a military spy satellite into orbit earlier this week, but South Korea said it was too early to determine if the satellite was functioning as the North claims. Experts have said putting a working reconnaissance satellite into orbit would improve North Korea's intelligence-gathering capabilities, particularly over South Korea, and provide crucial data in any military conflict.

Pyeongang previously claimed, within hours of the launch, that Kim was shown photos of US military bases in Guam taken by the satellite, named "Malligyeong-1". On Saturday, the North claimed Kim inspected images taken as the satellite passed over Hawaii at around 5 am, including those of "a naval base in the Pearl Harbor, the Hickam air-force base in Honolulu," according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim also reviewed the satellite's images of the South Korean port city of Busan, which Pyongang said were taken at around 10 am on Saturday. The photos included ones of the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, Pyongang claimed. Carl Vinson had arrived at the Busan Naval Base, according to Seoul's military.

In an earlier report on Saturday, KCNA said Kim had the day before reviewed the satellite's images of "major target regions" in the South, including its capital and cities hosting US military bases. The images also included some areas of North Korea, it added. Among the South Korean cities mentioned, Pyeongtaek -- around 60 kilometres from Seoul -- hosts Camp Humphreys, the largest overseas US military installation in the world.

Pyeongtaek is also home to the Osan Air Base, which houses Seoul's Air Force Operations Command as well as a US Air Force base. The North's satellite launch has since prompted the two Koreas to suspend -- the South only partially -- a five-year-old military accord established to de-escalate tensions on the peninsula. Separately, the top diplomats of South Korea, Japan and the United States "strongly condemned the launch for its destabilizing effect on the region" after a joint phone call, the US State Department said in a statement.

The launch "used ballistic missile technology in violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions," it said. Seoul's spy agency has said that Pyongang, after two failed attempts to put a satellite in orbit earlier this year, received help from Moscow for this week's successful launch.

# West cannot have AI monopoly so Russia must up its game: Putin

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin warned that the West should not be allowed to develop a monopoly in the sphere of artificial intelligence (AI), and said that a much more ambitious Russian strategy for the development of AI would be approved shortly.

China and the United States are leading the development of AI, which many researchers and global leaders think will transform the world and revolutionise society in a way similar to the introduction of computers in the 20th century. Moscow has ambitions to be an AI power too, but its efforts have been set back due to the war in Ukraine which prompted many talented specialists to leave Russia and triggered Western sanctions that have hindered the country's high-tech imports.

Speaking to an AI conference in Moscow beside Sberbank CEO German Gref, Putin said that trying to ban AI was impossible despite the sometimes troubling ethical and social consequences of new technologies. "You cannot ban something - if we ban it then it will develop somewhere else and we will fall behind," Putin said of AI, though he said ethical questions should be resolved with reference to "traditional" Russian culture.

Putin cautioned that some Western online search systems and generative models ignored or even cancelled Russian language and culture. Such Western algorithms, he said, essentially thought Russia did not exist. "Of course, the monopoly and domination of such systems, such alien systems is unacceptable and dangerous," he said. China and the United States are far ahead of other countries when it comes to AI research, according to most rankings, though a second tier of European countries as well as India, Russia, Israel, South Korea and Japan also figure in the rankings.



For Russia, though, the war in Ukraine and efforts to mobilise combatants triggered an outflow of large numbers of educated Russians while Western sanctions have cut international cooperation with AI powerhouses in the West. "In all spheres of our life, humanity is beginning a new chapter of its existence," Putin said of AI, adding that Russia needed to up its game on AI both in ambitions and execution.

"In the very near future, as one of the first steps, a presidential decree will be signed and a new version of the national strategy for the development of artificial intelligence will be approved," Putin told the conference. Putin said the new strategy would make significant changes, including "expanding fundamental and applied research in the field of generative artificial intelligence and large language models".

Russian researchers, he said, should be given better access to supercomputers - which he said needed to be boosted by orders of magnitude - while top level Russian scientific education about AI needed to be improved. Russia, he said, would have to change laws, boost international cooperation, and ensure much more investment for the development of AI. Putin hailed Sberbank and Yandex for developing their own generative AI and language models - which he said needed to be developed further and applied to sectors of the economy. Gref is transforming Sberbank, once known as a staid former Soviet savings bank where people queued for hours to pay bills, overseeing investments in AI, cloud services, big data and smart devices. He told Putin in June that Sberbank was making around \$3 billion annually from \$1 billion in AI investments.

# Armenia's leader snubs meeting of Russia-dominated security grouping

MOSCOW (AP): A Russian-dominated security grouping held a summit in Belarus with the absence of one of its members, Armenia, which has been irked by what it sees as a lack of support over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Speaking at the meeting of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CSTO, Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed what he called the group's role in securing peace and stability in the region.

But in a sign of the widening rift between Russia and Armenia, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan snubbed the summit in the Belarusian capital of Minsk, citing his government's dissatisfaction with the organization. Pashinyan and his officials have emphasized that Armenia doesn't plan to opt out of the grouping altogether. Armenia has previously canceled joint drills and ignored ministerial meetings of the CSTO, which includes Russia and the former Soviet Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Armenian authorities have accused Russian peacekeepers who were deployed to Nagorno-Karabakh after a 2020 war of failing to stop September's onslaught by Azerbaijan, which reclaimed control of the

Armenian-populated region in a 24-hour blitz following two decades of separatist rule.

Moscow has rejected the accusations, arguing that its troops didn't have a mandate to intervene and charging that Pashinyan himself had effectively paved the way for the collapse of separatist rule in the region by previously acknowledging Azerbaijan's sovereignty over it. The mutual accusations have further strained relations between Armenia and its longtime ally Russia, which has accused the Armenian government of a growing pro-Western tilt.

Valery Karbalevich, an independent political analyst, noted that Armenia's absence from the summit reflected the waning Kremlin influence. "The post-Soviet alliances were based on Russia's subsidies, and Russia now is facing serious problems with resources amid the fighting in Ukraine," he said. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov voiced regret about Pashinyan snubbing summit, saying that Moscow hopes that "Armenia isn't changing its foreign policy vector and it remains our ally and strategic partner."

But the summit's host, Belarusian

President Alexander Lukashenko, was more outspoken in his criticism of Armenia, saying without naming Pashinyan that "some of our partners took steps and made statements that were provocative." "If you have complaints, you must voice them in an eye-to-eye conversation instead of dumping stuff to the media," he said, adding that it was "irresponsible and short-sighted" to create a "conflict situation" in the group to the benefit of the hostile West.

Lukashenko is a staunch ally of Moscow who has relied on Russian subsidies and political support throughout his three-decade rule and allowed the Kremlin to use his country's territory for sending troops into Ukraine. Speaking after summit, he hailed the declared deployment of some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus earlier this year, arguing that "only the existence of the powerful weapons could guarantee security in the region." The declared deployment of the Russian weapons in Belarus territory marked a new stage in the Kremlin's nuclear saber-rattling over its invasion of Ukraine and was another bid to discourage the West from increasing military support to Kyiv.

# EU sends police reinforcements to Finland over fears

HELSINKI (AP): The European Union's border agency said that it will send dozens of officers and equipment as reinforcements to Finland to help police its borders amid suspicion that Russia is behind an influx of migrants arriving to the country.

Frontex said that it expects a "significant reinforcement" made up of 50 border guard officers and other staff, along with patrol cars and additional equipment, to be put in place as soon as next week. More than 800 migrants without proper visas and documentation have arrived in Finland so far since August, with more than 700 in November alone by the end of — compared to a few dozen in September and October. They include people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Kenya, Morocco and Somalia.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, who addressed lawmakers at Parliament, called the situation "a serious disruption of border security" that affects the national security of Finland, whose population is 5.6 million. "Finland cannot be influenced, Finland cannot be destabilized," Orpo said with a decisive tone. "Russia started this, and Russia also can stop it," The Kremlin denies the allegations. Finnish border guards and soldiers began erecting barriers, including concrete obstacles topped with barbed-wire at some crossing points on the Nordic country's lengthy border with Russia.

The government decided to close four busy Russia border crossings in southeastern Finland last week over suspicions of foul play by Russian border officials. It plans to only leave one Arctic crossing

point open for migrants seeking asylum. Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijten said that sending border reinforcements is "a demonstration of the European Union's unified stand against hybrid challenges affecting one of its members."

Finland has nine crossing points on the border with Russia, which runs 1,340 kilometers (830 miles) and serves as the EU's easternmost frontier as well as a significant part of NATO's northeastern flank. Finnish authorities believe that Russia has become more hostile toward Finland since the country joined NATO in April. Finnish border officials told The Associated Press that there's been a remarkable change in Russia's modus operandi at the Russia-Finland border zone, which is normally under the heavy control of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB.

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said this week that the challenges on Finland's border gave her a feeling of "deja vu," two years after Belarus began driving migrants into Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in what European officials said was an attempt to destabilize the 27-nation bloc. "The Finnish border is the EU's border," Johansson told EU lawmakers in a message of support to Helsinki. "The European Union is behind you. You can count on our full support to protect the EU border and uphold fundamental rights."

Most of the migrants — many seen wearing sneakers in Finland's harsh winter conditions — are young men in their 20s and 30s, but some are families with children and women, border guard data and pho-

tos indicate. Nearly all have arrived at the border zone on bicycles that Finnish and Russian media reports say were provided and sold to them. The governor of Russia's northern Murmansk region recently said the region would be put on "high alert" after Finland announced that it would close all border crossings between the two countries apart from one.

Gov. Andrei Chibis said that he expected the number of foreigners trying to cross to Finland from the last remaining open border post in the Murmansk region to "exponentially" increase. Chibis said there were 400 people waiting to enter Finland at the more southerly Finnish Salla border post, of which only 50 were allowed to cross.

Estonia, Russia's Baltic neighbor, has also seen a recent surge in number of migrants attempting to enter the country through a crossing point in the border city of Narva. About 30 migrants, mostly Somalis and Syrians, have been turned back to Russia in the past seven days after they didn't seek asylum in Estonia. "This is fully state orchestrated (by Russia). Fully," Estonian Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur said during a news conference following a meeting with Nordic and Baltic defense ministers in Stockholm.

"In Russia, there's a border zone up to 10 kilometers (about six miles) that you cannot enter without the permission of the FSB. And so by accident, all these hundreds of migrants are ending up in one border crossing point in Finland with bicycles during the winter-time," Pevkur told reporters. "Come on, seriously?" he said.



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## The destiny of better Pakistan

**T**HE newly formed Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is currently doing miracles in resetting the trajectory of the derailed economy, reviving new life in national institutions, and revitalizing a ray of hope in the nation, that was lost due to ever-rising inflation and rumours of an imminent economic collapse of the fragile nation. During a recent session of the apex committee of the SIFC, the forum reviewed the existing level of collaboration with partnering nations and unanimously approved various initiatives to be broached with friendly countries through the fast-track implementation of various projects conceived under the initiatives.

Pakistan, a 240 million-strong nation with plenty of employed and untapped resources, diverse weather conditions, vast cultivated lands, and a talented workforce slid into an acute economic nemesis and institutional degradation which pushed an affluent developing nation to the edge of bankruptcy and economic default. Current day Pakistan faces diverse problems such as economic volatility, food insecurity, a lack of healthcare and quality education, poor law and order situation, and flourishing terrorism, along with non-deliverance of the national institutions that practically choked the South Asian nation. The government struck a unique puzzle in that the government institutions failed to deliver to the masses, failing the government to maintain the writ of the law and implement policy decisions in the country. Finally, the previous government in collaboration with Military leadership conceived the idea of a high-power national forum of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to steer the country out of prevailing economic chaos and degradation.

The SIFC conceived a nationwide strategy to bring reform in each nook and corner and clear the yearslong baggage of each institution including removal of the Kunda system and recovery of bills in WAPDA and OGDCL, curbing money laundering and smuggling of currency, along with putting a cap on bad practices and manipulation of forex market which successfully controlled rupee volatility and brought stability in the national economy. Historically, the SIFC played an important role in restoring investors' trust in the local market along with attracting and facilitating local/foreign investment in the country. It successfully streamlined bureaucratic processes, eliminated red tape, and resolved issues faced by investors and traders in the country. The SIFC aims to improve the overall investment climate in Pakistan for businesses to thrive thereby providing a conducive environment for businesses, traders, entrepreneurs, and investors to ensure sustainable economic growth and development in the country.

Currently, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is engaged with several friendly nations including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, China, Malaysia, Qatar, Kuwait, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, along with engaging Pakistani diaspora abroad for future investment in Pakistan while ensuring them all essential facilities, the safety of their investment and return of profit. In fact, the functions being carried out by the most prestigious and powerful platform are the key jobs of certain ministries, and departments in the country which they did not perform due to a lack of interest, slackness, and incapability of their highups. The same is the case with the flourishing of extremism and terrorism in our society, which is now being dealt with by the federal government and Pakistan military after local and provincial governments failed to address the challenge. Such behaviour and recurrent negligence are highly denounceable and merit stern accountability from political leadership. Unfortunately, such extraordinary setups like SIFC could not function permanently in parallel with formal multi-layer administration in the country. Therefore, the federal government must introduce reforms in each sector and every institution so the government departments operate mechanically and their failure must be checked accordingly to set standards, promote nationalism, and lay the foundations for a civilized society and better Pakistan.

## The malevolent of Egyptian dictator

**E**GYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has recently told his European counterparts that a future Palestinian state could be demilitarized and have a temporary international security presence. During a joint press stakeout with Spanish and Belgian Prime Ministers in Cairo, the Self-elected Egyptian dictator echoed in self-motivation on behalf of the Palestinian people that his country was ready for a demilitarized autonomous Palestinian State, guarded upon by the NATO forces, UN forces, or Arab or American military until a security mechanism was formulated for the nascent Palestinian state and Israeli. El-Sisi advocated for a Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which has remained out of reach so far.

Historically, the role of Egyptian dictator General Abdel Fattah Ei-Sisi during the weeks-long Hamas-Israel conflict has been malicious and highly condemnable. He portrays himself as the biggest supporter of Palestinians on one side and corroborates with Benyamen Netanyahu on the other side by imposing a continuous blockade on Rafah crossing in the garb of Israeli airstrikes until Qatar and the United States brokered a temporary pause/ truce between Israel and Hamas. Hundreds of trucks full of humanitarian aid have been waiting on the Egyptian side while thousands of injured Palestinians and foreigners were waiting for the opening of the border crossing in Gaza but the Egyptian dictator did not move an inch until Tel Aviv nodded Ok.

Presently, the successor of Hosini Mubbarik and Gamal Abdel Nasser has echoed another anti-Palestinian prophecy unashamedly that no non-Arab and pro-Israeli leader dares to discuss at open forums or on the media. How a newly formed Palestinian state could survive without credible defense capability and security guarantees or whether El-Sisi's darling Israel would be ready to disarm itself? In fact, the Egyptian dictator is currently safeguarding his undemocratic/dictatorial rule by appeasing Western nations, Israel, and the United States while playing the role of a fifth column within the Arab world. As El-Sisi has been exposed at an early stage of collusion, he must not lobby on behalf of Palestine and Arabs, who had always been stung by their own flanks otherwise the enemies would not been able to bifurcate Arab land into pieces.

### Important Notice

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



## Getting away with a call to genocide in Gaza

Andrew Mitrovica

**I**T was a spontaneous moment of honesty and clarity. Representative Angie Nixon, a Democrat, was speaking earlier this month on the floor of the Florida legislature in support of a resolution she sponsored calling for "de-escalation" and a ceasefire to end the wanton killing of Palestinians in Gaza and beyond.

Her voice rising with a mixture of grief and exasperation, Nixon asked her colleagues in the chamber this question: "We are at 10,000 dead Palestinians. How many will be enough?" Republican Representative Michelle Salzman replied - instantly. "All of them," she said. Astonished, Nixon paused from her prepared remarks to acknowledge what other members of the legislature also heard - Salzman's blatant invitation to genocide.

"One of my colleagues just said 'All of them.' Wow." Wow, indeed. The muted reaction to Salzman's burst of genocidal honesty and clarity is an instructive example of the engrained, marquee-sized hypocrisy that defines how most Western politicians, journalists, and the ready roster of frothing "pressure groups" tar any critique of Israel as a "blood libel" or "anti-Semitic", but say and do nothing when one of their own promotes mass murder. Despite Salzman's predictable, hackneyed claim that the brief stir her sinister remark provoked was "fake" news, Nixon, was, rightly, having none of it. "I was clear in what I was talking about, which were the lives of innocent Palestinians. Period," Nixon told a local TV station in Florida. "She said that when I asked how many Palestinian lives have to end. She was clear. She said: 'All of them.'"

Nixon and the Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations insisted that, at the least, Salzman be censured, if not resign. "Salzman's words are incredibly dangerous and dehumanising to Palestinians here at home

and under the Israeli occupation," executive director Imam Abdullah Jaber said. "She must face her party's censure and a public repudiation from all Florida legislators."

Of course, unlike Palestinian-American Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and the scores of writers, artists and citizens who have been pilloried, censured, fired, or otherwise "cancelled" for having taken a humane stand with the Palestinians, Salzman has avoided the same blunt, life-altering fate. Salzman was not censured, nor has she quit. Nixon's ceasefire and "de-escalation" resolution was defeated by a vote of 104 to 2. And, during the "debate" over her failed gambit, it was Nixon who was assailed by Republicans and a number of her prostrate Democratic colleagues with the usual palette of distortions and lies. Despite publicly condemning Hamas's "terrorist attacks", Nixon was, in effect, branded a "terrorist" sympathiser for backing an "immediate ceasefire". She was also accused of inflating the number of killed Palestinians and scolded for referring to "occupied Palestine". Meanwhile, Salzman escaped largely unscathed and, after quickly stamping out the fleeting fuss, has perhaps even emerged emboldened. On cue, Salzman trotted out on X the canard that her true target was Hamas, followed by this performative, eulogistic bit of nonsense: the "heartbreaking loss of Palestinian lives is never a desire of mine."

Sure, it isn't. Salzman's injunction to genocide was not "inflammatory" rhetoric. Rather, it was a detestable decree: to watch comfortably from sun-drenched Florida as, week after week, Palestinians, including infants and children, huddled in the darkness of the shattered remains of occupied Gaza and the West Bank, are being traumatised, maimed, and killed en masse with indiscriminate efficiency by Israel. Salzman's sick suggestion

did not merit, to my knowledge, much attention in the major US news media seized by the "Israel-Gaza conflict". Nor did it earn the immediate rebuke of cliché-addicted President Joe Biden or his trigger-happy surrogates inside and outside the White House who are quick to denounce anyone, in any quarter, who challenges the stubborn, state-sanctioned narrative that Israel is always the saint and never the sinner. Not one word. The evangelical "pressure groups" who have pressed for the banning from public life of writers, politicians, artists, and so many others for demonstrating or expressing solidarity with doomed Palestinians, went mute in the face of Salzman's call to genocide. Again, not one word of condemnation or reproach. Only complicit silence.

Still, any attempt to dismiss Salzman's foul response as an aberration would be a mistake. As the lethal, unrelenting horror endured by Palestinians continues unchecked, my fear is that too many of Israel's allies would join Salzman in answering Representative Nixon's urgent query with: "All of them." Among them is Dr Darren Klugman, a paediatrician with Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. In a series of chilling social media posts, Klugman, like Salzman, made plain his craving for not only the mass expulsion of Palestinians from their ancestral home, but their blanket erasure. Klugman described Palestinians as "barbaric," "savage" and "blood thirsty, morally depraved animals who want nothing short of every inch of Israel and all Jews dead".

Klugman wrote that it was "time to reclaim Gaza" since there "is lots of sand for Palestinians in Sinai which Israel gave to Egypt". Finally, in reply to a post by Palestinian writer Mariam Barghouti decrying how "Israeli policymakers are quite literally calling for a large-scale slaughter" of Palestinians,

Klugman wrote: "G-d willing." It is, I suppose, too pat to argue that, if a Palestinian physician working in the United States took to social media to announce such obscenities about Israelis, the denunciations and penalties would be swift and pervasive. Johns Hopkins Hospital has put Klugman "on leave" while it investigates his "deeply disturbing social media posts".

While a handful of American national news outlets covered the appalling story, Biden and company did not volunteer, nor were they asked, to comment on or condemn Klugman's spigot of hate. The usually garrulous "pressure groups" have adopted a "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" attitude. Editors working at "elite" US media outlets confirmed their establishment credentials by training their editorial sights and resources instead on the White House-and-Congress-approved "March for Israel" that appears to have attracted fewer people than Donald Trump's inauguration. Their effusive coverage missed the rhetorical "doublespeak" at the core of an event that applauded and championed the surreal notion that war is peace. When the self-proclaimed "peace guy" and ubiquitous CNN celebrity Van Jones proposed that the carpet-bombing of Palestinian civilians should halt, the crowd of about 300,000 jeered and broke out into a fulsome "no ceasefire" chant. By now, it should be apparent that "no ceasefire" has become a polite euphemism for keep killing Palestinian kids, keep killing their mamas and babas, keep bombing homes, schools, mosques, keep attacking and desecrating hospitals, keep forcing thousands of old and infirm Palestinians to walk for miles to find "safe haven" where none exists, keep food, water, and fuel from human beings desperate to stay alive in the ever-present prospect of death. Keep committing genocide.

Michelle Salzman and Darren Klugman would, no doubt, shout "no ceasefire", too.

## Defeats - yet things could get still worse for the SNP

Tom Harris

**E**VERY week seems to be worse for Humza Yousaf than the last one. The question is where this unprecedented catalogue of betrayals, deceptions and incompetence will lead his party. In the last few weeks we've seen Scottish Labour deal a significant blow to the nationalists in the Rutherglen by-election, placing a question mark over how many of its Westminster seats will remain in SNP hands after next year's general election.

Shortly after that, we saw the first ever direct defection from the SNP to the Conservatives when East Kilbride MP, Dr Lisa Cameron, crossed the floor, throwing accusations of bullying at her former colleagues. But the first minister might now be justified in remembering such events with nostalgic fondness, given what has happened since.

At the weekend we witnessed yet another defection from SNP ranks, this time - and for the first time ever - a Member of the Scottish Parliament.

Former minister and leadership contender, Ash Regan, announced she was resigning the party whip and joining Alba, the break-away nationalist outfit founded by former first minister Alex Salmond. That was far more of a blow to Humza Yousaf than he tried to make out (Regan's departure was "no great loss", said a rather ungracious first minister). Alba is to the SNP what, in a previous era, Ukup was to the Conservative Party: a troublesome and more radical splinter group whose claims to be the true voice of the movement may hold some appeal to activists frustrated with the current government's failings. In the same weekend that Regan became Alba's first ever MSP, the media was catching up with concerns expressed at the UK Covid inquiry that the Scottish Government was renegeing on its previous undertakings to co-operate with its investigation into how the pandemic was handled across Britain.

Nicola Sturgeon promised, at various times in her leadership, to lead the most open and transparent of administrations. Yet now we are presented with a bona fide scandal: none of the WhatsApp messages exchanged by Scottish ministers dealing with the crisis has been made available to the inquiry, despite repeated requests. In fact, it has emerged that senior ministers and health officials are likely to have deleted such messages.

The irony is that nationalist supporters have been among the first to criticise Boris Johnson for his own failure to provide certain WhatsApp messages to the inquiry. Some of them have even taken to Twitter/X to justify the Scottish Government's actions (or inactions) on the basis that Johnson did the same. The circular and self-damning logic is too obvious to have to point out. Meanwhile, the Scottish public are getting yet another glimpse of the hypocrisy and deception which continues to

underpin the SNP and undermine Sturgeon's own legacy and reputation.

And finally, like the couple of minutes that used to round off the evening news bulletins with whimsical stories about talking dogs and skateboarding ducks, we had the Scottish Greens. The party that sits in government in Edinburgh as part of a parliamentary agreement with the SNP announced via its co-leader Lorna Slater (because this is the Scottish Greens, so of course they have co-leaders) that it may well vote for Scottish Labour to lead the next Scottish Government after the 2026 Holyrood elections. Talk about a kick in the teeth for their government colleagues. It was a bold move by Lorna Slater, the minister whose reputation for competence has been sealed by her handling of the Deposit Return Scheme (scrapped at huge cost) and Marine Protected Areas (scrapped after outrage from the fishing industry).

The Greens have long benefited by being the pilot fish to the SNP's shark, attracting the second (regional list) votes of nationalist voters who recognise that if the SNP are successful at a constituency level, then a second vote for them in the proportional lists would be wasted. So many of them opt for the independence-supporting Greens instead which, in 2021, resulted in the party winning eight seats. Her comments made few waves but it could turn out to be as significant for the SNP in the long term as those other, more dramatic, developments of the last few days.

If even the Greens are starting to recognise that independence is no longer the priority of most Scots, then the salience of that issue might no longer be the drag on Labour support that it has been for the last eight years. And that would be bad news indeed for Mr Yousaf. Further, we should bear in mind that overshadowing all this, Scotland is still waiting for the other shoe to drop - an announcement as to whether charges will be brought as part of the police investigation into SNP finances, an investigation that has already entailed the arrest (and subsequent release without charge) of Nicola Sturgeon, her husband, Peter Murrell, and the party's former treasurer. Ms Sturgeon and the others deny all wrongdoing.

It's almost enough to make one feel sorry for Yousaf. Almost - until we are reminded that he is one of those ministers named by Jamie Dawson KC, counsel to the Covid-19 Inquiry, as having failed to provide the vital WhatsApp messages that the inquiry and bereaved relatives have the right to view. Things could get better for the first minister, of course. He may defy his critics and steer his ship back onto an election-winning course that attracts the confidence of the nation. But at the moment such a prospect looks fanciful. The rot has set in, and every week looks set to make matters worse for Yousaf and his party.

## America's 'dual' concerns for Israel-Gaza victims driven by hypocrisy

Ray Hanania

**N**O word defines the American approach to policy, violence or peace in the Middle East more than "dual." That is because America long ago decided to support Israel no matter what it does or what it demands. The US' relationship with Israel is based on hypocrisy and exceptions — hypocrisy on violence and exceptions that benefit Israel over others.

This dual policy is most apparent in the ongoing brutal Israeli assault on the 2 million civilians trapped in the Gaza Strip, from where Hamas militants on Oct. 7 launched a horrendous assault on Israeli targets that surprised the world, particularly Israel itself. Regardless of the exaggerations made regarding the attack, many innocent civilians and off-duty Israeli soldiers were killed, wounded or kidnapped.

Since Israel's military tightly controls and censors media coverage of everything involving its conduct toward Palestinians, it is difficult to know where the truth ends and the lies begin. But the word dual falls in line pretty quickly.

For example, the US has a dual approach to news coming from the conflict. Whatever Israel asserts in its media propaganda campaigns, American officials embrace without question and stick to it even when evidence ultimately shows it to be an exaggeration or an outright lie. This dual approach to violence is stunning. The Hamas militants who attacked Israel on Oct. 7 took the lives of more than 1,000 civilians and 300 Israeli soldiers. US officials have joined Israel in expressing outrage at the "carnage," while considering all the fatalities as "victims," including those serving in Israel's military.

The duality surfaces when the same American officials brush aside the even more staggering death toll resulting from Israel's bombardment of Gaza's civilian population, which has destroyed hundreds of residential buildings, hospitals, mosques and churches and killed more than 6,000 Palestinians. This number will continue to rise as long as the US blocks calls for a ceasefire.

President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony

Blinken have both rejected calls for a ceasefire that would end the killing of innocent civilians — a reflection of America's dual policy, which cares for Israeli lives but lacks concern for Palestinian lives. To obfuscate that duality, Biden and Blinken have both expressed a need to stop the killings of civilians, without mentioning that the only killings taking place now are of the Palestinians being indiscriminately targeted by Israel.

In another example of America's dual policy, the Biden administration is working hard to evacuate Americans who wish to leave Israel. In fact, despite concerns about Israel's qualifications and commitment to applying it fairly, Biden fast-tracked Tel Aviv's entry to the Visa Waiver Program that will allow Israelis to enter the US without requiring a visa. But what the Biden administration is not doing is evacuating Americans who are in Gaza. Hundreds of American citizens are huddled at the Rafah crossing. They cannot cross and the US has done

nothing to help them.

The word dual also impacts citizenship loyalty. Many Israelis have dual US-Israeli citizenship. Regardless of their origins, all Israelis over the age of 18 are required to serve in the Israeli military. In contrast, there is no mandatory military service for American citizens. So, Israeli Americans do not have to defend America, just Israel. When the US expresses concern for "American lives in Israel," particularly those being held hostage, they do not address that issue.

As an American of Palestinian heritage who proudly served in the US military during the Vietnam War, I think Americans who wish to serve in the military should do so in the American armed forces, not those of a foreign country. A question neither Biden nor Blinken will address is whether the American hostages being held by Hamas are actually Americans or if they are Israelis who enjoy dual citizenship and who serve in Israel's military, but not America's. Is it right to use

the label "American"?

Finally, the US has a distinct dual policy when it comes to Americans killed in the conflict. If you are an Israeli American, your life is sacrosanct. Both Biden and Blinken have repeatedly and strongly expressed concerns for those Americans. But how has the US government responded when Palestinian Americans are killed? In nearly every instance, it has expressed weak concern for their tragic fate.

Last year, two Americans were killed by Israeli soldiers. In January 2022, a 78-year-old Palestinian American citizen, Omar Assad, was brutally beaten, hooded and abused during a nighttime raid on a Palestinian village in the West Bank. He was not involved in any terrorist activities and an embarrassed Israeli government said it would investigate and punish the soldiers involved. Many months later, Israel announced that, while the soldiers would face disciplinary measures, no charges would be filed.

In May 2022, an Israeli soldier shot and killed Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian American citizen

who was working as a journalist covering an Israeli assault on the Palestinian city of Jenin. There has been no justice for that killing. Not even any tough words about wanting to get to the bottom of the case. The US merely accepted Israel's assertion that she was shot accidentally.

Going back further, American activist Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer in 2003, but her killing was never investigated by the US government. In 2010, 18-year-old Turkish American Furkan Dogan was killed by Israeli soldiers on the Mavi Marmara during the Gaza flotilla raid. And, in 2016, 16-year-old Palestinian American Mahmoud Shaalan was killed by Israeli troops while crossing a checkpoint in the West Bank. The unbalanced expressions of concern from the American government reflect a dual morality at every level — one that is higher for Israel and nearly nonexistent for Palestinians. Many people recognize that the word dual, in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, really means hypocrisy.

Arab News



# There may be more to Dean Phillips’ ‘moon shot’ presidential bid than meets the eye

Arick Wierson

ONE of the biggest head-scratchers in national politics as of late is the insurgent candidacy of Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips for the Democratic presidential nomination, an idea he had been publicly toying with for several months. Phillips formally joined the race by filing paperwork for "Dean 24, Inc." with the Federal Election Commission Thursday night and on Friday he registered for the New Hampshire Democratic primary, a contest in which President Joe Biden will not appear on the ballot.

New Hampshire has defiantly resisted losing its "first-in-the-nation" primary status amid a shake-up in which the Democratic National Committee reordered the presidential nominating calendar last year. The move has not only kept Biden off the ballot in New Hampshire, but also created an opening for Phillips to pick up an early primary victory. And despite the surfeit of disparaging headline descriptors that characterize Phillip's bid as "long-shot," "moon shot" or "the end of his political career," there may be more to Phillips' strategy than initially meets the eye.

Over the years, I have gotten to know Phillips fairly well. Not only do I reside in his congressional district - in fact we lived in the same neighborhood just west of the Twin Cities for several years - but I even chronicled some of the more folksy and refreshing aspects of his initial congressional campaign in 2018 for The Observer, in particular his use of a symbolic 1960 International Harvester "Government Repair Truck" as an effective campaign prop. And although Phillips is a relatively new face for most Americans, his backstory certainly seems made for Hollywood, and, as Friday's announcement suggests, perhaps the national political stage as well. Phillips never met his biological father, Artie Pfefer, an army

helicopter pilot who died fighting in Vietnam when Phillips was only six months old. Despite the early tragedy in the young boy's life, his luck changed dramatically when, only a few years later, his mother Deedee married Edward "Eddie" Phillips, the owner of one of America's oldest distilleries, the Phillips Distilling Company. Eddie adopted and raised Dean, and gave him the last name he carries to this day.

As a boy, the young scion studied at the prestigious Blake School (whose alumni include fellow Minnesota politicians, former US Sens. Al Franken and Mark Dayton), followed by an undergraduate degree at Brown University and an MBA at the University of Minnesota. But instead of entering into politics straight away, Phillips spent most of his career working in the family business and, later, building and growing a gelato brand known as Talenti. He then sold the company to packaged goods brand Unilever in 2014. With his family wealth and the success from the Talenti exit, Phillips is now worth close to an estimated \$80 million, according to Fortune. Yet it was only after achieving all this success in the business world that, in 2018, he decided to jump into the political fray. Sensing an opening in Minnesota's purplish and suburban third congressional district, which has been in moderate Republican hands for around 60 years, Phillips took the leap.

Given how many voters in the district had been turned off by the first two years of Donald Trump's presidency, Phillips sensed it was a vulnerable seat. It was a big bet for someone with no prior political experience, but it paid off. And it's maybe some of that same thinking about political risk-taking which prompted Phillips' move to challenge Biden as well. Still, like many

people inside the beltway and around the country today, I, too, have been struggling to understand the rationale behind Phillips' move to challenge his own party's incumbent president. What does a middle-aged congressman, just midway through his third term and with no real landmark legislative victories to point to hope to accomplish by challenging an already uncertain road ahead by Biden - especially with the prospect that whoever wins the primary will have to face off against Trump, a candidate who represents a real existential threat to democracy and the rule of law?

Seeking an answer, I first turned to veteran Democratic consultant James Carville to see what he made of the Minnesota congressman's nascent presidential run. "I think Dean Phillips is well-intentioned, and I think the party deserves a chance at considering other options," Carville told me. "And for all those who feel that somehow this run from a challenger might put a chink in Biden's armor, weakening him before he heads into battle with Trump - that's total nonsense." "The real test will be the New Hampshire primary - how well Phillips performs and how much effort the Biden campaign actually puts into a possible write-in campaign will matter. But all this will certainly shift a lot more attention to the Democrats," Phillips, it would seem, is making a calculation that, despite the heartburn his candidacy is causing among fellow Democrats, the opening in New Hampshire is a "can't miss" opportunity.

Outgunned financially (Biden is sitting on a \$91 million campaign war chest while Phillips is being forced to seed his own campaign effort with a \$2 million loan from his personal fortune) and with almost zero national name recognition, winning an uncontested early primary might be the boost he needs

to become a much larger figure in the national conversation. It's hard to argue that Biden would have ended up picking Kamala Harris and Pete Buttigieg for vice president and transportation secretary had they not launched their own "long-shot" presidential runs back in 2019.

Not that Phillips is necessarily eyeing a cabinet-level position in a second Biden term. He is still on the ballot for his congressional seat in his home district in Minnesota, although he will likely face a formidable primary challenger. More likely, Phillips is looking to use the opening in New Hampshire to get his name in play for a 2028 presidential run, when Biden will either be at the end of his term-limits or too old to run again. Moreover, by sliding into the challenger role, Phillips has adroitly positioned himself as a potentially viable alternative should Biden's health - always a question given his age - deteriorate at some point between now and the Democratic National Convention.

But no matter what the endgame of Phillips' strategy may be, it will require mending some fences along the way. Phillips' announcement has seemingly singlehandedly irked the entirety of the Democratic Party firmament. Even his home state governor, Democrat Tim Walz, who up until now has been a strong ally of Phillips, seems a bit peeved, telling the Minneapolis Star Tribune that "[Phillips] is not going to be the nominee...we're going to have our nominee in President Biden, and that will get done and we'll move on." But Phillips does not appear to be dissuaded. Although he is the grandson of the renowned advice columnist Pauline Phillips, also known as "Dear Abby," for now he is not taking advice from any of his fellow Democrats. Only time will tell if he is making the right move or if he is writing his own political obituary as some in the media have presaged.

CNN

# Britain is hurtling towards a debt crisis. We're too addicted to handouts to care

Daniel Hannan

WHAT is the biggest threat facing Britain? The war in Ukraine? Chinese cyberattacks? The prospect that the Gaza horrors might spill over into domestic unrest? No. Vaster than any of these is the immediacy of our debt crisis.

If you think that sounds glib, consider that we are now spending more on servicing our national debt than on our entire defence budget. The Government is borrowing at around 5 per cent, a higher rate than at any point since 1998. But with a key difference. In 1998, our total debt was equivalent to about 35 per cent of our economy. Today, it has surpassed 100 per cent, and shows no sign of dropping. A country can keep borrowing sustainably as long as its economy grows as fast as its debt - or, at least, as long as investors believe that it will. But boosting growth requires decisions that are, in the short term, unpopular. And, as Liz Truss found, politicians are no longer prepared to tolerate bad headlines.

In their partial defence, those politicians are accurately representing their electorates. The lockdowns did not just habituate us to handouts. They destroyed our sense of value. How could a government that spent billions of pounds on furlough payments then turn around and deny a much smaller increase in pensions or unemployment benefit or free school meals? Every country faces a variant of the same problem. The closures were costlier than anyone wanted to acknowledge at the time, and were followed by a kind of Long Lockdown: a depression of economic activity that lasted long after restrictions were lifted. We see the impact all around us: higher prices, higher taxes, higher waiting lists, higher absenteeism rates.

Far from roaring back with pent-up energy, the world economy grew by an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2022 and is predicted to grow even more slowly this year. According to the IMF, "beyond 2023, global growth is forecast to decline to about 3.3 per cent over the medium term". To put that figure in context, growth during the two decades that preceded the pandemic averaged 3.8 per cent.

No wonder bond prices are spiking. British commentators are rarely so parochial as when trying to fit a global trend into their domestic narrative. But, for the hard of thinking, rates have not risen "because of Brexit" or "because Truss crashed the economy". If anything, Britain is faring slightly less badly than the EU.

No, what we are seeing is a recognition by the bond markets that governments around the world are

unwilling to bring public spending into line with economic reality. They are, for the most part, carrying on as if the lockdowns had not happened, as if the trillions conjured into existence through quantitative easing and placed at their disposal reflected actual growth. To put it another way, far from paying off the debts they incurred during the pandemic, governments do not intend even to let spending fall back to where it was in January 2020. The furlough schemes and business grants may have been wound up, but the increases in health and social security spending are being treated as permanent, indeed defended as if they were an ancient birthright. Hence Noel Quinn's warning last week that the world was at a tipping point. The chief executive of HSBC noted that governments had been on an unprecedented borrowing spree since 2010, first because of the banking crisis and then because of the pandemic. He evidently grasps that spending levels intended as an emergency response to a once-in-a-generation shutdown have been normalised.

When voters, numbed by the gargantuan sums that ministers boasted of during the lockdowns, demand help with fuel bills or mortgages, they don't mean that they want the Government to cut inflation; they mean they want handouts. Governments find it hard to say no, even though excessive spending is what caused the problem in the first place. We are in a doom loop: higher spending can lead to lower growth, which fuels demand for higher spending. Quantitative easing was introduced in March 2009 as a one-off response to the banking crisis, a nip of whisky to revive us when we were low. But we soon became addicted, pouring ourselves new slugs whenever things looked rosy. Like all addicts, we had to keep increasing the dose. But while staying drunk might stave off the hangover for a while, it makes it worse when it hits.

The Bank of England was unusually irresponsible, but similar things were done by the European Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve and others. The money they created was, in a manner of speaking, borrowed from our future selves. Paying it back was always going to be painful.

The trouble is, we never faced up to the cost of what we were doing. Lockdowns were a holiday from reality, and we enjoyed being paid to stay at home. We don't appreciate being told that price rises and slow growth rates are the direct consequence of the policies

which we - 93 per cent of us, at any rate - demanded.

Instead, we blame the Government, becoming irritated by things that we barely used to notice. The upsurge in Tory sleaze stories is a good example. MPs are probably not behaving any better or worse than usual. But, once we turn against a party, every backbench peccadillo enrages us. It is impossible not to feel sorry for Rishi Sunak. Until now, he has lived a life where intelligence, good manners and hard work were rewarded at every turn: a First from Oxford, a Fulbright Scholarship, Goldman Sachs, a happy marriage, a safe seat, Cabinet in four years, Prime Minister in seven. He is working as diligently as ever (his speech last week on the dangers and opportunities of artificial intelligence was insightful, pertinent and largely unreported) but, somehow, the universe has stopped responding. Sunak's party conference speech earlier this month saw a series of what ought to have been popular initiatives - dropping impossible targets on boilers and car engines, cracking down on benefit fraud, reducing our reliance on imported oil, bringing school qualifications up to date - but no one cared.

"Long-term decisions for a brighter future" was the clunky conference slogan. But, with our sense of responsibility eroded by the lockdowns and our attention-spans worn away by screen-time, we don't want long-term decisions. We'd rather have one marshmallow now than two in 15 minutes. Since the Tory conference, Labour has moved even further ahead. On current polling, the Conservatives would hold just 149 seats. The other week's by-election losses were worse still. Mid-Bedfordshire was the 98th safest Conservative seat, Tamworth the 55th. It was in Tamworth in 1834 that the Conservative Party was born, when Sir Robert Peel addressed himself "to that class which is less interested in the contentions of party than in the maintenance of order and the cause of good government". For two centuries, Peel's party has appealed to voters as the responsible party, the adult party, the party that prefers pragmatism to sentimentality, present laughter to Utopian bliss.

Sometimes it works and sometimes, as now, it doesn't. But, vote how we will, the reckoning that Quinn spoke of is coming. Whoever is in office, the money will run out, and the decisions we have been refusing to countenance - benefits cuts, NHS reform, a higher pension age - will become inescapable. So enjoy your last shot of whisky. The delirium tremens is coming.

The Telegraph

# Sunak's plan to show difference between Labour and Tories

Jeremy Warner

ONE thing came across loud and clear from Rishi Sunak's speech on the economy on Monday; if the "fiscal space" for it exists, tax cuts will in future always be prioritised over spending increases. By effectively making this pledge, the Prime Minister hopes to create a clear demarcation line with Labour's Sir Keir Starmer, who by progressively shifting on to the centre ground has attempted to make himself virtually indistinguishable from the incumbent Government on economic policy and management of the public finances.

It's now safe to vote Labour again, Sir Keir has been telling Middle England. We won't be rocking the boat. This may be a comforting message for some, but in reality it's snake oil. Mr Sunak hopes to tease out the ever more evident differences. What do you prefer? More money in your pockets via tax cuts, or higher spending, higher borrowing, more intervention in industry and higher taxes to come? There's a clear choice. Wednesday's Autumn Statement should contain tasters on the new approach, with possibly even a small cut in income tax and/or national insurance announced as a down-payment on bigger goodies

are trying to pull off. Only last September, Downing Street said there was no room for tax-cutting at all, and that in any case, it would run counter to the greater purpose of getting inflation under control. Since then, the rate of inflation has fallen significantly, but unfortunately for the Government, almost any cut in personal taxation could still be seen as inflationary. What is the point of the Bank of England pushing down on demand by raising interest rates if the Government is only going to counter-stimulate through tax cuts? Yet if it is only a small cut, or as expected the bulk of the cuts are focused on supply side, business taxation, the Office for Budget Responsibility would probably conclude it is unlikely to make a difference, allowing Downing Street to reconcile the two positions. Badly down in the polls, the Government needs to pull something out of the hat. Mr Sunak is attempting to break away from the notion that the two main parties have coalesced around a similar approach to the economy. His private sector solutions versus Sir Keir's public sector ones is the message. It may not work, but at least we are starting to see a proper choice.

The Telegraph

# A nation in crisis: Examining America's deepening faultlines

Tariq A. Al Maena

What is going on in the USA? Those were the exact words penned to me on a recent WhatsApp message by my cousin Abdulaziz. Now Abdulaziz is no ignoramus when it comes to America, having spent a considerable number of years there and graduated from the prestigious Stanford University in California.

He displayed concern over recent trends in American politics citing the indictment of Hunter Biden, President Joe Biden's son, the drive towards impeachment of the President by members of the US Congress, the never-ending saga of an ex-President, and the multitude of legal cases against him, and finally the overthrow of Kevin McCarthy, an elected Speaker of the House of Congress by a small group of members of his own party. Indeed, just perusing these headlines would prompt most of us who have spent some time in the US for studies to wonder if there are indications that America is indeed on the decline and that the biggest challenge to their supremacy is being demonstrated by a great power to the east, China.

While I do have my own views on the subject, and I do qualify to put forth a credible argument, I did not want to sway Abdulaziz with

the opinion of an outsider looking in. And so, I turned to several contacts, born and raised Americans, who could shed some light and offer an explanation to the question of what is happening to their country. The first individual, and I chose to use first names only as requested, is a political analyst in a think tank based outside Washington DC.

Charles, as he is known to his friends was very direct. "I honestly believe we are seeing the decline of the American empire as we know it." "This has been in the offing for several years, and events nowadays are leading to just that. There is a systematic breakdown in all principles that once made this country great, a land of the free and the home of the brave. But honestly today, those are just hollow words." When I asked him if some changes could reverse the flow of his thinking, he was pessimistic. "Much as I would want it, I'm afraid that the damage done is too deep to get the proper healing." Jeremiah, a farmer in a Midwestern state blamed it all on the politicians.

"My father and mother were Democrats and we grew up with strong democratic values. But what

does the party stand for today? They have gone so far to the left that I am finding it extremely distasteful. Our children are being exposed to a curriculum that is offensive by nature, our police are being neutered and I mean neutered, and as a result, crime has risen exponentially while all we keep reading is how our politicians are busy sending money to other countries to fight their wars."

"We need those dollars here in America, dollars that can go a long way to fund law enforcement and provide decent health care to the needy. We cannot continue being the world's bread basket when we cannot afford to feed our own. Look around. There are hundreds of thousands of homeless Americans and more are on the rise. And guess what? Crime will shoot up beyond the capability of law enforcers." Nancy, a business owner who recently moved from California to Arkansas teasingly asked me what the business prospects were here in Saudi Arabia, as she was considering closing lock, stock and barrel a business that she had built over eighteen years but could not function in the atmosphere of the Los Angeles metropolis. "My store is

just a few steps from the famed Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and yet it has been ransacked twice and my inventory destroyed in the process. The responding officers just shrug their shoulders as they take details that will probably go into files never to be opened again."

Nancy continued: "You know, I was a fervent anti-gun activist, but by God, as soon as I get settled here in Arkansas, I am going to purchase the biggest gun and will not hesitate to use it on someone trespassing and taking off with my goods. The state by the way does not frown on law-abiding citizens blowing off criminals as I understand it. Why do you think so many Americans are arming themselves? They fear an Armageddon on the horizon and they want to be prepared." There were some others with their version of reality and I must say that there is validity in all their opinions as I find today's America greatly divided; white versus black; rich versus the poor; parents versus school boards, Democrats versus Republicans and a host of other divisions slowly increasing the chasm within the American society. And politicians are eager to fan the flames. Is there any hope? Only time will tell.

Gulf News





# ICCI urges unlocking Pak-Thailand trade

ISLAMABAD (INP): Led by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, a delegation of the chamber visited Thailand and held meetings with the office bearers of Thai Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Pakistan Business Council to explore the business opportunities between the two countries.

The ICCI delegation was representing various sectors including pharmaceuticals, textiles, construction, edible oil, marble, light engineering, hospitality, retail sector, importers and exporters. Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan and Thailand have immense potential for bilateral trade, which should be exploited to achieve beneficial results for both economies.

He said that the current

trade volume between the two countries is relatively low, however, there are numerous opportunities for growth and expansion that remain untapped. He said that both countries can complement each other in many areas as Thailand was a significant exporter of electronics, automobiles, and machinery while Pakistan was a huge market of over 240 million consumers with abundant natural resources like cotton, rice, and textiles.

The ICCI President said that agriculture, textiles, and energy sectors hold great potential for trade between Pakistan and Thailand, which should be taken benefit of. He said that Thailand has expertise in the renewable energy sector and it should cooperate with Pakistan in this sector to meet our growing energy needs.

Ahsan Zafar said that the

purpose of the visit of ICCI delegation to Thailand was to interact with Thai counterparts and explore new areas of mutual cooperation to unlock new business opportunities for a more prosperous future for their citizens. He also briefed the Thai counterparts about the investment potential in various sectors of Pakistan's economy and invited them to visit Pakistan to explore possibilities of joint ventures and investment.

The office bearers of Thai Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Pakistan Business Council welcomed the ICCI delegation and assured their full cooperation to promote business linkages between the private sectors of Thailand and Pakistan to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries. They said that Thailand and Pakistan can benefit from increased

trade and investment, therefore, it was important for both countries to work together to encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations in order to identify new areas of improving business and investment relations.

They said that with supportive policies and incentives from both sides, the business relationship between Pakistan and Thailand could flourish in the years ahead. They hoped that the visit of ICCI delegation to Thailand would lead to good business partnerships between the two countries.

Ameer Hamza, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, Raja Muhammad Imtiaz, Faizan Shehzad, Akhtar Hussain, Saif ur Rehman Khan, Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry and Malik Mohsin Khalid were in the ICCI delegation.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors waiting for customers to sell fruit boxes at fruit and vegetable market.

## BMP to win FPCCI's polls for 4th consecutive time

ISLAMABAD (INP): Presidential candidate of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Muhammad Ali Sheikh has expressed the hope that the Businessman Panel (BMP) would win apex trade body's elections for the fourth consecutive time with a big margin on the basis of its excellent performance amidst worst economic crisis in the country.

He said that the BMP was the representative group of the business community of the whole country and we will participate in the next elections to the best of our ability and ensure the success of our group.

In a statement on Saturday, Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that during past four years not only all departments of the federal government recognized the FPCCI, but the Prime Minister also met the president FPCCI many times to discuss issues of the business community.

He said that the many strong groups of several chambers have joined the

BMP, saying that the group has already started the election campaign. He said that the Businessmen Panel team regularly pursued the government including the Prime Minister and got many critical issues resolved, which include expediting processing of tax refunds, he claimed.

The FPCCI's presidential candidate expressed his profound confidence that the environment in the business community across Pakistan was such that his group would clean sweep the upcoming elections; as they have earned the reputation of the true representatives of trade, industry and services across all sectors.

He said that Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been key players in the political, cultural and social life of the country and now the Islamabad Chapter would play an active role within the BMP.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that during the past tenure, the members of the rival group had ruined the FPCCI, while the BMP has

not only improved its finances but also contributed millions to the exchequer of the federation during the last four years.

He resolved to make the best use of this supreme trade forum for the good of the country by promoting trade and industry through getting solved all their genuine issues to ensure a level playing field and make Pakistan's private sector cost competitive.

The presidential candidate mentioned that by holding various important positions on different business forums, including as ex-senior vice president of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), he fought and got settled many important issues confronting trade and industry in the country.

Through further policy and structural reforms, he would make FPCCI as the real national business platform with a strong voice and influence in the formulation of economic policies of the country, he added.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh

said that the Pakistan's business community has posed complete confidence in BMP and all candidates of BMP will win upcoming elections of FPCCI. "The entire BMP panel will win in the next FPCCI and it will be a proof that the business community of Pakistan trusts BMP and wants to vote in its favor to ensure continuity of services being provided by our group."

He said the group unlike its rival Businessman Group (BMG) believes in strengthening of the government-businessman relationship to make businesses and industrial activities an engine of growth.

The presidential candidate said that the track record speaks of services to the business community of Pakistan and it will continue these services after winning upcoming FPCCI elections. He said business community of Pakistan in general and FPCCI voters in particular are welcoming BMP candidates and we will sweep upcoming FPCCI elections.

## OGDCL organizes 'Mindful Miles Walk'



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), in alignment with its Health, Diversity & Inclusion (HDI) initiative, on Saturday organized the "Mindful Miles Walk" for its employees, a dynamic and healthy activity aimed at protecting the environment.

The event, organized by the OGDCL Sports Board, was inaugurated by Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, the Managing Director and CEO of OGDCL, on the picturesque Trail Five of Islamabad's Margalla Hills. A large number of the company employees participated in this healthy activity to

raise awareness about the significance of environmental conservation.

The culmination of the walk was marked by a delightful brunch at Monal Restaurant, providing a casual and friendly atmosphere for the participants to connect and relax after the invigorating exercise.

In a significant stride towards environmental conservation, OGDCL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) department entered into a collaborative understanding with the Capital Development Authority (CDA). This agreement reflects OGDCL's commitment to safeguarding the environment, and as part of this initiative, the company

has undertaken various measures on Trail Five. To enhance the trail's amenities and contribute to a cleaner environment, OGDCL has installed benches and dustbins strategically along the path. Additionally, a tree-planting initiative has been implemented to further green the area and promote biodiversity.

This collaborative effort between OGDCL and CDA underscores the importance of partnerships in safeguarding our natural resources. OGDCL remains dedicated to its responsibility as a corporate entity to contribute positively to the communities and environments in which it operates.

## CAA issues guidelines for flights

KARACHI (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Saturday issued new guidelines for Afghanistan originated flights entering Pakistan's airspace.

As per new guidelines, all Afghanistan originated flights will have to provide a minimum of 15 minutes advance notice prior entering into Pakistan's airspace.

On the other hand, the CAA has also issued a frequency for flights entering from Afghanistan to Pakistan which will provide guidance to flights.

Moreover, the aviation authority alerted the Afghanistan-bound flights stating that such flights to enter at their own risk.

The Pakistan International Airlines flight operation resumed to Istanbul on September 13, 2021.

The civil aviation authority of Afghanistan had granted permission to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to land at the Kabul airport.

## Gold rates up by Rs800/-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.800 and was sold at Rs 216,500 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs 215,700 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 185,614 from Rs184,928 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 170,146 from Rs 169,517, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs 2,550 and 2,186.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$9 to \$2,022 from \$2013.

## People, small traders solely affected of economic conditions

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that the prevailing economic conditions solely affect individuals and small business owners. Still, the circumstances are highly favourable to powerful companies, he added.

Under the guise of the IMF program, the entire burden has been placed on the people, while no responsibility has been placed on the rich, which was unjustified, he said.

In a statement issued here, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the IMF was content with increased tax collection. However, it was not

the outcome of efforts of any department but the result of unsustainable inflation.

He said that the economy was currently shrinking; the people were not getting their due share while many sectors were getting their rights, including those who were getting more than they deserve, which needs to be balanced.

The business leader said that in July, August and September, the corporate sector earned 417 billion rupees, breaking the previous record of earnings, in which the profit of banks was 149 billion rupees.

Apart from this, almost all the listed companies earned huge profits. In contrast,

the gains made by the cement fertilizer and automobile industry in these three months were unprecedented in the last two years.

Shahid Rasheed Butt informed that these companies distributed profits of 97 billion rupees to their shareholders, in which banks gave away 51 billion rupees to shareholders, which was thirteen per cent higher than the same quarter last year.

He noted that a twenty-four per cent increase in tax collection was recorded, forcing IMF to express satisfaction. Still, all the credit for increased tax revenue goes to the incredible inflation, which has made life very difficult for the majority.

Presently export sector was underperforming, imports were restricted, and the health and education sectors were frustrating the masses, but the authorities have yet to pay attention to it, the business leader noted.

A seemingly tiny but significant surplus of 0.4 per cent of GDP has been recorded in the primary balance. In terms of fiscal performance, the government might have exceeded the quarterly targets, but at what cost, he questioned.

Shahid Rasheed said that the policy of improving the economy by breaking the backs of low-income people would never work, as this recipe has been tried many times with no results.

## China's pickup truck sales rise in October

BEIJING (APP): Sales of pickup trucks in China edged up 0.9 percent year on year in October 2023 as the country's consumption promotion policies boosted the growth of demand, industry data showed.

A total of 42,000 pickup trucks were sold in China last month, according to the China Passenger Car Association. Output of pickup trucks logged a yearly decrease of 5.1% in October, while exports of such vehicles reached 12,000 units.

In the first 10 months of 2023, China's total pickup truck sales stood at 420,000 units, down 1.8 percent year on year.

**Automobile manufacturing industry logs stable growth in first three quarters:** China's automobile manufacturing industry reported stable expansion in the first three quarters of 2023, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed.

The industrial added-value of this sector rose 11.4 percent year on year during the period, according to the association.

The combined operating revenue of companies in the sector stood at 7.11 trillion yuan, up 10.4 percent from the same period last year. These companies raked in total profits of 345.99 billion yuan in the same period, edging up 0.1 percent compared with a year earlier, the data revealed.

**Bond market issuances near 6.22 trillion yuan:** Bond issuances in China

## Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 88/1. Institution 13/3/2023. Date of hearing 9/12/2023. Sarwar ud Din etc. Vs. Amer ud Din etc. Notice to No. 15. Imran Ali S/o Said Zaid Shah. 16. Mohammad Tahir S/o Dawa Khan. 20. Nisar Mehmood S/o Sardar ud Din residents of Bajkatta Tehsil Gagra District Buner. Whereas, in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 9:00 am dated 9/12/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

In the Court of Khadijah Rehman Judge Family Court Matta Swat. Case # 196/FC, institution year 2023. Next hearing date 27/11/2023. Subject Mst. Rokhana etc. Vs. Fazal Wahab etc. Notice to defendant Fazal Wahab S/o Abdul Jabar R/o Pansaat Shoor Tehsil Matta District Swat. Whereas, the above named cannot be served in ordinary manner, it is, therefore, proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the Court on 27/11/2023 at 8:30. Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. Seal of the Court.

totaled almost 6.22 trillion yuan in October, according to data from the country's central bank.

Treasury bond issuances came to 1.24 trillion yuan, and local government bond issuances amounted to approximately 1.4 trillion yuan, according to the People's Bank of China.

In October, financial bond issuances came in at 814.78 billion yuan, and corporate credit bond issuances totaled approximately 971.85 billion yuan.

Issuances of credit-asset-backed securities totaled 32.94 billion yuan, and issuances of interbank deposit certificates amounted to 1.73 trillion yuan.

By the end of October, outstanding bonds held in custody stood at 155.3 trillion yuan, the central bank data shows.

**Online car-hailing orders rise:** Orders for online car-hailing services in China rose in October compared with a month earlier, data from the Ministry of Transport showed.

Online car-hailing companies received 809 million orders last month, up 2.1 percent month on month, the ministry said.

By the end of October, a total of 334 online car-hailing companies had been granted permission to operate in China, increasing by four from the end of September. A total of 6.33 million online car driver's licenses and 2.71 million vehicle transport licenses had been issued across the country by the end of October, up 2.4 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively, the data revealed.

LONDON (BBC): Nissan and its partners have announced a £2bn plan to build three electric car models at its Sunderland factory.

The Japanese firm will build electric Qashqai and Juke models at the plant alongside the next generation of the electric Leaf, which is already produced there. The scheme could help preserve the jobs of about 6,000 workers directly, and thousands more across the UK.

Nissan said that alongside this, a major new battery plant known as a "gigafactory" will also be needed.

This is in addition to the current factory adjacent to the car plant, and a further gigafactory already being built by its partner, AESC. Nissan will spend £1.12bn on preparing its UK facilities and supply chain for the new models and training its workforce.

Alongside the gigafactory the total new investment will be up to £2bn, according to the company.

Lei Zhang, chairman of AESC, said the firm had launched a feasibility study on expanding its gigafactory operations in Sunderland. The plan is

expected to receive government support, though it is not clear what form that will take. Nissan has confirmed it will receive £15m in funding for its research centre in Bedfordshire.

The Unite union said the plan "secures the long-term future of the site and the thousands of skilled well-paid jobs it supports", but called for more government support for the car industry.

Earlier this year, Nissan's chief operating officer Ashwani Gupta, who has since left the firm, said that the UK would struggle to remain competitive with other car-making countries because of higher manufacturing costs, elevated by energy bills and inflation.

Alan Johnson, Nissan's senior vice president of manufacturing and supply chain, told the BBC's Today programme that the UK "can be a competitive place for car production, but everything needs to be right".

"Not just the plant itself, but the surrounding environment: energy costs, infrastructure, local government [and] national government support, needs to be right for it to work," he said.

The UK government has provided support for Nissan through the Automotive Transformation Fund, which received a £2bn top-up in the Autumn Statement on Wednesday.

Mr Johnson declined to comment on how much funding the company has received from UK taxpayers.

He said: "The support we have received in the past has been excellent and we're very grateful for the support we do receive."

"The truth is discussions are ongoing with the government, not concluded, and therefore I'm not in a position at the moment to make any announcement or any comment about any numbers."

The government's contribution to Nissan's project is understood to be about £100m, and if the gigafactory goes ahead, the funding for that will also be about £100m.

Nissan's announcement comes as an "investment zone" for North East England was confirmed by the government. The government said it will create more than 4,000 jobs over five years.

In the summer, Mr Gupta also warned that the

UK's largest car manufacturing plant in Sunderland would be "unsustainable" without a post-Brexit trade deal on tariffs.

Rules due to take effect in January next year mean there will be a 10% tariff on cars sold between the UK and EU unless car-makers have sourced at least 45% of their components by value from the UK or EU.

Batteries are the most expensive part of an electric vehicle, and some manufacturers in both the UK and EU have said they will struggle to meet the requirements, and have called for the rules to be deferred.

Mr Johnson said that Nissan exports 80% of the vehicles made at its Sunderland plant, "so of course exportation is critical to our success".

"In terms of the Brexit deal, we're just getting on with it," he said, adding that the key to Nissan's strategy is "having your major investments like battery production in the UK".

Other car makers have also expressed concerns about the tariffs.

In May, Stellantis, which owns Vauxhall, Peugeot, Citroen and Fiat, said it

may have to close UK factories if the government did not renegotiate the Brexit deal.

The firm has made a commitment to making electric cars in the UK, but said that if the cost "becomes uncompetitive and unsustainable, operations will close".

The AESC plant in Sunderland is the only one in the UK currently making electric vehicle batteries, but Jaguar Land Rover owner Tata plans to build a £4bn factory in Somerset.

Some battery firms have had problems setting up in the UK.

Britishvolt, which planned to make batteries in the North East, went into administration earlier this year. It was taken over by Australian firm Recharge Industries, but that hasn't gone smoothly either, with £2.5m of the purchase price still unpaid since it was due.

By contrast the EU has 35 plants open, under construction or planned.

In September Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a major shift in UK green policy by delaying a ban on new petrol and diesel cars by five years, to 2035.





In brief

Sharjeel vows to show 'stellar' performances

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Multan Region opener Sharjeel Khan vowed on Saturday to show "stellar" performances in the National T20 Cup. Expressing his thoughts on the sidelines of the National T20 Cup, Sharjeel said: "I am in good touch and will try to continue my good form at the National T20 Cup. He expressed his gratitude to the Higher Power for amassing runs in the Pakistan Cup. "My strike rate was over 120 in the Pakistan Cup," Sharjeel said. Speaking about the transition from List A to T20 format, Sharjeel said: "The T20 cricket is all about attacking, while in List A, you take time and then improvised". He talked about sharing the dressing room with the Multan Region. "I am sharing my cricketing experience with my Multan Region teammates. I will try to deliver for the Multan Region in the same way I used to for Karachi," Sharjeel said. – Wanted to become player of tournament at World Cup: Fakhar Zaman – Separately, Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman said on Friday that he wanted to become the player of the tournament at the 2023 World Cup. Expressing his thoughts on the sidelines of the National T20 Cup in Karachi, Zaman said: "I tried to avail myself of whatever opportunity I had during the World Cup. It would have been great if we had made it to the semi-final or final." Speaking about the victory against New Zealand in the World Cup match, Zaman said: "As we were chasing over a 400-run target, we wanted to move our game to the next level. I had to stick to the role of making batting for my partners easy by playing aggressive cricket.

Djokovic furious over dope test

MÁLAGA (Agencies): Novak Djokovic was furious after being asked to undergo a dope test shortly before Serbia's Davis Cup win over Great Britain, although the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said Saturday it was standard practice and he had not been singled out. The record 24-time men's Grand Slam winner revealed his anger at being asked before the 2-0 win on Thursday which sent Serbia into the Davis Cup semi-finals, rather than after. Djokovic said officials asked for samples 90 minutes before his straight sets 6-4, 6-4 win over Cameron Norrie. "I didn't believe that they could make such a decision, in 20 and more years of my career, it never happened to me that an hour-and-a-half before the match, I needed to go for doping control," the 36-year-old told Serbian reporters. "I have my own routine – I don't need that distraction, to have my urine and blood taken, to think about whether I can give urine at that moment." Djokovic said he had no problem with being tested "a hundred times" but not before the match. However the ITIA said the whole team was subject to testing and it was a standard approach for team tournaments. "Due to the format of team competitions, including the Davis Cup, teams may be notified that they have been selected for testing before matches begin and then provide samples when they are ready," an ITIA spokesman told AFP. "Between notification and providing the sample, they are chaperoned by a member of the anti-doping team." World number one Djokovic was already in bad humour after a run-in with some British fans during his victory over Norrie.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Cricket team members take part in practice match, ahead of their Australia tour to play three test match series at the Pindi Stadium.

Rashid urges Imad to reconsider his retirement decision

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former Pakistan Test cricketer Rashid Latif commented on Imad Wasim's shocking decision to hang his boots from international cricket. Imad Wasim's decision to retire from international cricket did not go well with Rashid Latif, who stated that the all-rounder should reverse his decision. The former wicketkeeper said the all-rounder is Pakistan's best spin bowler and a handy batter and also that the country will suffer in next year's ICC T20 World Cup 2024. "Imad Wasim should reconsider his retirement decision. He is Pakistan's best spinner and can be very helpful in batting as well. If the team's most effective player isn't in the World Cup, it's not just Imad's loss, it's Pakistan's loss," Rashid wrote. Rashid Latif emphasized that players who wish to participate in leagues should be released from their central contract, while still remaining available for

the national team.

"Mohammad Hafeez should strive to bring Imad back. If leagues need to be played, consider separation from the central contract, but keep yourself available for the Pakistan team," he concluded by tagging Hafeez and chief selector Wahab Riaz.

For the unversed, Imad Wasim stunned the cricket fans on Friday when he announced to retire from international cricket through a social media post.

"In recent days have been doing a lot of thinking about my international career and have come to the conclusion that now is the right time for me to announce my retirement from international cricket."

"I would like to thank the PCB for all their support over the years it has truly been an honour to represent Pakistan. Each of my 121 appearances across the ODI and T20I formats was a dream come true. Imad Wasim extended his well wishes for Pakistan cricket and also thanked his

fans for their support.

"It's an exciting time for Pakistan cricket going forwards with new coaches and leadership incoming. I wish all involved every success and look forward to watching the team excel."

"Thank you to the Pakistan fans for always supporting me with such passion. A final thank you to my family and friends who have been so important in helping me achieve at the highest level."

"Now, [I] look forward to focussing on the next stage of my playing career away from the international stage. Notably, Imad Wasim, who made his international debut in 2015, represented Pakistan in 66 T20Is and 55 ODIs.

He scored 1,472 runs across formats with the help of six half-centuries.

He was part of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017. His last appearance for Pakistan, however, was in April this year in the home T20I series against New Zealand.

Pak batters score 298 runs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani batters scored 298 runs on the first day's play of the two-day scenario match played as part of the training camp in preparations for the tour of Australia which continued at the Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi on Saturday.

Muhammad Wasim Jr also joined the camp on Saturday which was the third day of the training.

Pakistani batsmen scored 298 runs on the first day.

Saeem Ayub scored 35 runs while Abdullah Shafique was dismissed for 3 runs.

Meanwhile, Shaan Masood retired after scoring 101 and Babar Azam scored 71 runs.

Saud Shakeel made 44 runs and Sarfaraz Ahmed was at the crease with 19 runs.

As for bowlers, Khurram Shahzad and Aamir Jamal bagged one wicket each.

Naseem likely to join Islamabad United for PSL



LAHORE (PPI): Fast bowler Naseem Shah will not play for Quetta Gladiators in the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), it emerged on Saturday.

Reports said Shah, who is recovering from his shoulder injury, was in talks with the Islamabad United while a formal announcement in this regard is yet to be made. On the other hand, wicket-keeper batsman Azam Khan and pacer Mohammad Wasim Jr are among the strong candidates to join the Gladiators for PSL 2024.

Preparations are ramping up for PSL 9, having now finalised the Pick Order for the Player Draft. Quetta Gladiators will make the first pick in the PSL 024 Player Draft. Karachi Kings and two-time champions Islamabad United will have the second and third picks. The fourth and fifth picks will be done by Peshawar Zalmi and last season's runners-up Multan Sultans respectively while winners of the past two editions Lahore Qalandars will finish the first round with the sixth pick.

The selection order for the first round for the Platinum category is determined by the inverse order of the previous season's standings. In order to make the Pick Order more equitable, a different franchise shall occupy the first pick in the first round of each category. Quetta Gladiators will begin the Platinum picks, Karachi Kings will have the first Diamond pick, Peshawar Zalmi will have the opening Gold pick, Multan Sultans will have the first pick in the Silver category, Islamabad United will pick the first player in Emerging category and Lahore Qalandars will have the first Supplementary pick.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has previously opened the registration window for foreign players. The flagship event is tentatively scheduled from 8 February to 24 March, 2024.

Newcastle thrash Chelsea 4-1 as James sees red

NEWCASTLE (Reuters): Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak netted on his return from injury, while two quick-fire second-half goals and a late Anthony Gordon strike gave the Magpies a 4-1 Premier League win over 10-man Chelsea at St James' Park on Saturday. Isak, who has missed several games over the last month due to a groin problem, was teed up by a brilliant short pass through the heart of the Chelsea defence by 17-year-old midfielder Lewis Mile, and the striker took a touch before firing home in the 13th minute.

Chelsea drew level 10 minutes later as Raheem Sterling was brought down on the edge of the

box, and the winger stepped up to drill the resulting free kick past the flat-footed Nick Pope.

Newcastle almost went in ahead at the break as a free kick from fullback Kieran Trippier hit the crossbar, but there was little indication of the collapse to come from Chelsea in the second half.

The home side took the lead again on the hour mark as Newcastle patiently worked a free kick from right to left, allowing Gordon to find the head of Jamaal Lascelles with an inswinging cross that the Magpies captain steered into the net.

Just over a minute later Robert Sanchez was beat-

en again as Joelinton robbed fellow Brazilian Thiago Silva on the edge of the box and advanced before scoring to leave Chelsea on the ropes.

Any chance Chelsea had of staging a comeback vanished when Reece James collected his second yellow card for an innocuous challenge in the 73rd minute, and it prompted Eddie Howe to shuffle his deck.

Bringing a number of young players off the bench, Howe moved Gordon up front and he rounded off the scoring in the 83rd minute with an excellent individual effort as Newcastle rose to sixth in the table on 23 points, while Chelsea are 10th on 16 points.



NEWCASTLE: Joelinton celebrates Newcastle's third goal in the win against Chelsea.

Wahab inaugurates state-of-the-art Star Sports Complex in Karachi

KARACHI (PPI) Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Saturday inaugurated the state-of-the-art Star Sports Complex in Malir's Sherpao Colony.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Mr Wahab said that various sports facilities have been provided in the Star Sports Complex, including a football ground, a cricket ground, a volleyball ground, a practice pitch, a cafeteria and a walking track.

Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party Central District Dil Muhammad, former member provincial Assembly Mahmood Alam Jamot, former Chairman District Municipal Corporation Jan Muhammad Baloch,

Ibrahim Hydari Town Chairman Nazir Bhutto, Vice Chairman Rafiq Daud Jat, Project Director Nazir Memon and other local leaders were also present on the occasion.

The Karachi mayor said that the Star Sports Complex with an area of 20 acres would be the best sports center for the people of Malir district. He said that the state of the art complex had been completed within a year under the Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project, adding next week, three more sports complexes would be handed over to the citizens of Karachi.

Mr Wahab said: "Those who say there can be no work in Karachi should visit this complex that covers 20 acres. He said that now children would be able

to play there. Women, children and senior citizens would also be able to walk in the open air, adding they had also inaugurated the Bilquees Edhi Park at Kharadar area of Lyari and an international style ground at Ghizri.

He said that they were dedicating this ground to Haji Murtaza Baloch, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party who passed away during covid-19.

To a query, the Karachi mayor said: "There are no differences between Bilawal Bhutto and Asif Zardari, as the Pakistan People's Party is one and will remain one. He said that it was the Sindh government that had generated 3,200 mega watts of electricity from Thar coal and had brought a social revolution in Thar.

Liverpool hit back to hold Man City, end Etihad winning streak

M A N C H E S T E R (Agencies): Liverpool snapped Manchester City's 23-match winning run at the Etihad as a clash between the Premier League's top two ended 1-1 on Saturday.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's fine strike 10 minutes from time salvaged a point for the visitors after Erling Haaland's 50th Premier League goal put City in front. A share of the spoils means there remains just one point between the sides and that Arsenal can now take top spot from City if they win at Brentford later on Saturday.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp made his displeasure clear at the early kick-off time on the back of an international break where both sides had players in World Cup qualifying action in South America little over 72 hours ago.

Fatigue appeared a factor as the expected fireworks failed to materialize. "Preparing for the most difficult game of the season with one (training) session is really a challenge," said Klopp. "We're still in a process. If we'd played really well today, we could have won — we didn't. We

played ok." City boss Pep Guardiola lauded the manner in which his side restricted a free-scoring Liverpool to precious few chances.

But the English champions lacked precision themselves in the final third and were made to pay for not building on their lead.

"I am really proud that after eight years we are still playing that way," said Guardiola. "We were really good in all departments and needed to be against an incredible team."

"Maybe we missed the last pass a little bit but they defended really well."

Alisson Becker was let off the hook by Phil Foden's weak shot after the Brazilian gifted away possession inside his own box.

But the Liverpool goalkeeper was not so fortunate when his next sliced clearance picked out Nathan Ake. The Dutch defender dribbled forward before picking out Haaland, who found the far corner on 27 minutes.

Haaland's 50th Premier League goal in his 48th appearance smashed the previous record for the quickest half century held

by Andy Cole in 65 matches. At the other end, Darwin Nunez was Liverpool's biggest threat as Mohamed Salah failed to build on his impressive record against City.

Ederson clawed away Nunez's first-half header and turned a powerful effort behind at his near post after the break. But it was City who had looked the more likely to add to their lead in the second half as Liverpool struggled to contain the speed of Jeremy Doku on the counter-attack.

The Belgian winger teed up Julian Alvarez with a glorious chance that the Argentine spooned over.

Alisson was handed another let-off 20 minutes from time when he spilled a corner under minimal pressure from Manuel Akanji and Ruben Dias tapped home. However, a VAR check did not overturn the referee's on-field decision to award the Liverpool 'keeper a soft free-kick.

Instead it was the Reds who hit back against the run of play when Salah laid the ball into Alexander-Arnold's path for a fantastic finish into the bottom corner.







Hotline launched for Afghans

KABUL (Ariana News): The US State Department has launched an emergency hotline for Afghans facing deportation or detainment in Pakistan who are in a US immigration and resettlement pathway. Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of US State Department said on X on Friday that the hotline is available Monday-Saturday from 8 AM to midnight Islamabad time via phone and WhatsApp (text only).

One-day saffron expo held

KANDAHAR (Ariana News): A saffron expo was held in Daman district of Kandahar in a bid to boost sales. The director of agricultural irrigation and livestock of Kandahar, the mayor of Kandahar, the head of economics, the provincial official of DCA and farmers participated at the event. The head of Kandahar Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Department, Mahmood Mazlom, gave a welcoming speech and thanked officials for organizing the expo.

IEA provides facilities for returning investors

KABUL (BNA): Acting Industry and Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi met with officials from the Chamber of Industries and Mines in Kandahar province of Afghanistan. During the meeting, the officials expressed gratitude for the continuous support of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in promoting manufacturing activities in the country. They also highlighted their interest in increased investment in the country.

The Acting Minister emphasized that the Islamic Emirate welcomes the return of Afghan investors to the country and strives to facilitate various aspects, including tax exemptions, issuing five-year visas for their technical staff, and distributing land in industrial parks to them. He assured that addressing land distribution issues in industrial parks would be a priority, and improvements to the roads inside the Shorandam Industrial

Park are planned in the near future. The meeting also addressed issues such as land usurpation which belongs to the Shorandam Industrial Park, power shortages for factories, providing facilities for returning industrialists, dealing with land problems for industrialists, and allocating land for the construction of clinics, firefighting sections, and a permanent exhibition center for industrial products in the park.

UN using Afghanistan’s seat against IEA



KABUL (Ariana News): The head of the political office of the Islamic Emirate in Qatar has said that the United Nations not handing over Afghanistan's seat in the organization to the representative of the Islamic Emirate is against international principles and is based on political considerations. In an interview with RTA, Sohail Shaheen emphasized that this approach of the United Nations questions the impartiality of the organization. "The United Nations claims to be impartial, but it is not impartial in this matter. They are using the seat as a pressure tool against us, and if the seat is handed over to the Islamic Emirate, there are many

issues that we can discuss and reach an understanding on. We could convey the wishes of the people and the government of Afghanistan to them and their message to the government, but the person who is currently holding the seat cannot do this," Shaheen said. He also pointed out cases of violations of the Doha Agreement by the United States and said that according to one of the articles of the agreement, the United States should have taken an active part in the reconstruction of the country after leaving Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has stressed the importance of engaging IEA in international dia-

logue. "For certain reasons, today's meeting is taking place without the participation of representatives from Afghanistan, even though this country is an integral part of Central Asia and is critical to regional stability," Mirziyoyev said at the First Summit of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia in Baku. "I urge my esteemed colleagues, the leadership of UNECE and ESCAP to establish working relations and restore cooperation with Afghanistan as part of the SPECA Program," he said. "We cannot afford to leave this country alone with its problems. A positive outcome cannot be achieved without engaging the current government in international dialogue." The international community has raised ensuring human rights especially women's rights and forming an inclusive government as main conditions for recognition of IEA. IEA, however, says it has met all the conditions as a legitimate government and it should be recognized.

285 health centers to be built in country: Official



KABUL (TOLOnews): Qalandar Ebad, Acting Minister of Public Health, while visiting Uruzgan said that the plan to build at least 285 health centers in several provinces is being implemented. Ebad, who went to Uruzgan to assess the health problems of the people, confirmed in a meeting that Afghanistan is currently facing a shortage of doctors and that the ministry is trying to request trained and professional doctors from abroad. "Approximately 285

new centers are planned to be built," Qalandar Ebad said. The Acting Minister of Public Health said the construction of medical centers is important in providing standard health services to citizens. In Uruzgan, he also announced the continuation of the efforts of the Islamic Emirate to treat drug addicts. "For now, we are trying to bring trained specialists and doctors from outside to treat our patients and train our doctors as well," Ebad said. Ebad said that along

with the shortage of treatment beds, 45,000 medical beds are needed to treat patients across the country; But current hospitals only have up to 12,000 beds. "Almost 12,000 medical beds are currently in the hospitals of the country and now we want to increase it to 45,000, it needs efforts to improve the capacity as well," the acting minister added. The Acting Minister of Public Health in Uruzgan continues to assure the continuation of the Islamic Emirate's efforts to treat drug addicts in the country.

IEA rejects report US bombs left in Afghanistan

KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate has rejected report that the US bombs left in Afghanistan are ending up in the hands of Mexican cartels. Fox News 29 San Antonio reported on Wednesday that although many of the explosives seen in Mexico are homemade, the number of those coming from Afghanistan has gone up. Ari Jimenez, retired Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent In

Charge, said that the way the improvised explosives are built is more like those seen in the Middle East. Enrique Alfaro, Governor of Jalisco, Mexico said: "In an act that we have not seen before here, with improvised explosives, seven explosives were detonated killing six and injuring 12." IEA, however, rejected the report. "Afghanistan neither produces explosives nor it has explosive storages. Moreover, Afghanistan

does not have access to Mexico and it is not easy. So how can this allegation be true? Unfortunately, some circles are hostile to Afghanistan and make such accusations which we reject," IEA's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, which is a US government entity, estimated that about \$7 billion of new equipment was left in Afghanistan after the United States' departure.

WFP appeals for \$27.5m to aid returnees

KABUL (Ariana News): The World Food Programme (WFP) in Afghanistan has said it urgently needs \$27.5 million to support refugees returning from Pakistan. WFP in a statement warned that with the harsh winter just around the corner and a significant funding deficit for the operation, assistance to returnees hangs in the balance. WFP has been forced to cut 10 million people from its emergency food assistance and can now only support one in five of those in need of support to survive. "The situation is particularly dire as the harsh winter is only weeks away and the country is still reeling from devastating earthquakes, a battered economy and a worsening climate crisis," WFP Afghanistan Country Director Hsiao-Wei Lee said. Most families crossing the border are arriving hungry, desperate and in need of immediate support. WFP said it continues to supply all arriving families with fortified biscuits and cash to buy food or other basic necessities, adding that it has assisted 250,000 people this month. "We urgently need \$27.5 million to support one million returnees from Pakistan arriving in Afghanistan and help them get through the winter," Lee said. "These families arrive at the worst of times and face a bleak future in a country where one third of the people do not know where their next meal will come from," she said.

New 30-bed Hospital opened

KABUL (BNA): A new 30-bed emergency hospital has been inaugurated in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province. The hospital is aimed at catering to the health needs of local community and Afghan citizens returning from Pakistan. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Economy Qari Din Muhammad Hanif, Minister of Public Health Dr. Qalandar Ebad, and other provincial officials. The hospital was constructed with financial support from the WHO. The services provided by the hospital are also funded by WHO, with technical cooperation from the Human Management and Leadership Organization.

21 tankers of sub-standard oil returned

KABUL (BNA): The Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA) has returned 21 tankers carrying sub-standard oil from Iran into Afghanistan.

According to a statement released by ANSA, these tankers, which were transporting sub-standard oil, have been returned to Iran through the port of Farah province. The statement emphasized ANSA's active efforts to prevent the entry of sub-standard fuel into the country, urging all traders to import quality materials or face legal consequences. It is worth noting that ANSA in the past also seized substandard oil-carrying tankers from various ports of the country and returned them to the exporting country. Meanwhile, some Afghan citizens who have been deported from Iran claim that they had legal residency documents but were still forced to leave the country. They say they paid 80 euros for a visa that was valid for several months but were expelled before it expired. They asked the Islamic Emirate officials to talk to the Iranian consulate and stop the illegal deportation of Afghan citizens. Foreign Affairs Department in Herat says that Iran has recently arrested and sent back Afghans who entered Iran with tourist visas to work there.

MoU signed with Uzbekistan for establishment of orchards



KABUL (BNA): Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have signed three separate memoranda of understanding to establish vineyards, drip irrigation orchards, cotton fields, wheat fields, melon farms, and vegetable gardens in an area of 1,600 hectares in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock of Afghanistan has released a statement regarding the collaboration

with Uzbekistan in implementing the plan. The two countries are working on various projects, including establishing orchards on a 100-hectare land, implementing drip irrigation on 500 hectares for various fruit orchards, cultivating genetically modified wheat and cotton on a 500-hectare land, and growing various types of vegetable seeds and melons on another 500-hectare field.

These initiatives involve technical and financial cooperation between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan's agriculture sector experts in different regions of the country with suitable water, soil, and climate conditions. The MoUs have been signed by the agricultural authorities of both countries in the presence of Mawlawi Sadr Azam Osmani, the deputy minister of agriculture, irrigation,

and livestock of Afghanistan, and Jamshid Khodjaev, the Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, in the city of Tashkent. Additionally, the ministry has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Afghanistan and the Agricultural University of Uzbekistan, stating that experts from both countries are expected to collaborate in the future.

IEA should be included in climate talks: International Crisis Group

KABUL (Ariana News): Just days ahead of the UN climate conference, COP28, which is scheduled to start on Thursday in the UAE, the International Crisis Group (ICG) on Friday called for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to be included in the talks. ICG said in a report that the hosts and organizers of COP28 discussed options for including a delegation

from Afghanistan but could not settle on a way to do it. The question was whether working-level officials from IEA, who are not sanctioned, might come to the UAE and join side events at COP28. "This approach – keeping the Taliban (IEA) out of climate talks on human rights grounds – is understandable but unrealistic from a humanitarian perspective," Afghanistan

ranks as the world's seventh-most vulnerable country amid the ravages of climate change. Already wracked by droughts, floods and other natural disasters, it will witness further sharp increases in temperature in coming decades," ICG said. According to the group, Afghanistan has done very little to contribute to the problem of climate change and will need considerable

international help to survive it. "Whether at COP28 or other forums, the world must eventually start talking with the Taliban (IEA) about adaptation strategies. No matter how unpalatable it may be, bringing Kabul into climate talks is necessary if international action on this issue is to be truly global and if Afghanistan's people are to be duly protected," ICG said.

Iran’s non-oil exports to Afghanistan up 4 per cent

KABUL (Ariana News): The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Afghanistan increased by four percent during the first seven months of the current Solar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year. According to Ruhollah Latifi, the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade, Iran exported non-oil commodities worth \$975 million to Afghanistan in the seven-month period of this year. Latifi said Iran has a 35 percent share in Afghanistan's import market, which is a considerable figure in bilateral trade ties. Mohammad-Mehdi Javanmard-Ghassab, the

economic adviser of the Iranian president's special envoy on Afghanistan affairs, stated that the country is seeking to export technology, technical know-how as well as technical and engineering services to Afghanistan. Increasing the production of Iranian products in Afghanistan is also on the agenda, he emphasized. According to Mohammad Ghanadzadeh, the deputy head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the trade between Iran and Afghanistan has increased by 20 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21). Ghanadzadeh said Iran is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in the country's development and reconstruction projects.

The Iranian and Afghan governments are taking some prominent measures to boost trade between the two countries. In early March, Iran's trade center and permanent exhibition of Iranian products was inaugurated in Kabul with the aim of developing trade relations between the two countries. Then in late July, a joint exhibition of products made in Iran and Afghanistan was held in Herat. More recently the two countries signed five memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation in different economic sectors. The MOUs were signed in a ceremony on November 9 in the presence of Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht, President

Raisi's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi, and Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. The MOUs include the cooperation document of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting, the document of the two sides' Joint International Road Transport Cooperation Committee meeting, the MOU between Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) and the Afghan side, the MOU between Iran's Esfahan Steel Company and the Afghan side, and the MOU between Iran's Secretariat of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones and the Afghan sides.

Jawzjan blind seminary students demand more services

SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): Students of a religious seminary for blind in northern Jawzjan province want the government to increase services in their seminary. The blind students learn Braille writing and religious subjects. The seminary for blind students was established two months ago in Shiberghan and now it has 80 blind students, all male. They learn in two shifts. The students are happy with services provided to them, but they ask the government to increase the services further. Nasir Ahmad, one of the students, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I am happy about this seminary established by bright minded people for us." He said students memorize the Holy Qur'an and learn Braille in the seminary.



He asked the government of Islamic Emirate (IE) to expand services at the seminary and provide them with facilities of learning other subjects as well. Maniullah, another student, said: "We've been coming here since two months, they teach us the Holy Quran and Braille, we will be self-reliant in the future." He also demanded increase in services at the seminary and said:

"We want to learn something that enables us not be burden on society, we want to work after graduating from the seminary." Education Directorate head Al-Haji Maulvi Mohammad Tahir Jawad told Pajhwok they established the seminary to address problems of people with disabilities. "The Education Department is committed to providing all special people equal education opportunity and this seminary is a good example

of such services." The seminary is functioning within the structure of the Ministry of Education (MoE) and all its teachers receive monthly stipends, Jawad said. He said they would try to further increase services in the seminary in future. A blind teacher of the seminary, Mohammad Nabi Quraishi, said: "I am happy imparting knowledge to others." Quraishi said: "I get a monthly salary against serving the blind students."



# KP CM visits Swat, inspects various outlets

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah paid a one day visit to district Swat on Saturday during which he inspected various public service delivery outlets including hospitals, police stations, Drug addicts rehabilitation centres etc. He took stock of the services and facilities being provided there.

He issued necessary directives to the quarters concerned to further the service delivery system in these outlets to facilitate the public to the maximum. Later on, the Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the high ups of district administration at Commissioner Malakand office. Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister Dr. Sarfraz Ali Shah, Inspector General Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, Commissioner Malakand Saqib Raza Aslam, Regional Police Officer Muhammad Ali, Deputy Commissioner Swat Dr. Qasim, Deputy Commissioner Malakand Shahid Khan and heads of all line departments attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister was given detailed briefing about the overall law and order situation, administrative matters, progress on the ongoing developmental schemes and related issues. The Chief Minister directed



the divisional administration of Malakand for efforts to further improve public service delivery in the region. He also directed the concerned authorities of police for coordinated efforts to further improve the overall law and order in the region, and to carry out cracks downs against drug dealers with special focus on the big fish further directing to work on improving the prosecution system so that punishment to people involved in the business of narcotics could be ensured.

Arshad Hussain termed maintaining law and order as top most priority of his government, and said that all possible measures would be taken to this end, police would further be strengthened in terms of equipment, arms and ammunition adding that all the available resources would be provided on priority basis to equip the police force to enable to deal the challenges of the day effectively.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to expedite work on the computerization of land record and settlement in the districts where it has been initiated, and to complete the process as soon as possible so that issues of land disputes in the regions are solved automatically. The Chief Minister was given detailed briefing on the progress so far made on various ongoing developmental projects in Malakand Division including Swat Motorway Phase 2, Dir Express way, Karakoram Tunnel, Koto Hydro Power Project, Lawi Hydro Project, Gorkan Matilan Hydro Power Project etc. The caretaker Chief Minister termed these projects as of vital importance for the overall development of the region and directed the concerned authorities to sit together and come with out of the box solutions to remove the hindrances impeding the fast track execution of these projects so that they these could be completed without any delay.

## ATC again issues arrest warrants for Marriyum Aurangzeb

F.P. Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court has again issued non-bailable arrest warrants for former information minister and PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb in a case of delivering an inflammatory speech. Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Abhar Gull heard the case against the former federal information minister and PML-N leader Javed Latif on Saturday.

During the hearing, the process server submitted a report to the court. He told the court that due to the incorrect address, the arrest warrants could not be served on Marriyum Aurangzeb. He said that the former minister's address was listed at Parliament Lodges, but she was not there. The court again issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Marriyum Aurangzeb due to her non-appearance in the court.

The court summoned her and Javed Latif on December 9. However, Javed Latif appeared in the court for the case hearing. The court canceled the non-bailable arrest warrants for Javed Latif and sought a reply from the prosecution on Marriyum Aurangzeb's petition seeking acquittal in the case. The Green Town police have registered cases against Marriyum Aurangzeb and Javed Latif for delivering fiery speeches during their public appearances.

## Sikh pilgrims arrive in Pakistan

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Around 3,000 Sikh Yatrees (pilgrims) reached Pakistan from India through the Wagah Border crossing here on Saturday to participate in the 554th birth anniversary of Sikh religion founder Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Additional Secretary of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) (Shrines) Rana Shahid Saleem, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) Pardhan Sardar Ameer Singh, committee members Sardar Satwant Singh, Sardar Rawinder Singh and others warmly welcomed the pilgrims. Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Amritsar party leader Khushmindar Singh told the media on arrival to Pakistan that special love for Pakistanis compelled them to visit the country again and again.

He recalled that he had visited the sacred land of Pakistan three times, commenting that facilities and arrangements for pilgrims improved every time. He said that Sikh yatrees were contented with the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, adding, "We are grateful to the Pakistan government, particularly the ETPB, for making arrangements for protection of Gurdwaras in Pakistan."



RAWALPINDI: Students of different medical colleges holding placards during protest rally to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine.

## Indian rescuers hit snags in 2-week bid to free 41 tunnel workers

NEW DELHI (AFP): Indian rescuers brought in a new digging machine on Saturday to open a vertical shaft to free 41 workers trapped inside a collapsed road tunnel for two weeks after efforts through another route hit snags just metres from reaching the men.

In the latest setback in frantic attempts to rescue the increasingly desperate workers, engineers driving a metal pipe through 57 metres of rock and concrete ran into metal rods and construction vehicles buried in the earth. Just 9m from breaking through, drilling with a giant earth-boring machine has stalled while using gas-cutting tools to remove thick metal girders from inside the confined pipe — just wide enough for a man to crawl through — is tricky.

"Work is now being done to cut and clear the blockage," top local civil servant Abhishek Ruhela told AFP on Saturday. Arnold Dix, president of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, said the main drilling machine was broken and work was ongoing to remove it. "The machine has broken. It's irreparable. It is disrupted," he told reporters at the tunnel site.

But Dix, who is assisting the rescue, said he was not giving up hope as there were "many ways" to reach the men. "I am confident that the 41 men are coming home." Rescue efforts have been painfully slow, complicated by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of crucial heavy drilling machines, with the air

force having to airlift new kit twice.

Ambulances are on standby and a field hospital has been prepared to receive the men, who have been trapped since a portion of the under-construction Silkyara tunnel in the northern state of Uttarakhand caved in on November 12. At the same time, AFP reporters at the site saw a heavy earth digger being taken up the specially cut track to the top of a forested hill above the tunnel to start a risky vertical shaft. "The work of reaching the labourers trapped inside is in the final stages," Ruhela told AFP.

"Whatever option possible to reach them is being considered." Officials estimate the proposed vertical shaft would need to be 89m deep, a complex dig above the men in an area that has already suffered a collapse. Work has also begun digging from the far side of the road tunnel, a much longer third route estimated to be around 480m. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the authorities and teams of international experts were working on all options.

"We will soon be successful in evacuating our labour brothers safely," he said in a post on social media. Rescue teams have stretchers fitted with wheels ready to pull the exhausted men through 57m of pipe if it can be driven through the final section of rubble blocking their escape. 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.

Since Wednesday, officials have repeatedly said they were optimistic of a breakthrough within hours. Still, a government statement has also noted that any timeline is "subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain, and unforeseen emergencies". Syed Ata Hasnain, a senior rescue official and retired general, said their efforts were "like battle". "By any means, we must get these brave men out," he told reporters on Friday afternoon, adding that "all resources" needed were being utilised. "We are going to be very, very careful in further progress," he said. Though trapped, they have plenty of space in the tunnel, with the area inside 8.5m high and stretching about two kilometres in length.

## Another man tests positive for Congo in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Another person has been diagnosed with Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Karachi, health authorities on Saturday. 52-year-old patient, a resident of Ittehad Town, who was admitted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) two days back, tested positive for Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) on Friday, said health department.

## IHC releases written order of missing students' case hearing

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has released written order in the implementation case of the recommendations of a commission on the missing Baloch students. The high court has summoned the Prime Minister, Interior Minister, defence and human rights ministers in the case hearing.

The IHC has also summoned interior and defence secretaries at 11:00 on November 29. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has released the court's written order of the previous hearing comprises of five pages. According to the court order, 69 Baloch students were subjected to racial profiling, harassed and forced disappearance. "According to the record some disappeared students were later returned to homes while 50 of them were still missing," court order read.

"Former chief justice IHC Athar Minallah had constituted the commission. The additional attorney general confessed that still some students were missing," according to the order. "Prime Minister and Interior Minister, both from Balochistan, were failed to take any positive step. Even after 21 hearings absence of positive results is an insult of the constitution of

Pakistan," the order read. "The courts remain the last ray of hope for the oppressed, the lethargic attitude of officials has jolted the people's confidence over the superior judiciary," order read. "It is the matter of concern that the students are still missing and could not recovered," bench remarked. "The court has reached to the conclusion that the federal government tackling the matter not seriously. The government of Pakistan is responsible for the rights of citizens, but it could not prevent violations of human rights," the bench observed.

"There is no way out except to summon the prime minister and ministers of interior and defence to inform the court, why the matter is not being given due importance." "Hopefully the prime minister, ministers and secretaries will appear in court with substantial results and inform it that missing students have reached to their homes," Justice Kayani said. "If any student has been involved in anti-state activities, he should be produced in concerned court, in case of failure it will be deemed that the above persons working against the interests of the state," court said.

"It will also be deemed that these persons have

been part of that system, which commits human rights violations, and they will be considered silent spectators over human rights violations being committed in their presence," according to the court.

## People want solution to economic woes

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid said on Saturday that people wanted a solution to their economic woes rather than elections in the country. Talking to reporters outside an anti-terrorism court, Rashid said he feared it would become difficult for a party to prove majority of 172 members in the National Assembly after elections.

He said his main case would be heard by Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench on Nov 30. The AML head said the public prosecutor had sought time for arguments in the case. Rashid said his lawyer was ready to advance arguments in the case. The senior politician said if he was jailed in any case, the party affairs would be run by Rashid Shafique.

## Nawaz fires fresh salvo at 'conspirators'

F.P. Report

SIALKOT: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said he was wrongfully punished without any reason, slamming the judges who were involved in issuing verdicts against them.

"What was the need to conspire against us? What was the need for the judges to give a decision against us?" said Nawaz during a workers' convention in Sialkot. The representative of millions of people was overthrown by the "Gang of Fiv" (retired Gen Bajwa, retired Lt Gen Faiz, Imran Khan, Saqib Nisar, and Asif Saeed Khosa)", said the three-time prime minister.

The politico said he has seen a very difficult time. "I have spent more time in prisons, exiles and trials than I did in power." Nawaz added he "never gave up".

The PML-N stalwart lamented that a series of punishments against him and his party has continued since 2017, but has only ended a few days ago. "Our government was abolished without any reason," he said.

4hm<sup>3</sup> 3hm<sup>3</sup> 2hm<sup>3</sup> 0.9hm<sup>3</sup> 0.6hm<sup>3</sup> 0.3hm<sup>3</sup>

بل کو پروٹیکٹڈ بنانے کا راز جانیں!

NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
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سردیوں کے 4 مہینے گیس کا ماہانہ استعمال 0.9hm<sup>3</sup> سے کم رکھیں اور سال کے 12 مہینے گیس کا بل کم سے کم ادا کریں

گیس کا استعمال 0.9hm<sup>3</sup> تک کیسے دکھا جاسکتا ہے

- روائی گیز میٹر میں سپرکونٹریکٹ
- روائی گیز میٹر کا پریکٹیکل
- گیس کا استعمال 0.9hm<sup>3</sup> سے کم رکھیں
- روائی گیز میٹر کا پریکٹیکل

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### About the Fulbright

Fulbright is the flagship scholarship program of the U.S. Government. The Fulbright scholarship is managed by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) under Fulbright policies and regulations. The scholarship funds graduate study in the United States for a Master's or PhD degree, including tuition, required textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, and health insurance. Pakistani Fulbrighters are studying at universities all over the United States.

### Application Process

For more information on eligibility and to download an application form, visit [www.usefp.org](http://www.usefp.org). Complete application with all the required documents must be submitted online. Paper applications will not be considered.

### Eligibility

- Pakistani citizens with strong academic histories, residing (throughout the scholarship process) in Pakistan and committed to returning to and serving Pakistan, are welcome to apply.
- All disciplines are eligible except clinical medicine. People in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, health, education, environment, and climate change are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Eligible Master's applicants will have a four-year Bachelor's degree or a Bachelor's and Master's combination (16 years of formal education) and PhD applicants will have a Master's, M.Phil., or a comparable degree (18 years of formal education) from an accredited university.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all applicants.
- Shortlisted candidates will be required to take the Duolingo English Test.
- Applicants should be prepared to complete grants without accompanying dependents, if need be.

Applicants from underserved communities and/or with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Plagiarism, fraudulent publications, or other misrepresentation in an application will lead to disqualification at any stage of the program.

DEADLINE  
February 28, 2024