

Abid Boxer gets bail
LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Thursday approved bail of former Punjab police inspector Abid Hussain alias Abid Boxer in cases of extortion and giving shelter to fugitives. According to the police, several cases under charges of terrorism, extortion, money laundering and others are registered against former police officer Abid Boxer in three different police stations.

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President, CEC agree on Feb 8 as election date



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced on Thursday it would hold the next general elections on February 8 after a consultation with President Arif Alvi which was held in adherence to a constitutional requirement underscored by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa earlier in the day.

The chief justice was hearing a set of petitions calling for fixing the date of the next elections within the 90-day constitutional deadline ending in early November when the ECP lawyer, Sajeel Swati, revealed the national polls would be held on February 11. However, Justice Isa instructed the ECP to appear before the court tomorrow, Friday, after consulting on the date with Alvi, as is mandated by the constitution.

"Respected Election Commission members held a meeting with the President of Pakistan under the leadership of Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja at the Presidency today to discuss the election date," a brief ECP statement announced. "It was unanimously decided that elections will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024." According to a statement released by the President's Secretariat, officials of the election regulatory body briefed Alvi over progress related to the delimitation of national and provincial assembly constituencies on the basis of the latest digital census done earlier this year.

The delimitation work was also cited as the reason by ECP officials for the delay in national polls in the country. Prior to the meeting, ECP lawyer Swati told a three-member Supreme Court bench the national polls would be held after completion of delimitation on November 30.

He added all arrangements, including the delimitation of constituencies, would be completed on January 29. "Elections should be held on Sunday, February 11," the lawyer informed the court. Recent amendments to Sections 57 and 58 of the Election Act 2017 allow the election commission to bypass the president and unilaterally announce election dates.

However, independent legal analysts say the power of the president to set a date for elections under Article 48(5) is an independent power under the constitution and not subservient to any other provision of the Constitution. Pakistan is currently being run by a caretaker government under interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar that is meant to oversee a general election.

Despite the delay, the announcement of polls will likely ease political uncertainty as the country struggles to stay on a narrow stabilization path under a \$3 billion bailout plan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Analysts and political parties have been demanding that elections be held as soon as possible to boost confidence in the ailing \$350 billion economy, which is currently suffering from high inflation, low growth and a weak currency.

Elections to be held on Feb 11, ECP informs SC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that general elections in the country will be held on February 11, 2024, ending months-long uncertainty that whether the polls will take place or not.

ECP's lawyer Sajeel Swati further told the apex court, which was hearing a set of petitions calling for holding of elections with 90 days after the dissolution of national and provincial assemblies, that the delimitation process would be completed by November 30 and elections will be held 54 days after that.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah was in session hearing pleas filed by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), the PTI, Munir Ahmad and Ibad-ur-Rehman. During Thursday's proceedings, the CJP sought a clear stance from the electoral body on polls to which the ECP lawyer said there was a 54-day schedule after the delimitation process is over on November 30. "All arrangements including the drawing of constituencies will be completed by January 29," Swati said, adding the final list of constituencies will be published on December 5.

Swati said the electoral body had been looking to hold polls on a Sunday for the ease of the public. "Hence we decided that elections will be held on February 11, which is the second Sunday of the month," he added. Subsequently, CJP Qazi Isa asked the ECP lawyer if President Arif Alvi was taken on board on the poll date issue. In response, Swati said "We are not bound to consult the president."

The ECP counsel's response triggered an angry reaction from CJP Isa, who asked "Both the president and ECP are Pakistanis.

Why is the ECP hesitant to consult with the president?" The chief justice then ordered the electoral body to discuss the matter with President and that too today and report back to the court. The CJP remarked that apex court will ensure elections on the given date. "Once the process is final, then no one can change it," he added.

Later, Swati told the court that the ECP would consult the president today. "Knock his door even if he doesn't call you," Justice Isa said and then instructed Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan to stay on board during the consultation. The CJP further remarked the court wanted to settle this issue once for all. "The court will make the consultation with the president as part of court's record," he said.

Earlier, Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa has hinted at wrapping up the hearing of a set of petitions seeking holding of elections in the country within 90 days after the dissolution of the national and provincial assemblies. During the last hearing, CJP Isa observed that it was "not possible" to meet the 90-day deadline for holding elections. The CJP in his written order stated that the petitioners were contending that the census was notified as an excuse to delay the elections. "The petitioners said that holding the election in 90 days is a constitutional requirement. According to the petitioners, elections are not possible within 90 days after the delimitation of constituencies and the census," said the court.

At the outset of the hearing on Thursday, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawyer Farooq Naek informed the apex court that his party had submitted the request to become a party in the case. After this, PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar launched his arguments by saying that the party has limited its petition to only seeking timely elections. "Elections must be held within 90 days after the dissolution of assemblies as per the

Constitution," he stressed. At this, CJP Isa said that the plea seeking polls within a 90-day period has then become ineffective. "The court was told that it was impossible to hold polls within 90 days in the previous hearing," he remarked.

Ali Zafar then said that PTI only wants elections, adding there won't be any parliament and law if elections are not conducted. "Giving a date and schedule of elections are two different things. President Dr Arif Alvi had written a letter to hold consultations with the ECP," he remarked. The CJP observed that the president had written in his letter that the court should look into the matter of elections. "Is the president saying that court should take notice of the issue pertaining to elections?" he questioned.

Ali Zafar replied that the president had said that the court can also review the matter. CJP Isa then said that the president did not give any date for elections in his letter. "Did the president not fulfil his constitutional duty?" he asked. Ali Zafar said that the president fulfilled his responsibility by consulting on the elections. On this point, Justice Athar Minallah asked why the president wrote the letter in September and not on August 15 after the assemblies were dissolved on August 9.

"Did the president only ask the Supreme Court verbally to take notice of the matter?" asked the CJP, saying the head of state wrote the letter to the ECP and not to the Supreme Court. CJP Isa then questioned whether the apex court had the authority to give a date for polls. "Is it necessary for the president to consult the prime minister to give a date?" he inquired. Ali Zafar replied that consultations are not necessary as the president has his own constitutional duty to give a date. Meanwhile, Justice Minallah said, "The command of the Constitution is very clear that the president had to give the date [for elections], there is no disagreement in it."

Bugti vows fair treatment for Afghans

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti said on Thursday Pakistani authorities would not mistreat Afghan refugees or harass those in possession of legal documents during a meeting with Afghanistan's ambassador who raised several objections over the conduct of forced deportation of his country's citizens from Pakistan in recent weeks.

"Sardar Ahmad Shakib, Afghanistan's ambassador in Islamabad, in a meeting with Sarfraz Bugti, Pakistan's Minister of Interior Affairs, discussed the issue of forced deportation of Afghan refugees, especially the transfer of property and money from their bank accounts, the trapping of thousands of refugees in Torkham and Chaman, and the harassment of refugees, including women and children," an Afghan authority statement noted after the meeting.

The Afghan envoy took up these issues after several of his countrymen complained to media outlets that circumstances had forced them to sell their possessions for very low rates since they were in a rush to leave Pakistan.

According to the government's directives, the families of undocumented foreign nationals cannot carry more than Rs50,000 in cash at a time when Pakistan is facing financial woes of its own.

The sheer number of Afghans gathering at Torkham and Chaman border crossings has reached a point where it has become difficult for the immigration authorities to perform biometrics and put their details in the system. The Afghan authority statement quoted Bugti, who assured that the government would soon announce a proper procedure for the transfer of assets belonging to Afghan nationals. Additionally, the minister pledged to establish more registration centers to expedite the biometric processing of women and children under 14 at Torkham and Chaman borders.

"He assured that the police would treat Afghan refugees with dignity and that Afghans with legal documents would not be harassed," the statement concluded. Pakistan's foreign office confirmed earlier in the day that a crackdown had started against illegal immigrants residing in the country. "This process will continue in an orderly and phased manner," said its spokesperson.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during her weekly news briefing. "The decision is in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws, and compliant with applicable international norms and principles," it added. "It does not apply to individuals who enjoy refugee status, who will continue to be generously hosted by Pakistan."

Qureshi shifted to hospital

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was shifted to hospital after his health deteriorated in Adiala jail on Thursday.

According to details, Qureshi's condition worsened in jail, after which the jail administration sought permission from Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain to transfer him to PIMS. The jail administration appealed to Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain that medical tests have to be conducted of Shah Mahmood and he should be allowed to move to the PIMS hospital following the advice of jail doctor.

Judge Abul Hasnat accepted the request and allowed the former foreign minister to be shifted to the hospital. It is pertinent to note that Shah Mehmood Qureshi is imprisoned in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after his arrest in cipher case. A special court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of cipher case against PTI chairman and Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi till November 7.

Hundreds more foreign nationals flee Gaza as bombing toll mounts

RAFAH: Hundreds more foreigners and dual nationals fled war-torn Gaza for Egypt on Thursday as Israeli forces kept bombing the besieged Palestinian territory where thousands have died. Wael Abu Mohsen, spokesman for the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing, said about 100 foreign nationals had been able to leave.

A total of 400 foreign passport holders as well as 60 severely wounded Palestinians in ambulances were due to cross by the end of the day, he said, and Egyptian officials later reported the first arrivals. A list of those approved to travel Thursday shows hundreds of US citizens and 50 Belgians along with smaller numbers from various European, Arab, Asian and African countries. AFP reporters in Rafah saw cars inside the crossing point and trucks being inspected. The evacuation marks a tiny proportion of the 2.4 million people trapped in Gaza under weeks of bombardment since Hamas launched a bloody cross-border attack into Israel on October 7.

Egyptian officials have said they hope to help evacuate 7,000 foreigners from more than 60 countries from the densely crowded territory, as international calls for a cease-fire mount. Ground battles flared again overnight in northern Gaza as Israeli troops seek to destroy Hamas, Hamas' assault on October 7, which Israel says claimed 1,400 lives, was the bloodiest in the country's 75-year-history. The Israeli army is also seeking to free around 240 hostages, both civilians and troops, captured by Hamas during the attacks. On Thursday, the military said it had killed dozens of enemy fighters.

"IDF fighters continue to advance in the Gaza City area and conduct face-to-face battles with Hamas terrorists and deepen the fighting," military spokesman Daniel Hagari told journalists. "During the night the forces fought against many terrorists who tried to ambush them. At the end of a battle that lasted several hours and included ground fighting and fire support from aircraft and a missile ship, many terrorists were killed." Some 332 soldiers have already died in the October 7 attacks and in the Israeli offensive they triggered. Now grueling urban warfare lies ahead deeper inside Gaza, where Hamas is fighting from a tunnel network spanning hundreds of kilometers (miles).

Global concern has risen sharply over Israel's response, in which the army says it has struck more than 12,000 targets so far. The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says more than 9,000 people have died, mostly women and children. The United States and several Western countries back Israel in ruling out a cease-fire for now, arguing that it must have the right to defend itself against Hamas. But President Joe Biden said he would support a humanitarian "pause" to help get the hostages out of Gaza. The long-blockaded coastal strip has been under a total Israeli siege that has cut off water, food, electricity, fuel and medical supplies.

A total of 227 aid trucks have so far entered under a US-brokered deal, according to the UN humanitarian agency OCHA, an amount aid groups say falls far short of meeting basic needs. Special concern has focused on repeated heavy strikes on Gaza's largest refugee camp — densely populated Jabalia, north of Gaza City — where explosions brought down residential buildings. Gaza's Hamas-ruled government said 195 were killed in two days of Israeli strikes on Jabalia, a



Bahrain expels Israel envoy

MANAMA: Bahrain has recalled its ambassador to Israel and suspended economic ties with Tel Aviv, the country's parliament announced on Thursday. The statement published on the Bahraini parliament website confirmed that the Israeli ambassador had left Bahrain, while Bahrain called back its ambassador from Israel and decided to suspend all economic relations with Israel.

It added that its decision to recall its envoy and suspend economic relations is based on the kingdom's "solid and historical stance that supports the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." The parliament statement continued: "The Council of Representatives affirms that the Israeli ambassador in the kingdom of Bahrain has left Bahrain and the kingdom of Bahrain has decided on the return of the Bahrain ambassador to Israel. The cessation of economic relations was also decided. "The Council affirms that the continuation of war and military operations, and the continuing Israeli escalation in light of the lack of respect for international humanitarian law, prompts the Council to demand more decisions and measures that preserve the lives of innocent people and civilians in Gaza and all Palestinian areas." The Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs is yet to issue a statement, but the story has been widely reported by several news agencies, including Israeli ones. — Arab News

Time running out to prevent 'genocide' in Gaza: UN

NEW YORK (AFP): A group of UN-mandated human rights experts, including the special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, said Thursday that "time is running out to prevent genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza".

"We remain convinced that the Palestinian people are at grave risk of genocide," the experts said in a joint statement. "The time for action is now. Israel's allies also bear responsibility and must act now to prevent its disastrous course of action."

figure AFP could not independently verify. Hamas said seven of the estimated 242 hostages it is holding, died in Tuesday's bombings, a claim that was also impossible to verify.

Israel has sought to justify the first Jabalia attack by saying it had targeted a senior Hamas commander in a tunnel complex below the camp. AFP has witnessed rescuers desperately clawing through the rubble and twisted metal in frantic attempts to bring out survivors and bodies. Emergency responders say "whole families" have died. The wounded were rushed away by cart, motorcycle and ambulance as anguished wails and blaring sirens filled the dusty air. But Gaza's hospitals have been overwhelmed and run short of medical supplies and even electricity. More than 20,000 people in

Blinken, Saudi defence minister discuss Gaza

WASHINGTON (Reuters): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the need to reinforce regional stability with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud, the State Department said on Thursday.

"The secretary affirmed the importance of addressing humanitarian needs in Gaza, preventing further spread of the conflict, and reinforcing regional stability and security, including in Yemen," in Wednesday's meeting, the department said in a statement.

Gaza are wounded, according to aid group Doctors Without Borders.

Israel has argued it is trying to avoid civilian casualties and has told residents to evacuate northern Gaza. It also says Hamas has blocked many civilians from leaving. While the United States and other Western powers have largely backed Israel, anger has flared across the Arab and Muslim world. Jordan has recalled its ambassador to Israel "to condemn the Israeli war that is killing innocent people in Gaza." Israel has also drawn fire from Iran-backed enemy forces, including Hezbollah in neighboring Lebanon and Houthi rebels in distant Yemen. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will embark on another Middle East tour from Friday.

— Arab News

PM directs Info Ministry to resolve issue of advertisement dues

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday assured the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) of payment of advertisement dues and directed the Information Ministry to resolve the issue as soon as possible. He was talking to a PBA delegation, which called on him. During the meeting, matters relating to the media, especially electronic media, came under discussion.

The delegation informed the prime minister about the issue of outstanding dues on account of government advertisements. Highlighting the importance of the media, the prime minister said that being the fourth pillar of state, the media was of utmost importance for the development of society, and the mental and intellectual training of people. He said the protection of the rights of the media representatives was also responsibility of the state.

PM Kakar said that through effective and coordinated communication between the government and the media, the public could stay informed about government policies and initiatives. He said the media played a key role in good governance and accountability of government performance.



He expressed the hope that the media would continue to play its role in the stability of democracy through impartial reporting. The prime minister urged the delegation to increase public awareness through the media about the importance of the economic stabilization strategy under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

He said that the recent decline in the value of the dollar, prevention of smuggling, prevention of electricity theft and other measures were benefiting the common man. Caretaker Minister for Information Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Secretary Information & Broadcasting, and and Principal

Information Officer were also present in the meeting. The PBA delegation included its Chairperson Shakeel Masood, Secretary General Mian Amir Mehmood, Senior Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rehman and Tahir Khan.

Discipline key part of students' character-building alongside education: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar terming the role of teachers significant in the reformation of society said their specific focus on the character-building of students could lead to the progress of the nation. PM Kakar said besides education, training of discipline among the youth was of prime significance in shaping their character.



2 motorcyclists gunned down in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Two people riding a motorcycle were gunned down by two people riding a car near Karol Ghati in Gujarpura area in Lahore on Thursday. According to In-charge Investigation Gujarpura Alam Langriyal, the motorcyclists allegedly tried to rob the car occupants, during which the car occupants opened fire, killing both the motorcyclists.

One of the slain motorcyclists was identified as Haider Shah, while the other could not be identified. Weapons were recovered from the possession of the slain motorcyclists.

A person in the car, who identified himself as a businessman, said he was accompanied by the gunman. The police are investigating the incident further.

Bachat bazaars banned in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The district East administration on Thursday banned all bachat bazaars in Karachi district from immediate effect.

The deputy commissioner Karachi West Zone has suspended NOCs for all bachat bazaars across the district. All organisers can get fresh NOCs from the district administration after completing the verification process. It is pertinent to mention here that the weekly bachat bazaars in Karachi have become a means of providing relief to the people from inflation. In the bachat bazaars, stalls selling used items, shoes, clothes, blankets, utensils, food items, vegetables and fruits are helping the public to cope with inflation.

About 150 bachat bazaars are being set up in Karachi under the NOC of Bureau of Supply and Prices whereas the number of bachat bazaars with the permission of Deputy Commissioners and regional savings bazaars without NOC is around 100.

Punjab's first paraplegic centre opens in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's first paraplegic centre for rehabilitation of patients paralyzed due to spinal cord injury has started working at the Government General Hospital Samanabad.

The 20-bed centre was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, here on Thursday. He inspected various sections of the centre, including the workshop for preparation of prosthetic limbs and physiotherapy room. He also inquired the under-treatment patients about the healthcare facilities being provided to them. The chief secretary said the paraplegic centres in Multan, Faisalabad, Taunsa and Wah Cantt would also become functional soon. The health department officials briefed the chief secretary that an online record of all patients under treatment at the centre was being compiled. They said counseling facility would also be provided to patients for making them a useful citizen in society. They said a workshop had been set up in the paraplegic centre for preparation of prosthetic limbs.

CM opens festival at Jilani Park, reviews Bund Road projects

LAHORE (NNI): Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated a cultural festival at Jilani Park.

The chief minister took a round of the tea stalls at the fair which is part of Lahore Lahore Ay cultural festival organised by the Punjab Food Authority.

Mohsin interacted with the visiting families and praised the organizer. He shook hands with the citizens at the stalls. The visitors appreciated the event, took selfies with the chief minister and heaped praise on him for being active in ensuring better public service delivery.

Punjab Food Authority DG Raja Jahangir Anwar gave a briefing about the Tea Festival. The CM said the tea festival

is a magnificent event under the Lahore Lahore Ay cultural festival.

Citizens come to Jilani Park to enjoy this, he said, adding that special arrangements have been made for children's entertainment too.

Also, Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin visited Bund Road late Wednesday and reviewed the work on the ongoing project.

Provincial Ministers Mansoor Qadir, Aamir Mir and Azfar Ali Nasir accompanied him. He inspected the entire route of more than 7 kilometres for 2 hours. He issued directives to remove the encroachments and widen the service road. He stressed that the project should be completed on time and quality must be ensured.

Ashrafi stresses unity on Palestine issue, demands Israel's boycott by Muslim Ummah

LAHORE (APP): Allama Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, the Special Representative for Inter-Religious Harmony and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, has emphasised the need for unity within the Muslim Ummah regarding the issue of Palestine.

In a press conference held at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia on Thursday, he urged the Muslim countries to boycott Israel and its products. He stressed the importance of preventing attacks on innocent Palestinians and providing assistance to them.

He said Pakistan's policy Palestine remains clear and unwavering. Additionally, he mentioned that the Chief of Army Staff delivered a message of solidarity to the Palestinian Ambassador.

Ashrafi pointed out that there is a common stance among all Muslim countries on the Palestinian issue, and he noted that Hamas has presented negotiations for a free Palestine as the only solution to the matter. He also mentioned that the message from Pope Francis aligns with this perspective.

Furthermore, Ashrafi emphasised that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, and Pakistan are on the same page regarding the issue, and the collective efforts are now focused on achieving a ceasefire. Ashrafi expressed his belief that Gaza will be liberated again, as its residents continue to endure the situation. He announced that Palestine's Martyrs' Day will be marked across the country on Friday, dedicating the day to martyr children. He also requested the Prime Minister to establish a fund for Palestinians.

181 new cases of dengue in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): As many as 181 new cases of dengue were reported in the province on Thursday.

As per recent information from the health department, 9,693 dengue cases had been revealed in Punjab during the current year. In Lahore, 4,125 cases were recorded followed by Rawalpindi with 2,312, Multan with 984, Faisalabad with 437 and Gujranwala with 805 cases.

The circumstance is as yet proceeding, with Lahore detailing 93 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi with 25, Multan with 16, Gujranwala with 25 and Faisalabad with six new cases in the last 24 hours. Sheikhpura and Attock each announced three instances of dengue infection though Sargodha,

Sahiwal and Lodharan each kept two new instances of dengue in a similar time frame. Kasur, Muzaffargarh, Narowal and Nankana Sahib each revealed one instance of dengue.

Currently, 155 dengue patients are getting treatment in different hospitals across Punjab, with 70 of them in hospitals inside the Lahore region. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jaan Khan gave a convincing request for residents to keep up with spotless and dry environmental factors as a preventive measure against dengue fever.

A free helpline is accessible through the health department at 1033. Carefulness and proactive measures are basic requirements to control dengue in Punjab.

62 factories cause smog by burning plastic waste, tires

LAHORE (INP): Special Branch revealed that 62 factories in Lahore are causing smog by burning plastic waste, tires, and rubber. The report also alleges that officers of the Environment Department and District Administration are receiving bribes of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 60,000 per factory per month to allow them to operate.

The Director General of Environment Punjab, Zaheer Abbas Malik, has said that the department has a zero tolerance policy against units that spread environmental pollution. He also said that a response to the Special Branch report has been sent to the concerned authorities.

The use of plastic waste, tires, and rubber as fuel is a

serious environmental hazard. These materials release harmful pollutants into the air, which can cause respiratory problems and other health issues.

The allegations of bribery are also concerning. If true, they show that some government officials are willing to sacrifice the environment and public health for personal gain.

The authorities must take immediate action to address the issues raised in the Special Branch report. The polluting factories must be shut down and the corrupt officers must be held accountable.



LAHORE: Children are attending school while wearing masks as mandated by the provincial government due to the smog situation.

CM says strategies being devised to culminate street crime, dacoit culture

KARACHI (PPI): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar has said that the government was putting all its efforts into overcoming the menace of street crime in Karachi and the dacoits in the riverine areas.

"A foolproof strategy is being devised and I am sure that the innovative and trusted mechanism will succeed us in the culmination of dacoit culture from the remaining parts of the province," he said while addressing the participants of the National Defence University's 25th security workshop. The participants include current and former members of provincial assemblies, senators, senior civil and military officers, academicians, as well as representatives of civil society. Provincial caretaker ministers, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, IG Police Rifat Mukhtar and provincial secretaries attended the program.

The CM said that the purpose of such trips is to acquaint participants with the realities of the area they were visiting, exchange ideas with respect to security challenges, and build synergistic alliances that allow us to find solutions to shared problems. "We are a country of over 200 million people,

and by 2025 we will have 100 million people in the middle class, thus, making Pakistan's middle class the 10th largest in the world," he said and added that one of the major challenges for any government was to create opportunities and to particularly provide our youth with avenues for fulfilment and self-actualization.

Justice Baqar said that keeping in view the nexus between security and development, the federal govern-

ment and the Sindh government were utilising significant resources towards improving access to education and healthcare, improving connectivity, and ensuring the provision of basic amenities particularly for the inhabitants of cosmopolitan cities like Karachi in order to cater for the long-awaited demand/need of the particular and working women, especially with respect to public transport. He added that at the same

time, the Sindh government has also endeavoured to bridge the gap between rural and urban by providing agricultural goods quick access to the markets.

The Government of Sindh and the Government of Pakistan have launched various BRT lines in Karachi, the CM said and added while the Green Line has become operational, works on the Yellow and Red Line BRTs were continuing at full throttle.

KHUSHAL KHAN KHATTAK UNIVERSITY KARAK
RE-TENDER NOTICE

Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, KPK invites bids based on MRS-2022 (2nd Bi-Annual) from reputed and well-established Firms / Companies/ Contractors of Alternative & Renewable Energy (ARE) to provide the Net-Metering facilitation and license through PESCO / WAPDA having valid NTN / Sales Tax registration with active ATL Status in KPRA and FBR record with modern facilities for design build and installation of 370KW approximately (±10%) or suitable capacity in accordance with the need of **On Grid- Hybrid Solar System**, required for KHUSHAL KHAN KHATTAK UNIVERSITY KARAK. The interested firms should be registered with Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB).

The tender will be on the basis of Single Stage-Two envelope procedure as per KPRA rules.

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (M)	Earnest Money (2% of Estimated cost)	Required Category of PEC	Period of Completion	Last date of submission & Time	Date & Opening Time
1	DESIGN BUILD AND INSTALLATION OF 370 KW ON GRID- HYBRID SOLAR SYSTEM AT KHUSHAL KHAN KHATTAK UNIVERSITY KARAK. (PHASE-1)	99.488	2% of Engineer Estimate (Rs.1,989,756)	C-4 EE-04, EE-11 and CE-10	As Per Work Order	17-11-2023 (11:00 AM)	17-11-2023 (11:30 AM)

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The interested bidders must have completed at least three similar natures of projects in last five years with proof.
- Bidding documents can be obtained from the office of Director Works, Khushal Khan Khattak University, karak on cash payment of Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable) up-to November 16, 2023. Technical design should be based on proper analysis and rates should be quoted accordingly in the bid.
- In case of bid more than 10% below, the bidders shall submit additional bid security in light of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA) notification No. S.R.O (14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 date may 10, 2022 which is available in KPPRA website.
- Financial Bid must be accompanied by bid security in shape of call deposit @ 2% of the engineering Estimate cost in the name of Treasurer Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak.
- Income tax return for last 03 years/ audited report may be submitted with the technical bid.
- Original Affidavit on Stamp Paper that the Firm DOESN'T have any Litigation History in which Decision has been given against the firm(s).
- (If Applicable) Joint Venture agreement as per PEC criteria on stamp paper, signed by authorized persons of all the firms should be provided. All JV partners must be registered with PEC.
- The default liability period of 01 year (all allied accessories) & warranty for solar panels for 25 years shall be commenced from the date of commissioning.
- A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 13-11-2023 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room, Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak. Bidders are invited to attend the meeting.
- The bid shall be opened in the presence of committee members & bidders and work will be awarded to the lowest bidder.
- All taxes etc. shall be deducted from the bill of the contractor/firms at prescribed rates notified by the government of Pakistan from time to time.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day before the submission of the bid.
- Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak reserves the right to reject any or all bids by assigning cogent reasons.
- Bid proposal through courier should reach the office of Director Works, Khushal Khan Khattak University, karak by the above mentioned date.
- The bidders/firms will have to provide the following documents at the time of receiving the tender documents.

a. CNIC copy.
b. Written request on bidder letter head
- PEC, KPRA & FBR Registration d. Registration of AEDB

DIRECTOR WORKS
Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak
Ph #, (0927) 2910333

SHIFTING OF SALEH KHANA BRANCH (Br-Code 0334)

This is to inform valued customers of Askari Bank Limited that our branch located at Saleh Khana, Tehsil Pabbi, District Nowshera, will be shifted to the new address: Askari Bank Limited, Mouza Khudrazai, Tehsil Pabbi, District Nowshera. Effective from November 30, 2023, the branch will be functional at the new premises.

For further information, please contact:
Branch Manager: 0334-8361093
Operations Manager: 0306-5905619

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hamraz Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Gul Khan citizen number 1420115629953 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Rafia Naz (Daughter)2.Afsana Yasmeen (Daughter)3.Shamim Zari (Daughter)4.Muhammad Zari (Spouse)5.Wajid Ullah (Son)6.Hamraz Ullah (Son)7.Mtikhar Ahmed (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KARAK-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shawez Gul Bokhari with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Gul Khan citizen number 1420213412577 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Masuda Bokhari (Spouse)2.Jamshed Gul Bokhari (Son)3.Shawez Gul Bokhari (Son)7.Mtikhar Ahmed (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Haroon with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Shafique citizen number 1430106179259 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Sameena Shafiq (Daughter)2.Rabia Shafique (Daughter)3.Shakeela Bano (Daughter)4.Zubaida Khanam (Daughter)5.Muhammad Haroon (Son)6.Muhammad Tariq (Son)7.Muhammad Rashid (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Bakhti Raja with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Silver Khan citizen number 1710154997849 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Hasira (Daughter)2.Bakhti Raja (Spouse)3.Asad Khan (Son)4.Muhammad Umar (Son)5.Adnan Ahmad (Son)6.Aqeel Ahmad (Son)7.Adil Ahmad (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Samad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Taslim Gul citizen number 1420129050466 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Ufat (Daughter)2.Mehwish Qaiser (Daughter)3.Sher Bano (Daughter)4.Nilam Bahar (Daughter)5.Zaib Jahan (Spouse)6.Muhammad Zeeshan (Son)7.Abdul Samad (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KARAK-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Bibi Gul with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Aziz Ur Rahman citizen number 1710102763553 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Nosheen (Daughter)2.Habiba (Daughter)3.Kainat (Daughter)4.Nihayat Bibi (Spouse)5.Ibad Ur Rahman (Son)6.Imad Ur Rahman (Son)7.Zia Ur Rahman (Son)8.Inam Ur Rahman (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Bashir Ul Haq with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zareen citizen number 1320174680547 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Faiza Bibi (Daughter)2.Taj Begum (Daughter)3.Saira Bibi (Daughter)4.Gulshin Habb U Rehman (Spouse)5.Muhammad Bashir Ul Haq (Son)6.Shahzad (Son)7.Muhammad Ayaz (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSERHA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Bibi Gul with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Amin Khan citizen number 4240156229981 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Singraf Bibi (Daughter)2.Gul Shamim (Daughter)3.Bibi Gul (Daughter)4.Khatmun Nisa Bibi (Daughter)5.Akhtar Khatoun (Daughter)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Bibi Gul with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Umar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Amin Khan citizen number 4240156229981 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Mehar Un Nisa (Spouse)2.Muhammad Umar (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Parveen Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Javed Masih citizen number 1430120790765 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1.Parveen Bibi (Spouse)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU

Deportation of illegal foreigner’s case: PHC adjourns hearing till SC’s decision

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali adjourned hearing on pleas regarding deportation of illegal foreigners till Supreme Court of decision on Thursday.

The counsel for Afghan Artists Mumtaz Ali advocate argued to stop forced deportation of the applicants because they are facing serious threats in Afghanistan after Taliban takeover of the country as musicians. He added that Islamabad High Court had granted relief to Afghan artist recently in this

regard.

During hearing representatives of Ministry of Interior were present before court and argued for adjournment till Supreme Court’s decision in this regard.

However, Justice Arshad Ali remarked that this writ didn’t pleaded the ground upheld before Islamabad High Court because the petitioners aren’t registered refugees and inquired regarding entry of applicants to Pakistan.

The counsel informed that petitioners had obtained visas for entry but now it is expired while Justice Arshad Ali observed that how can they demanding refugees as possessing travel documents and

entered through proper channel.

The counsel further stated that under 2003 accord no Afghan citizen should not be deported however Justice Arshad Ali remarked that in 2003 there was war in Afghanistan and now a settle government is operating the country.

Justice Arshad Ali further remarked that how can applicants demanding stopping their deportation because they aren’t registered.

The writ pleaded that deportation of petitioners will face them with threats in Afghanistan and produced UNHCR email that applicants screening processes are under pro-

ceedings. PHC inquired regarding Proof of Registration card while the counsel responded in negation.

Justice Abdul Shakoor observed that Pakistan is signatory of International conventions but today situation is different from the circumstances of 2003. He inquires regarding procedure of Registration by UNHCR of refugees in current situation.

PHC’s divisional bench comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Arshad Ali adjourned further hearing on deportation of illegal foreigners till final decision of pleas before Supreme Court of Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan addressing inauguration ceremony of Institute of Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences Peshawar.

Photography of events in girls’ schools banned

PESHAWAR (APP): The Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, taking action on a complaint, registered on Citizen Portal, has imposed a ban on unauthorized photography of events at girls’ schools.

A notification issued from the office of the Deputy Director (Female) Elementary and Secondary Education of KP on Thursday said that female education officers should be invited on the occasion of prize distribution and other events in all girls’ schools and no one should be allowed to take photos of the participants.

The notification issued by Elementary and Secondary Education further said that strict compliance of the directive was required to ensure sanctity and privacy of the female students and action be taken against the violators.

Arms smuggling foiled

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a significant operation, law enforcement authorities intercepted a major arms smuggling attempt earlier on Thursday, preventing a potentially catastrophic influx of weapons into Peshawar.

The operation took place at the Main Kohat Road near the Zangli Check Post, where vigilant officers successfully thwarted the illegal shipment. Station House Officer Nasir Farid deployed Hidayat Khan ASI along with police part on crucial intelligence, initiated a pre-emptive operation to halt the illicit arms transfer.

The information had been received from a confidential informant who warned the authorities about a large quantity of weapons en route from Dara Adam Khel to Peshawar.

Hidayat Khan ASI swiftly assembled a dedicated team of police personnel, who strategically positioned themselves at the Zangli

Check Post, ready to apprehend the culprits. Their quick response would soon yield remarkable results.

As the operation unfolded, a yellow rickshaw was spotted racing towards the check post from Dara Adam Khel. Acting on their suspicions, the law enforcement team swiftly intercepted the vehicle and conducted a thorough search.

Their diligence paid off when they discovered an array of firearms and ammunition concealed inside the rickshaw. Among the seized items were three Kalashnikov rifles, each accompanied by three magazines and one 7.62 bore round magazine, along with a single M4 rifle (lacking a magazine) and two 30 bore pistols. Additionally, six cartons of ammunition were discovered, containing a staggering 2,500 30 bore cartridges.

The individual responsible for this brazen smuggling attempt, identified as Sadaqat, son of Anwar Khan and a resident of

Kagah Wala, was promptly apprehended by the vigilant officers. The arrest of the accused marked a crucial breakthrough in the case, and further investigations are currently underway to uncover any additional details and individuals involved in the operation.

This successful operation stands as a testament to the dedication and vigilance of the local law enforcement authorities, who have effectively thwarted a potential security threat by intercepting a massive cache of illegal firearms. The seized weapons have been taken into custody, ensuring the safety and security of the local population in Peshawar and the surrounding areas.

The local authorities are commended for their proactive measures and determination in preventing this significant arms smuggling operation from reaching its intended destination, potentially averting a disaster that could have had dire consequences for the region.

KTH BoG organizes cake cutting ceremony on 100th meeting



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The meeting was held in the conference Hall of Khyber Medical College, the meeting was led by Chairman BoG KTH/KMC/KCD Prof. Dr. Nadeem Khawar, and other members of the meeting were Prof. Dr. Zaffar Durrani, Muhammad Sabur Sethi, Barrister Waqar Ali Khan, Najeeb Ur Rehman,

and Dr. Sadia Shafique. Apart from this, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dr. Syed Nasir Shah, Dr. Zafar Afridi, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ayaz Khan, Mr. Abdul Waheed, Haroon Durrani Manager legal and Hissam Amir Khan Secretary Board of Governors also present.

According to the details, the current Board of Governors has participated in about 25 meetings and by

implementing the revolutionary development works in the three institutions; they have set the three institutions on the path of new development. Here is a quick snapshot of BOG’s tremendous contribution to KTH’s Journey towards development; Renovation of newly established OPD building, Pakistan’s first a complex of 20 Modular operation theaters, installation of

Pakistan’s first 1.5 MRI machine, IP-based CCTV cameras, purchase of modern machinery, various wards renovations and modern machinery worth billions of rupees are included, and Khyber Teaching Hospital and Khyber Medical College the first official ISO certified public sector institutions of Pakistan through tireless efforts and excellent strategy.

After the implementation of MTI Act in Khyber Teaching Hospital, Khyber Medical College and Khyber College of Dentistry, the first Chairman of the Board was Prof. Dr. Faisal Sultan, followed by Mushtaq Jadoon, Dr. Shahjahan and the current Chairman Prof. Dr. Nadeem Khawar. The current Board of Governors recently approved the 2022 Employee Service Regulations, which has benefited the employees along with other employee-friendly decisions.

Project Management Unit inaugurated at AUP

PESHAWAR (APP): Project Management Unit (PMU) on Thursday inaugurated at Agriculture University of Peshawar (AUP) under Agriculture Linkages Program (ALP) to analyzing the impact of climate change on major crops’ productivity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa”.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Jehan Bakht inaugurated the project during a ceremony held here at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, AUP.

The Principal Investigator (PI) Associate Professor Dr. Khuram Nawaz Sadozai, briefed the Vice Chancellor and other participants about the major aim and objective of this research project.

The PI acknowledged

the financial support of the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), Islamabad to execute this project. Prof. Dr. Ghaffar Ali, Chairman of the Department expressed the welcome note to all the participants.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the gathering of distinguished guests, including Prof Dr Dawood Jan Pro-Vice Chancellor, UAP, Dr Rizwan Ahmad, Registrar, UAP, Dr Abdus Salam, Director Finance, Dr. Daud Nazim, Dy Director P&D, Dr Attah Ullah Shah Assistant Professor, Dr Amjad Ali, Assistant Professor and other distinguished researchers.

The Vice Chancellor, in his address, appreciated the significant contribution of

PI and his project team for their research efforts to assess the “Impact of climate change on crop productivity in KP” and highlighted the University’s commitment to contributing meaningful panacea to the challenges faced by the agricultural sector aimed Climate Change.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Jehan Bakht further said that the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics remains at the forefront of academic and research endeavors, and the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for this pivotal ALP project reaffirms the University’s dedication to develop a sustainable agricultural growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - Pakistan.

Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO on Thursday informed that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Jamrud Grid Station on 4th and 7th November from 8 a.m to 2 p.m resultantly consumers of Gull Abad feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar University Grid Station on 4th and 7th November from 8 a.m to 2 p.m resultantly consumers of University Campus, Canal Town, Malakandher, Engineering, Regi, Taj Abad 1, 2, Agriculture, Mera Achini, HMC, Ring Road, Danish Abad, Gharib Abad, Rahat Abad 1, CMB, Abdara, Achini 1, Hussain Zai, Sufaid Dheri, Old Bara Road, JAF, Academy Town, DHA, Aksari 6 and Commercial Balding feeders will face inconvenience.

Crackdown on prohibited Chinese salt conducted

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a decisive move, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority teams conducted operations in Peshawar and Mardan, seizing 600 Kilograms of banned Chinese salt and initiating legal actions against the responsible parties.

The crackdown is part of ongoing efforts to combat

food adulteration across the province. It was stated by spokesman of the KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority.

Giving details the spokesman said, in Mardan, the Food Safety Team also conducted inspections at various businesses, including grocery stores, hotels, and bakeries in Takht Bhair Bazaar and educated the shopkeepers on food safety standard operating procedures.

He emphasized that any further transgressions would be met with severe consequences.

Director General of the Food Safety Authority, Shah Rukh Ali Khan, commended the successful operations of the food safety teams and issued a stern warning to those involved in food adulteration, urging them to prioritize public health.

He emphasized that any further transgressions would be met with severe consequences.

SCCI expresses reservations over massive increase in rents of Auqaf properties

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed reservations over the recent massive increase in rents of Auqaf properties and bringing them equal to private properties rents.

Fuad Ishaq president of the chamber warned unrest among traders’ community and law and order situation will be created if this matter won’t be resolved with

mutual consultation.

According to details, a delegation of traders headed by president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq held a meeting with Secretary Auqaf, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Asadullah Khan in his office on Thursday.

The SCCI former presidents Haji Muhammad Afzal and Riaz Arshad and others also present in the

meeting.

Members of the SCCI delegation strongly opposed 100 per cent increase in rents of Auqaf properties and bringing them equal to private sector properties rents and stated that economic and business situations are highly fragile and unstable under the prevailing circumstances.

They, therefore, urged the government and Auqaf department to review the unprecedented increased

rents of properties and take initiatives for sorting out a viable and endorsable solution of this matter so the traders’ community continue earning livelihoods for their families and the wheel of economy and business will continue to run as well.

The delegation made it clear that the forced eviction of the traders’ community on pretext of increase in rents of Auqaf properties was intolerable and unacceptable.

Asadullah Khan, Secretary Auqaf, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while talking during the meeting assured that to extend full cooperation to sort out a workable solution to this matter in consultation with SCCI and traders community.

The senior official furthermore, assured concerted efforts would be initiated to address this matter till the next week.

Asadullah Khan, Secretary Auqaf, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while talking during the meeting assured that to extend full cooperation to sort out a workable solution to this matter in consultation with SCCI and traders community.

The senior official furthermore, assured concerted efforts would be initiated to address this matter till the next week.



PESHAWAR: President Hayatabad Industrial Estate Association Bakhtiar Khan Afridi led a protest rally chanting slogans against hike in gas price. — F.P. photo

Breast Cancer awareness session held

PESHAWAR (APP): A breast cancer awareness session was organized in connection with the World Breast Cancer Month of October at Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala here on Thursday.

It is worth mentioning here that worldwide October 13th is observed as breast cancer day each year to spread awareness about breast cancer and the need to develop new, targeted treatments that will improve survival

rates among patients.

In continuation to the previous years, this year the month of October was dedicated to the breast cancer awareness in Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala Peshawar wherein people from different walks of life attended including women.

The in-charge of Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala along with his team including doctors, lady health workers and lady health visitors

arranged a campaign regarding breast cancer awareness.

In collaboration with North West General Hospital in Peshawar, a screening and awareness camp was held in Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala through which doctors from both Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar and North West General Hospital addressed the participants and patients regarding breast cancer.

In-charge Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala, doctor Mir Karim Shah, children specialist doctor Taj Bahadur Khan and gynecologist Dr Hina briefed the participants regarding the symptoms and signs of breast cancer and the ways to prevent breast cancer including monthly self-breast examination and how to seek help.

All the patients from the community were screened and examined

free of cost and were motivated to spread the message in their respective communities.

Pamphlets regarding breast cancer were also distributed among the staff, community members and patients.

The officials of the Rural Health Center (RHC) Putwar Bala thanked the North West General Hospital staff and requested for more such screening and awareness campaigns in future.



In brief

Anti-smog steps reviewed F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad has directed the officers of district administration, agriculture and environment protection departments to take practical steps against farmers who are involved in burning residues of crops incipit of bane on burning remains of paddy and other crops whereas Anti-Smog Committee mobilize to initiate punitive action against smoke emitting industrial units, vehicles, and bricks kilns so that spread not only spread of smog could be contained but environment pollution also be overcome. She issued these directions issued in the meeting of District Anti-Smog Committee held to review anti-smog measures being taken by the district administration, agriculture, environment protection departments and District Road Transport Authority. Meanwhile, monthly revenue service open court was held at district complex Hafizabad, on Thursday. DC Sundas Irshad listened complaints and problems of the people and issued appropriate directions to address problems of the people on merit. ADCR Imtiaz Ali Baig, AC Munawar Hussain and other revenue officers were also present in the open court.

Fertilizer godown sealed

SARGODHA (INP): The district administration on Thursday sealed a fertilizer godown and imposed fine on various shops over hoarding and profiteering in Shahpur tehsil. According to official sources, Assistant commissioner Shahpur Anum Babar checked various fertilizer godowns and shops in Shahpur city. The sealed a fertilizer godown for hoarding and imposed a fine of Rs 40,000 on another godown as well. Meanwhile, AC Anum Babar checked grocery shops and also fined Rs 20,000 to four shops.

Two killed in road mishaps

CHINIOT (INP): Two including a woman were killed in separate road mishaps in different localities of Chiniot on Thursday, police said. According to details, an over speeding truck hit a motorcycle near Chak No 234 at Kaniawala road resultantly bike rider Ghulam Sarwar was killed on the spot. An over speeding motorcycle hit a pedestrian woman Razia Bibi in suburbs of Chenab Nagar killing her on the spot. The bodies were shifted to different hospitals and police after registering separate cases at respective police stations started investigations.

Sargodha smog breaks record

SARGODHA (INP): The air pollution in Sargodha has reached its peak, with the air quality index (AQI) crossing 250, the highest level in 20 years. This has led to a sharp increase in the number of patients with asthma, respiratory, throat, and lung diseases in hospitals. According to media reports, Dr. Sikandar Hayat Waraich, Senior Chest and TB Specialist at DHQ (Dr. Faisal Masood) Teaching Hospital, and President of PMA, said that air pollution is an attack on human health and that preventive measures are urgently needed. He advised citizens to avoid leaving their homes unnecessarily and to use clean masks when they go outside. He also said that it is important to eat clean, washed fruits and vegetables, and to drink clean water or boiled water.



NOWSHERA: KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating main campus site of the University of Technology adjacent to Motorway near Rashkai Interchange.

Governor lays foundation stone of APS Martyrs Varsity of Technology

Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Thursday visited Nowshera and laid foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology Nowshera.

The foundation stone laying ceremony among others was attended by Caretaker minister for Industries, Amir Abdullah, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Zafar Khan, Vice Chancellor Swabi University, Dr. Nasir Jamal and Rector Pak Austria University, Dr. Muhammad Mujahid.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor said that he was pleased to inaugurate the varsity that would prove to be milestone in educating youth in new emerging fields of technologies. He said that location of university in proximity to Rashakai Industrial Zone would provide students ample chances to experience working of various types of technologies practically.

He also directed to complete the project at the earliest and said that the design should be modern and meet the requirements of contemporary education system. He also directed to submit details of the design and said that it should be constructed in a way to meet future demands. He also urged youngsters to change their mindset and follow the trends that are leading world towards transformation, progress and development. It merits a mention here that University of Technology would be constructed on a land of 76 acres in Rashakai China Economic Zone Nowshera.

KP Governor inaugurates QEC-AC unit in Women University; Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurated the establishment of Quality Enhancement Cell for Affiliated Colleges (QEC-AC) unit in the campus of Women University Mardan located in Bashkhal area.

In this regard, a ceremony was held here on Thursday in Women University Mardan Bashkhal campus. Apart from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor, vice-chancellor of WUM Dr Ghazala Yasmeen, Dr. Arshid Bashir, Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman and Ata-ur-Rehman of Higher Education Commission Islamabad, Director Quality Division KPK Imran Marwat, principals of affiliated colleges, faulty staff and a large number of students of the university attended the ceremony.

Addressing participants of the ceremony, the KPK governor Haji Ghulam Ali claimed that the government had been spending a huge amount over the education sector. He pointed out that the government had paid Rs.97 billion in salaries to employees of government educational institutions.

On the other hand, he lamented that the government educational organizations had proved to give poor result as compare to private educational institutions in board examinations. "It is not the advancement and development of education to construct a modern and beautiful building for a school, college or university," he said, adding that they had to improve the quality of education in

the relevant organizations.

On the occasion, he asked the vice-chancellor of women university Mardan to take effective steps for parting quality education in her university and its affiliated colleges. Earlier in her welcome address, the vice-chancellor of Women University Mardan Dr. Ghazala Yasmeen thanked the KPK governor for his visit to the university. She informed that nineteen colleges were affiliated with the women university Mardan.

She disclosed that the unit of Quality Enhancement Cell for Affiliated Colleges was established in the university with joint collaboration of Higher Education Commission and World Bank. She claimed that the QEC-AC unit was established with the purpose to improve and enhance the education quality in WUM and its affiliated colleges.

She said that both the women university and HEC had formed and fixed some rules for quality enhancement and that was why students of only those affiliated colleges would be provided degrees which followed those rules and criteria. Dr. Arshid Bashir of Higher Education Commission, who also spoke on the occasion, said that they were committed to take measures for improvement and enhancement of education quality in the organizations working under the HEC umbrella. He said that the establishment of QEC-AC unit would also push the owners and teaching staff of affiliated colleges to keep their focus on improving quality of education in their organizations.

Record uplift projects completed in Swat: Ex-CM Shafi ullah

MINGORA: Former Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentary, Mahmood Khan, proudly stated that during his tenure, significant strides were made in Swat's development. A total of 59 kilometers of roads, with an estimated cost of 3907 millions of rupees, were not only approved but also set into motion. Yet, today, certain political parties are attempting to exploit these accomplishments for their own gain.

Speaking to the media, the former Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan, highlighted some of these projects, such as the 425 million rupees Kabul to Kalakley road, the 490 million rupees Beish Banaras to Bela Gut road, the 769 million rupees Mangalurse to Kis road, the 293 million rupees Shangrai road, as well as several flood-affected roads including Rahat Kot to Gabin Jabba, Shaheenabad to Gabral, Kalam to Bathandar, and Kalam to Attur, with costs ranging from 244 to 641 million rupees. Additionally, he mentioned the construction of vital link bridges, like the Darulai Link Bridge, Badai Seri Link Bridge, Shenku, Bishigram, Lykot, Badai Kamar link bridge, and Tanazgara link bridge, amounting to 1300 million rupees.

Khan emphasized that substantial progress has been made on these projects, with 40 to 50 percent completion in some cases. However, he expressed frustration with political circles attempting to unjustly claim credit for these achievements, which contradicts the reality. Swat holds a special place in his heart, and the work he initiated as Chief Minister is rightfully his legacy. He vowed not to allow anyone to wrongfully take credit for these accomplishments. As he concluded, Khan affirmed his commitment to continue the journey of development in the future if given the opportunity.

Fake documents scams FIA Mardan arrested fake ministers

F.P. Report

MARDAN: FIA Mardan and Anti-corruption Department in a joint operation, arrested two fake interior minister and defense minister famous for making fake ID Cards for Afghans.

According to detail given by the official of the FIA Mardan, Muhammad Shafiq and his son Modaat Ali, who was arrested from Mardan Kachri Chowk, involved in making fake documents scams, and have a connection with international Mafia.

The FIA official said the arrested accused used to make fake ID cards, Pakistani identity cards, Afghanistan Taskara, Pakistan domicile, and other documents and have connections with international mafia. For making such documents, they charged a huge amount of money, the FIA official said. Both suspects were arrested red-handedly by the authorities during the joint operation, FIA official said.

Passport, identity cards, Afghan food card, Afghan Taskara, and other fake documents and stamps were also recovered from the possession of the arrested accused, FIA official said. The father and son are related to the international mafia, the FIA official said. The father and son were famous as Interior Minister Mohammad Shafiq (father), while his son is known as Defense Minister, FIA official added.

84 kg hashish recovered: The Excise Police in a joint operation of Excise Intelligence Bureau EIB-5 Squad and Police Station Excise Mardan Region failed to smuggle large quantities of drugs on Thursday, spokesman Excise Police said.

During the joint operation, the squad recovered 84000 grams (84 kg) of hashish in a search from

vehicle number LEF 1408 on Ring Road near the railway gate. Spokesman Excise said. The alleged accused Adnan Ahmed, son of Muhammad Pervaz, resident of Gulshan Colony, Post Office, Haji Camp, Peshawar, arrested on the spot, Excise Spokesman said. A case has been registered at Mardan Excise Police Station for further investigation and legal action, Excise Spokesman added.

Meanwhile, ASP Sheikh Maltoon Circle, Resham Jahangir, has expressed her unwavering commitment to combating the widespread issue of drug abuse. She encourages every citizen to join the fight for a better future. ASP Resham Jahangir emphasizes that the community is the eyes and ears of law enforcement, and it is now the collective responsibility of individuals to support the police in securing the future of the younger generation against the menace of drugs, particularly substances like ice.

ASP Resham Jahangir addressed the public on this matter at Bab e Mardan naka bandi, located on the main Mardan Nowshera road. During the event, SHO Sheikh Maltoon and other police officers distributed informational pamphlets to the public. She stressed the significance of an awareness campaign to prevent drug abuse and mentioned the formulation of an action plan against drug dealers.

Furthermore, ASP Resham Jahangir affirmed the police force's commitment to maintaining the Sheikh Maltoon Circle as a drug-free zone, working diligently day and night. She extended an open invitation to the public, urging them to reach out to her without hesitation for any assistance or information.



AKORA KHATTAK: JI Ameer Sirajul Haq and others showing solidarity with Palestinians during a gathering.

11 vendors provided with vegetables carts and cash

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Al-Khidmat Foundation with the financial support of the Heroic Hearts distributed pushcarts for selling fruits and vegetable among 11 selected vendors during a function held at the Timergara Rest house.

The Anjuman Tajiran Timergara president Haji Anwarud Din, AKF activist Hafiz Yaqub ur Rehman, AKF general secretary Sultan Zeb and director Al-Khidmat Hospital Timergara Majidullah distributed pushcarts and cash among the vendors. The vendors were also provided with Rs 5000 cash. Talking to local journalists, Sultan Zeb said the step was taken to encourage jobless youth to make their small businesses and feed their families respectively. He said that Rs 60,000 were spent on each pushcart.

Illegal foreigners: According to the Lower Dir administration a total of 189 foreigners living illegally in the district had been repatriated so far. An official of the administration said that law enforce-

ment agencies and police were inspecting the Afghan refugees' camps at Mayar, Mian Banda and Chakdara. He said that an exit point had been set up at Chakdara for people who were being repatriated. The official said that additional deputy commissioner relief and human rights had been nominated as the district focal person for the repatriation of illegal foreigners.

Sports' gala for schools' children begins at Aghosh-Al-Khidmat markaz: The Aghosh Al-Khidmat Gulabad center arranged a sports' gala for local educational institutions which was inaugurated by retired Air Marshal Arshad Mahmood Malik during a function held at the center.

The Al-Khidmat Foundation central assistant secretary general Fazal Mahmood, tehsil municipal officer Iqbal Hassan and others were also present on the occasion. According to the organizers, school children from 40 educational institutions would participate in the event during which sports like cricket, volleyball, bas-

ketball, long jump and declamation contests would be held.

Speaking on the occasion, retired Air Marshal Arshad Mahmood Malik said the event would help increase coordination of the Aghoshian orphan children with students of other institutions in the area. He termed the event a fruitful and positive step and thanked the organizers. He said that sports were vital for physical, mental and social development of students.

Filling of posts demanded: The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz district president Malik Farooq Iqbal demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to immediately fill the vacant posts of district education officer male and female in the district. Talking to local journalists at the Timergara press club he said that both the DEO posts were lying vacant for a long time. The PML-N leader said the DEO female had retired and her post was vacant for about a year. He said the DEO male was on leave for the last several months.



Muhammad Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Chitral Lower and was attended by key stakeholders, government officials, representatives from civil society organizations, academia, parents and children from the district. Muhammad Ali, Deputy Commissioner of Chitral Lower said that the Child Protection Unit aimed at working together with all relevant line departments, stakeholders and service providers for the protection of children from abuse and harm. He also committed his leadership and supervision to the CPU for making it successfully coordinates its work and provides due protection to children at risk of abuse, violence and exploitation.

Ijaz Muhammad Khan, Deputy Chief Protection Officer of KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission provided a detailed briefing to all the participants about process and journey of child protec-

tion system development in the province and mentioned that government through its own funding and technical support from UNICEF, has established Child Protection Units in 21 districts and Fronter Regions (FRs) in the province.

He also emphasized on the role of District Child Protection Committees under the chairmanship

the child protection within their programs and services including the Child Protection Helpline 1121.

He also explained that establishing community-based child protection committees would provide localized platforms to communities and children at their door steps connecting with the child protection system for seeking necessary protection and support. Abdullah Fadil, Representative, UNICEF Pakistan, delivered the vote of thanks and acknowledgment, expressing his gratitude to the Minister for Social Welfare, KP CP&WC and Deputy Commissioner Chitral Lower for the exemplary leadership in building child protection system in the province.

He also mentioned that this ceremony didn't only aim to inaugurate the Child Protection Unit in Chitral Lower it also aimed at celebrating a society that recognizes children as its most vital asset and comes together to ensure their safety, protection and development. He reaffirmed the commitment to protect, nurture, and empower the children of Chitral Lower and Pakistan at large. Muhammad Farooq, Additional Secretary of Social Welfare, SE & WE Department, provided concluding remarks, reinforcing the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to child protection.

He expressed gratitude for the unwavering support from all stakeholders, including UNICEF and the KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission, in the formal inauguration of the Child Protection Unit in Chitral Lower. He reiterated the government's committed to protecting children from abuse and violence and ensuring the established of Child Protection Units in all its districts.

He said that the initiative is a testimony to the dedication and commitment of the KP CP&WC and the Ministry of Social Welfare to create a safe and protective environment for all children in the province. During the ceremony children from cultural risk valley of Kalash participated and performed on their cultural song. The Levies also performed the national anthem.



With the Rafah border crossing open, who is exiting Gaza?

GAZA STRIP (Agencies): The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened, allowing limited evacuations from the besieged enclave to Egypt after nearly four weeks of Israel's war. The opening could see up to 491 people entering Egypt. By 9:48am local time (07:48 GMT), people were already streaming through the Palestinian side of the crossing.

Two hours later, Al Jazeera correspondents on the ground reported scenes of chaos as people pushed to be allowed through the crossing, angry that their calls to embassies and government officials had gone unheard. Before 15:00 GMT, the General Authority for Crossings in Gaza told Al Jazeera that 76 wounded Palestinians and their companions had so far crossed into Egypt through the Rafah border crossing, in addition to 335 holders of foreign passports. The opening came the day after Israel bombed Jabalia refugee camp, which killed more than 50 people, according to Gaza's health authorities. The war has now claimed more than 8,700 Palestinian lives, including more than 3,500 children.

The Rafah border crossing connects Gaza with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Located at the southern tip of the strip, it is currently the only way out of the besieged enclave. This is the first time the crossing has been opened since war broke out on October 7. The two other crossings, which connect Gaza with Israel - Beit Hanoun (called Erez by Israel), which is for people, and Karem Abu Salem (called Kerem Shalom by Israel) for commercial goods - have been shut since Hamas launched its lightning attack near the Gaza border fence, killing more 1,400 Israelis.

US efforts to persuade Egypt to allow safe passage for all Gaza Palestinians have so far led nowhere. However, for the past 11 days, Egyptian authorities have allowed more than 200 trucks carrying vital humanitarian supplies through the Rafah crossing into Gaza. Qatar bro-

kered the agreement between Egypt, Israel and Hamas, in coordination with the US, according to a report in Reuters. The deal is said to be separate from other discussions taking place, in particular on hostages who are still being held by Hamas since its attack on Israeli territory last month. The armed group is holding more than 230 people, including Israeli soldiers and civilians, and foreigners from numerous countries. Thus far, four have been released. A Hamas representative announced that the armed group would soon be releasing "a certain number" of hostages. The official list included the names of sick and injured people who were brought to the border in Palestinian ambulances. Egypt has set up a field hospital in Sinai, sending 10 ambulances to meet arrivals in Rafah. Egyptian media had reported that more than 80 wounded Palestinians would enter Egypt for medical treatment.

While it is known that the evacuation will be taking place for a limited time, no timeline has been made public. Up to now, only a few convoys carrying essentials like food, water and medicine have been allowed through Rafah into the besieged enclave. Palestine's General Authorities for Crossings and Borders listed a set of 491 people, some dual nationals, others foreign passport holders, and still others injured Palestinians, that a set of countries agreed to evacuate from Gaza. There is no mention of US and UK nationals- although it is unknown whether citizens of these countries might have been included in lists for the ICRC and NGOs, which did not specify nationalities. Meanwhile, a convoy of ambulances lined up on the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing. Inside one of them was volunteer paramedic Khader Shamout, but he wasn't there to transport the wounded. Shamout had been transporting people injured in an Israeli air attack on October 20 when his ambulance was hit. His arm was badly



wounded. Initially, the doctors amputated it below the elbow but repeated infections meant he had to undergo seven surgeries and further amputations. His arm is now amputated above the elbow and he requires further surgery. "The pain is excruciating," he explained. "I ask Egypt to treat me well so I can go back to Gaza and live a better life. I hope I'll have one last operation. All I want is to be around my young family, my two-year-old son and baby daughter, safe and sound." For the first time since October 7, when Israel began its offensive on the Gaza Strip following an attack by Hamas that left more than 1,400 people dead in Israel, foreign nationals, some Palestinians with dual citizenship and dozens of injured people have been permitted to leave the Gaza Strip. According to the General Authority for Crossings in Gaza, 76

wounded Palestinians have crossed into Egypt so far. According to Gaza's health ministry, 8,796 Palestinians have been killed in more than three weeks of Israeli air raids, including 3,648 children, and 22,000 people have been wounded. Hospitals, overwhelmed by the sheer number of casualties and running out of fuel as a result of Israel's "total siege" of the strip, are in a state of collapse. At least 16 of the territory's 35 hospitals have been forced to shut down, as have 51 of its 72 primary healthcare clinics.

Major General Mohamed Shusha, the governor of Egypt's North Sinai, said that hospitals in his region had 300 available beds for patients from the Gaza Strip and that a medical team on the Egyptian side of the border would evaluate the patients before transferring them to hospitals. Egypt has also prepared a field hospital with

50 beds in Sheikh Zuweid, 15km (nine miles) from Rafah, and plans to send some of the most serious cases to hospitals elsewhere in the Sinai region or further afield to the city of Ismailia. Hisham Adwan, the spokesman for the General Authority for Crossings, explained that Egypt had informed them that the border, the only crossing point out of the Gaza Strip, would be opened. But the small number permitted to cross is only a fraction of those who need treatment. "There are thousands of serious cases suffering from burn or trauma wounds, and they also need medical treatment abroad," he said.

"We need fuel to operate hospitals and for ambulances and other vehicles used by the civil defence teams to rescue people under the rubble," he explained. "We want the border crossing to be open on a consistent daily

basis in order to transfer the seriously wounded so they can get the best treatment." Naseem Hasan, an ambulance officer who was at the Rafah crossing, explained that the wounded had been transferred from four different hospitals: al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the European Hospital and the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah. "These wounded need advanced treatment and operations," he said. "There are thousands more left that need medical referrals. There are no beds available in ICUs in the hospitals in Gaza." Among the injured were many who had serious burns and needed immediate intensive care, he said, adding, "These are injuries that we have never seen before." Saeed Imran, 23, was on his way to his job as a labourer on October 10 when an Israeli air attack struck a building close to him in Khan Younis. He woke up in the hospital, with shrapnel in his head and his right eye. "I can only see out of my left eye now," he said. "I did an operation on my right eye, but the hospital said I needed another one to save my eye and a referral. But the second operation got cancelled because the supplies needed were in a warehouse that Israel bombed." Imran was accompanied by his father Amin.

"The situation is very difficult," the 56-year-old explained. "People, afraid that they will be buried alive in their own homes, are sleeping in the streets. Others queue from 2am until the afternoon just to get a bag of bread at a bakery." When it was time to cross, Amin was turned back as he did not have his passport with him. While patients required only their identification cards, issued by the Israeli military, those travelling with the injured needed their passports to cross. For Imran, saying goodbye to his family was especially hard. "I don't know whether they will be alive or dead by the time I get back," he said. "I just hope life gets better for everyone in Gaza."

Executions in Iran are up 30%, a new United Nations report says

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Iran is carrying out executions "at an alarming rate," putting to death at least 419 people in the first seven months of the year, the United Nations chief said in a new report. That's a 30% increase from the same period in 2022. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report to the UN General Assembly on the human rights situation in Iran that seven men were executed in relation to or for participating in nationwide protests, sparked by the September 2022 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was picked up by the morality police for her allegedly loose headscarf in violation of Iran's Islamic dress code.

In all seven cases, information received by the UN human rights office "consistently indicated that the judicial proceedings did not fulfil the requirements for due process and a fair trial under international human rights law," Guterres said. "Access to adequate and timely legal representation was frequently denied, with reports of coerced confessions, which may have been obtained as a result of torture." He said 239 people - more than half of those executed in the seven-month period - were reportedly put to death for drug-related offenses, a 98% increase from the same period last year. Guterres expressed deep concern "at the lack of transparent and independent investigations into reported human rights violations, in particular in the context of the latest nationwide protests."

He said the continued targeting of lawyers is also impeding accountability for past and ongoing violations.

The secretary-general cited information received by the UN rights agency that between Sept. 17, 2022, and Feb. 8, 2023, an estimated 20,000 individuals were arrested for participating in the protests. "It is particularly concerning that most of the individuals arrested may have been children, given that the reported average age of those arrested was estimated to be 15 years, according to the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," he said.

The government said "a minimum of" 22,000 people arrested during the protests were pardoned, but the secretary-general said it was difficult to verify the arrest and release numbers. Guterres expressed concern that a number of individuals who were pardoned then received summonses on new charges or were rearrested, including women activists, journalists and members of minority groups. He cited reported instances of disproportionate and excessive use of force against protesters, and beatings and sexual violence after they were put in detention, as well as psychological abuse. According to information received by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, three renowned female actors who appeared unveiled in public - Azadeh Samadi, Afshaneh Bayegan and Leila Bolukati - were convicted for not covering their hair, Guterres said. They were handed a range of sentences, "including imprisonment from 10 months to two years, attending weekly counseling sessions, carrying out hospital cleaning duties, a

two-year driving prohibition and providing a 'certificate of healthiness' upon completion," he said. The report circulated, covering the year-long period ending July 31, said "the continued denial of adequate medical care in detention remains a serious concern." Reports indicate that the health of German-Iranian rights activist Nahid Taghavi, 69, who is serving a sentence of seven years and six months in the notorious Evin prison after conviction on national security charges, "has significantly deteriorated in prison," the UN chief said. On other human rights issues, Guterres said Iranian authorities continue to use national security "to justify restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, online and offline."

He cited a June 27 speech by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei calling on the judiciary to "eliminate dissenting voices" online and tighten control over cyberspace. Among many recommendations, the secretary-general urged Iran to immediately halt all executions, abolish the death penalty and release all people detained arbitrarily, "including women and girls, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, for legitimately exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly." He also urged the government to guarantee the right to peaceful assembly, to ensure that security at protests complies with international human rights norms and standards, and to respect the rights to due process and fair trials.

Germany asks forgiveness for Tanzania colonial crimes

FRANKFURT (BBC): The German president has expressed "shame" for the colonial atrocities his country inflicted on Tanzania. German forces killed almost 300,000 people during the Maji Maji rebellion in the early 1900s, one of the bloodiest anti-colonial uprisings. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was speaking at a museum in Songea, where the uprising took place.

"I would like to ask for forgiveness for what Germans did to your ancestors here," he said. "What happened here is our shared history, the history of your ancestors and the history of our ancestors in Germany." The Maji Maji rebellion was triggered by a German policy designed to force the indigenous population to grow cotton for export. Tanzania was a part of German East Africa, which consisted of modern-day Rwanda, Burundi and parts of Mozambique. President Steinmeier said he hoped Tanzania and Germany could work towards "communal processing" of the past. He promised to "take these stories with me to Germany, so that more people in my country will know about them."

Germany has, until recently, had "colonial amnesia", according to Jürgen Zimmerer, a history professor at the University of Hamburg. "The brutality and the racism of this colonial empire was not understood in the German public." As part of the three-day visit, the president met the descendants of one of the Maji Maji leaders, Chief Songea Mbano, who was among those executed in 1906. He is now considered a national hero in Tanzania and President Steinmeier told the family the German authorities would try to find his remains. Thousands of human remains were brought from German colonies - partly as "trophies" but also for racist research. Prof Zimmerer said there was "almost no funding" available to identify where these bones and skulls, which lie in various museums or institutions, actually came from. Some of the descendants of those killed have managed to locate them with the help of DNA tests. After meeting President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Dar es Salaam, he promised that Germany would co-operate with Tanzania for the "repatriation of cultural property".

Tanzania historian Mohamed Said welcomed the president's apology but told the BBC it did not go far enough. "They decided to set farms on fire so people would run out of food and be unable to fight.

Serbia to hold snap elections

BELGRADE (Agencies): Serbia will hold a snap election next month after President Aleksandar Vucic dissolved parliament in the face of political pressure at home and from the European Union. The parliamentary vote and parallel local elections will be held on December 17, less than two years after the victory of the Serbian Progressive Party at the polls. "We live in times that are difficult for the whole world, in times of global challenges, wars and conflicts when it is necessary that we are all united in preserving vital national and state interests of the Republic of Serbia," Vucic said during an announcement on live television.

Vucic, who is in his second term as president, faces growing criticism from the political opposition and the greater public over back-to-back shootings in May that killed 18 people. The president and his party, which has led Serbia since 2012, have been accused by protesters of promoting a culture of

violence while cracking down on media and electoral freedom. At the time of the protests, several pro-EU parties said the government had ignored protesters' demands and called for new elections. "Serbia is in a deep political and social crisis," they said. "The demands of those who have been protesting for months were ignored. We need responsible people in politics who will solve problems instead of ignoring them." Vucic denies the accusations but will have to convince voters that he is serious about change.

Also in need of convincing is Brussels as Serbia makes a play for EU membership. To secure entry into the 27-member bloc, it must follow the EU's rules, which include sanctioning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, tackling organised crime and corruption, and strengthening the rule of law and human rights. While challenging, the EU's most important precondition is that Serbia normalises its relationship with Kosovo, a self-pro-

claimed independent state since 2008 that Belgrade still regards as part of its territory. More than 100 countries recognise Kosovo as a country, but it has not yet achieved member status at the United Nations. Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said during a visit to Belgrade that Serbia and Kosovo must make more progress if they want EU membership. Some observers believe Vucic has called for elections to delay tackling this politically sensitive problem. Much of Kosovo is ethnic Albanian, although its northern half is home to ethnic Serbians who reject the government in Pristina. The conflict between the two ethnic groups was a catalyst for violence and fighting in the late 1990s, and NATO peacekeeping troops have been stationed in Kosovo ever since. Tensions flared in September following the outbreak of violence in northern Kosovo, leading Serbia to send troops to its border.

Brazil to militarize key airports and borders

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP): Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said he is sending the armed forces to boost security at some of the country's most important airports, ports and international borders as part of a renewed effort to tackle organized crime in Latin America's largest nation. The decision comes days after members of a criminal gang set fire to dozens of buses in Rio de Janeiro, apparently in retaliation for the police slaying their leader's nephew.

"We have reached a very serious situation," Lula said at a press conference in Brasilia after signing the decree. "So we have made the decision to have the federal government participate actively, with all its potential, to help state governments, and Brazil itself, to get rid of organized crime." Brazil will mobilize 3,600 members of the army, navy and air force to increase patrols and monitor the international airports in Rio and Sao Paulo, as well as two maritime ports in Rio and Sao Paulo's Santos port, the busiest in Latin America - and a major export hub for cocaine. The deployment is part of a government's broader plan that includes increasing the number of federal police forces in Rio, improving coopera-

tion between law enforcement entities and boosting investment in state-of-the-art technology for intelligence gathering. State and federal authorities have said in recent weeks they want to "suffocate" militias by going after their financial resources.

Rio's public security problems go back decades, and any federal crackdown on organized crime needs to be supported by a far-reaching plan, the fruits of which might only be seen years from now, according to Rafael Alcaldipani, a public security analyst and professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university in Sao Paulo. "The federal government is being rushed into this due to previous lack of action," said Alcaldipani. "The government is trying, but the chance of this not working is huge ... This is an emergency plan, something being done last minute as though it were a problem that arose just now, but it isn't." Brazil's Justice Minister Flávio Dino said the measures announced are part of a plan being developed since Lula took office on Jan. 1, and the result of months of consultations with police forces, local officials and public security experts. The latest wave of unrest in Rio began Oct. 5, when assassins killed three doctors in a beachside bar, mistaking

one of them for a member of a militia.

The city's powerful militias emerged in the 1990s and were originally made up mainly of former police officers, firefighters and military men who wanted to combat lawlessness in their neighborhoods. They charged residents for protection and other services, but more recently moved into drug trafficking themselves. There has since been increased pressure for the state and federal governments in Brazil to come up with a plan and demonstrate they have a handle on public security in the postcard city. On Oct. 9, days after the doctors were killed, Rio state government deployed hundreds of police officers to three of the city's sprawling, low-income neighborhoods. And on Oct. 23, Rio's police killed Matheus da Silva Rezende, known as Faustão, nephew of a militia's leader and a member himself. In a clear show of defiance, criminals went about setting fire to at least 35 buses. Federal police in Rio said it had arrested another militia leader and key militia members in Rio das Pedras and Barra da Tijuca, both in Rio state. They also seized several luxurious, bullet-resistant cars, a property and cash.

US rights group urges colleges to protect free speech amid Gaza war

WASHINGTON (Agencies): A prominent civil rights group in the United States has urged colleges and universities to respect free speech and resist calls to investigate or disband student organisations rallying on behalf of Palestinian rights. In an open letter to academic institutions, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) warned against politically motivated efforts to police speech on campus, which could "destroy the foundation on which academic communities are built".

The letter comes amid heightened tensions in US academia, as the Israel-Hamas war enters its 26th day. Some campuses are reporting pressure to crack down on critics of Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, where an estimated 8,796 Palestinians have been killed. "A college or university, whether public or private, cannot fulfill its mission as a forum for vigorous debate if its leaders initiate baseless investigations into those who express disfavor or even loathsome views," the ACLU letter reads. "Such investigations chill speech, foster an atmosphere of mutual suspicion, and betray the spirit of free

inquiry, which is based on the power to persuade rather than the power to punish." Since the outbreak of war on October 7, debates about the conflict have intensified on college campuses. Republican politicians have targeted Israel's critics at universities, going as far as threatening to withhold federal funds if campus administrators do not contain Palestinian rights activism. Senator Tim Scott, a Republican candidate in the 2024 presidential race, has introduced legislation to "rescind federal education funding for colleges and universities that peddle antisemitism", citing a Palestinian literature festival at the University of Pennsylvania as an example. And the State University System of Florida called for the public institutions under its control to dismantle chapters of the advocacy group Students for Justice in Palestine (SPJ), citing alleged links to "terrorist groups". The decision, the state university system said, was made in consultation with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, another Republican presidential contender.

The Anti-Defamation League and the Brandeis Center, two pro-Israel groups, also issued a joint letter to universities this week, calling for probes into Students for Justice in Palestine. "We call on university leaders to immediately investigate their campus SJP chapters regarding whether they have improper funding sources, have violated the school code of conduct, have violated state or federal laws, and/or are providing material support to Hamas, a Foreign Terrorist Organization," the ADL letter said. It also warned that if universities fail to "check the activities of their SJP chapters, they may be violating their Jewish students' legal rights to be free of harassment and discrimination on campus". The ACLU specifically rejected the ADL's call for "sweeping investigations" into student organisations. The group acknowledged that the war in Gaza has "roiled campuses across the country" and led to a rise in threats and concerns about personal safety.

Many Palestinian rights advocates have complained of intimidation tactics, public shaming and being doxxed, a practice by

which their personal information is disseminated publicly, often online. Some students also fear their career prospects could be threatened if they speak out. For example, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley, published a Wall Street Journal op-ed last month titled Don't Hire My Anti-Semitic Law Students, referring to student activists who oppose Zionism. Jewish students have also reported anti-Semitic incidents, including violent online threats at Cornell University, a prestigious Ivy League school. Police arrested 21-year-old Cornell student Patrick Dai over posts that threatened to kill and rape Jewish people. The ACLU said that while it does not take sides in overseas conflicts, it does "strongly oppose efforts to stifle free speech, free association, and academic freedom here at home." "In the name of those principles, we urge you to reject calls to investigate, disband, or penalize student groups on the basis of their exercise of free speech rights," the letter said. The ACLU also decried the Florida university system's decision to deactivate its SPJ chapters.

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JALIL AFRIDI
Managing Editor

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

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

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

Gender disparity in Afghanistan

THE Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is under active sonar of global human rights organizations together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other NGOs because there is a stark contrast in opportunities available to both boys and girls in the country under the Taliban regime. According to the details, boys can roam freely and go to school, get an education, and look for well-paying jobs, while girls do not enjoy such luxuries, can't move without a male escort, hide their schooling, can't attend universities, and often work in low-income jobs like carpet weaving. Gender inequalities and other social challenges that existed in Afghanistan for centuries have significantly worsened with the emergence of the Taliban. These challenges, including poverty and unemployment, affect over 90% of Afghanistan's population and also have a profound impact on girls. Meanwhile, the ban on girls' education and the closure of girls' schools under the rule of the Taliban administration, has not only reduced the chances for girls' higher education and employment but seriously restricted the scope for a better future, social and economic independence for Afghan female population which has always been a dream of each Afghan mother for her daughter throughout the past.

Historically, gender inequality and restriction on education, movement as well as employment is not a new phenomenon in traditionally conservative Afghan society but these restrictions have been officially endorsed and the situation bitterly worsened after the headline Taliban took control of the country almost two years ago. Since then, women and girls have experienced severe state-imposed discrimination that amounts to gender prosecution and attracted worldwide criticism from human rights organizations and the international community at large. During this era, the heart-wrenching stories of Afghan mothers resound widely whose daughters are failing to envision high dreams for their families mainly due to a ban on education and a lack of resources to compete in this challenging world. Undoubtedly, Afghan girls and women are talented, and courageous and owe a long-held quest to create a better future for them, but failing to achieve their goals due to overwhelming poverty, unemployment and grave economic challenges. So far, hundreds of thousands of Afghan women are compelled to do some kind of job, domestic labour or farming to feed their children as a large number of Afghans have been killed in the decades-long conflict in that country.

The imposition of restrictions by the Afghan interim rulers, prompted worldwide criticism of their policies while several local human rights activists and woman leaders protested the conservative policies of the Taliban leaders, staged demonstrations or lobbied against the government that met a harsh reaction from the government in the shape of arrest/imprisonment or abduction of women leaders, journalist and critics of the incumbent Afghan rulers. Apparently, the Taliban rulers have been continuing to intensify their restrictions on civil society, particularly by silencing the voices of women and girls, resulting in a disturbing impact on the government as well as on the masses.

Realistically, women are an important part of any society and play a pivotal role in nation-building if they are provided with a conducive environment, moral support and finances. Afghan women had always worked shoulder to shoulder with their male colleagues during the wars and other crucial of their history in the past. Presently, more than half of the country's population has become ineffective and added to the economic burden of their male family members as well as the government. It is high time the Afghan rulers empower their women population by providing them with a better environment and enabling them to participate in education and business activities while maintaining all religious norms and Afghan social tradition, so this important segment of the Afghan society could play its due role in dearly needed nation-building and social development.

KP's GoBiz connect

THE Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an online Government-Business Communication Platform, titled "GoBiz Connect" with the primary purpose to have better coordination and communication between the provincial government's departments and business community. According to the details, this web portal would prove to be an effective platform in order to boost business activities and economic growth by enhancing cooperation and coordination between the private and public sectors along with providing the public an effective tool to monitor and track government's decisions related to the redressal of business community issues/complaints and ensuring public participation in policy making process of the government.

The interim KP leaders are making concerted efforts to play a better role during their short term in office and surely unelected leaders are using all available means and tact to serve the nation in the best possible way. The KP owes tremendous resources together with hidden deposits, water & energy reservoirs while scenic beauty of Malakand and Hazara divisions has a lot of attraction for domestic and foreign tourists. The KP government intends to present an ideal environment for investment in the various sectors of the economy through an integrated approach by the different stakeholders to fully exploit this potential, the newly launched Online Web Portal will have a key role to this regard.

Historically, Pakistan has been blessed by nature with utmost untapped potential, conducive environment, multiple seasons along with a talented and semi-skilled nation. The country is only short of masterminding and skillful use of all those capabilities and talents, which could not be visualized by the nation over the past multiple decades largely due to corruption and culpability of the rulers and bureaucracy. Earlier, the PTI government launched the magnificent initiative of Pakistan Citizen Portal that largely failed to address the public complaints against government departments because of a lack of answerability at the top level. The interim rulers have brought another online program that will be monitored by the government servants who are the real culprits behind all national failures and fiascos. The KP government must raise a committee comprising government and public leaders to carry forward its pro-business manifesto otherwise saboteurs would trashed all those endeavors in pursuit of their personal agenda as their predecessors tore-down such initiatives in the past.

Important Notice

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Fear in newsrooms silences pro-Palestine voices

Rami G Khouri

THE Palestinian-Israeli conflict that now enters its second century is fought on two parallel battlefields. The first comprises the violence on the ground which has reached new heights in recent weeks. The second is the less visible but equally virulent battle in the media and the public information sphere in North America and Europe, where Israel and its surrogates have stepped up attempts to silence journalists who express pro-Palestine or balanced and historically contextualised views.

For years, right-wing pro-Israeli groups like the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) and the Canary Mission have tried to silence academics, activists and journalists who offer Palestinian perspectives, so that Israeli views prevail. Some individuals who fear losing jobs or not being hired or promoted buckle under.

A sinister new tactic tries to silence journalists not because of their reporting, but over social media opinions they posted, sometimes years ago. Since the start of the latest Israeli war on Gaza, a number of media professionals have been fired or suspended in such circumstances. Jackson Frank, a sports reporter in Philadelphia, was fired by PhillyVoice.com because of his tweets supporting the Palestinian cause.

Zahraa Al-Akhrass was dismissed by her employer, Canada's Global News, due to her social media posts drawing attention to the suffering of the Palestinians. Kasem Raad was fired from his job at Welt TV, a subsidiary of German media company Axel Springer, for questioning internal pro-Israel policies. Issam Adwan, an Associated Press Gaza reporter was suspended because of recent as well as past social media posts that criticised Israel as an apartheid regime. And at least six Arab journalists are facing an internal investigation at the BBC over their social media activity which allegedly shows their "anti-Israel bias".

All this is happening amid reports that some Western media companies are instructing staff not to provide context for the Israeli war on Gaza or even

to downplay Palestinian casualties. When asked to explain this trend, seasoned academic analyst of North American-Middle East interactions and Georgetown University Professor Nader Hashemi told me the following: "For the West, both the media

example, was accused of being pro-Hamas in some of her retweets that criticised Israel's actions, but her management emphatically rejected the claims as false. Pulitzer Prize-nominated opinion journalist Abdallah Fayyad, who recently completed three

That is perhaps why accusations of anti-Semitism and of supporting terrorism are now so frequent; they worked well in the past, but seem less effective today when they are arbitrarily used to target people who are neither anti-Semitic nor terror lovers. While there have been dismissals and suspensions of journalists, there also have been those who have received support from their media employers. Los Angeles Times Managing Editor Sara Yasin, for example, was accused of being pro-Hamas in some of her retweets that criticised Israel's actions, but her management emphatically rejected the claims as false. Pulitzer Prize-nominated opinion journalist Abdallah Fayyad, who recently completed three years on the Boston Globe editorial board, explains that there is as a prevalent "culture of fear in many newsrooms".

and politicians, this is primarily a story about Israel. The Palestinians are merely an appendage to this story. This is connected to the long history of Western anti-Semitism and the Nazi Holocaust. Within this framework, the humanity of Palestinians is at best a secondary consideration. Everything we have seen on CNN and from the White House, since October 7 confirms this truism." My own analysis from five decades of documenting and countering Israeli propaganda in the US is that its advocates are worried - because their old tactics no longer have the same impact on Western audiences. That is perhaps why accusations of anti-Semitism and of supporting terrorism are now so frequent; they worked well in the past, but seem less effective today when they are arbitrarily used to target people who are neither anti-Semitic nor terror lovers.

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example, was accused of being pro-Hamas in some of her retweets that criticised Israel's actions, but her management emphatically rejected the claims as false. Pulitzer Prize-nominated opinion journalist Abdallah Fayyad, who recently completed three years on the Boston Globe editorial board, explains that there is as a prevalent "culture of fear in many newsrooms". He told me that most editors are not experts on foreign policy or the Middle East, so their coverage tends to follow the pro-Israel US State Department and White House on the issues. "Most journalists do not interrogate this issue like they do others they cover, like Black Lives Matter. So when they are hit with a flood of letters, social media criticisms, or threats to end subscriptions because of their more balanced coverage, they tend to take the easier route and continue the mainstream media's pro-Israel slant."

This culture of fear is also manifested in who media outlets choose to comment on the events in Israel-Palestine. In the past three weeks, a number of Palestinian American commentators have alleged that either they have been dropped from TV appearances or their pre-recorded commentary has not been aired. Among them are Noura Erakat of Rutgers University, Youssef Munayyer of the Arab

Center-Washington, or political analyst Omar Baddar.

They believe they have been sidelined because they challenge US mainstream TV networks' coverage that favours the Israeli and US government lines.

But there has also been a pushback against the pressure and intimidation campaigns targeting pro-Palestine voices. Arab Americans and progressive allies have mobilised to protect citizens' constitutional rights, document incidents of pressure and harassment, and draw attention to them. Palestine Legal, a US-based civil rights organisation that monitors anti-Palestinian incidents, notes in its latest report that people who openly show solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza face greater intimidation. It documents that heightened harassment of Palestine advocates has prompted over 260 "harassment and censorship attempts". It concludes that pro-Palestine advocates face "a wave of McCarthyite backlash" that continually affects personal and professional lives.

The young but dynamic Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association said it was, "deeply troubled by reports that journalists of Middle Eastern and North African descent face bias at work and are being sidelined from reporting or commenting on the current war... (while) suggestions for nuance, balance, and using accurate and precise language in reporting are being ignored in newsrooms". When I asked them about the campaigns against individuals or companies that challenge unbalanced pro-Israeli narratives, they replied: "Targeting or isolating journalists for honest coverage that contrasts to a preferred view is censorship and must be opposed by anyone who values freedom of the press. Bombing or shooting journalists reporting from the ground, or their families, is a war crime that we unequivocally condemn."

This media battlefield is worth watching closely, because, for the first time in a century, Zionist tactics to maintain a pro-Israel line in the US and elsewhere in the West are more effectively checked and countered by advocates of balanced reporting.

Aljazeera

Will Hezbollah drag Lebanon into war?

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

ROCKETS penetrated the Iron Dome and hit Kiryat Shemona. Several military posts in northern Israel were targeted by Hezbollah. This is the most significant confrontation between the militant group and the Israeli army. So far, the clashes have been limited to skirmishes on the border. However, there is no guarantee that we do not have an all-out war.

Speculation has been high over whether Lebanon will be dragged into the Israel-Hamas conflict. Most analysts suggest that Hezbollah will not enter the war and end an important deterrence Iran has against Israel. However, it is hard to tell whether the group will have a full-scale confrontation, or only "distract" the Israeli army as it is doing now.

What is remarkable is that both parties have exercised restraint, with, of course, urging from the United States to both sides. After Oct. 7, the US ambassador in Lebanon warned against any foolish action by Hezbollah. However, many infiltrators crossed the border. The militant group reluctantly said that those were Palestinian fighters. It has been striking a delicate balance between the domestic mood and what is happening in Gaza.

More than 70 percent of the Lebanese population is against entering the war, despite the deep sympathy they have for Palestinians in Gaza. However, public opinion could shift overnight if Israel hits Lebanon. The narrative can change from "do not enter the war" to "do your job and protect Lebanon."

So far, Hezbollah appears to be controlling the "tempo" of events. It is keeping the Israeli army busy, the Israeli intelligence confused and Israeli people scared. Its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, is accustomed to long speeches, but has not said a word. His silence is significant. He does not want to give any clues to the Israelis. It is a message of "wait and see." Everyone is waiting for his speech on Friday to get an indication of the group's position regarding the war. Nasrallah's deputy, Naim Kassem, announced recently that Israel and the US do not know what is coming for them. Despite the US statement that there is no proof that Iran or Hezbollah were involved in the Oct. 7 attacks, pro-Hezbollah media have signaled that that the ongoing battle is being managed by the group. This brings us back to the important question, will Hezbollah enter the fight? It is a tough question that even Hezbollah will not be able to answer right now. Much depends on how the fight goes on in Gaza. If a ceasefire is announced and negotiations start, this will kill any possibility of Hezbollah entering the war. We are currently in the middle of an Israeli ground campaign. How it goes will determine Hezbollah's actions. In such a situation, rarely is a decision taken in advance. What is likely happening is that Hezbollah has conducted contingency planning. It will launch a full-scale war if it needs to, and this is the case in two situations. The

first is if Hamas is close to being eradicated.

Hezbollah knows very well that if Hamas is eradicated, it is next, whether in this round or a future one. If Israel achieves its aim of finishing off Hamas, it will be emboldened and will gain confidence to eliminate other enemies. It is also not in Iran's interest that Hamas is eradicated because after going for Hezbollah, Israel will probably go after Iran. It must be remembered that Iran looks at Hamas and Hezbollah as a deterrence against Israel. If they are destroyed, its ability to fend off Israel will be hugely reduced. The other option would be if Israel strikes. Logically, Israel should remain focused on Gaza. However, the issue is much deeper than this. This is not only about the Gaza operation and about freeing the hostages, it is about restoring the Israeli people's confidence in their army. It is about giving them the guarantee that something like Oct. 7 will never happen again. How can the average Israeli have this trust again if Hezbollah is still strong in Lebanon? Restoring this trust will require finishing off Hezbollah.

A strike on Hezbollah might not be the logical step to take and the US is trying to tame Israel. Nevertheless, the Israeli government is under enormous pressure. It needs to show its people and the world that it is strong. Hence, a strike on Lebanon cannot be discounted. It might happen, especially if the Israeli army has no "success" against Hamas in the Gaza campaign. Targeting Hezbollah civilian facilities is relatively an easy task, and can always be promoted to the Israeli public as eliminating the group's infrastructure. In this case, the group will have no choice but to respond. Hezbollah is open to all possibilities and is reevaluating its options as the Israeli bombardment and fighting in Gaza continues. Hence, it is difficult to say whether Hezbollah will enter the war. However, one thing is for sure: If Hezbollah enters the war in full capacity, this will be a regional war. Hezbollah today is different from 2006. During 17 years of calm, it has beefed up its capabilities, acquiring precision-guided missiles that can target desalination plants, power plants, and even military facilities inside Israel. This can be a deterrence for Israel, which logically will not want to take the risk at this time.

Having said that, we should not underestimate the domestic pressure in Tel Aviv and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's desire to save his skin. He might take desperate measures. Alternatively, the hostage issue can also push Israel to compromise and accept a ceasefire. As videos of hostages emerge, public opinion is shifting and prioritizing their release. "Hostage first," said Gershon Baskin, the Israeli historian and journalist, in a tweet signaling the change in public opinion. The only option that can halt any possible escalation between Hezbollah and Israel is a ceasefire and a hostage release.

Arab News

The battle of ideologies and a changing world order

Ramzy Baroud

is really predicated on egalitarian principles.

Equally, China and Russia did and will continue to expand their economic, military and strategic domains. No economic expansion is possible without such a pursuit. The conflict arises because, while new powers are expanding, old powers are fighting to block their strategic enlargement. Washington continues to resort to the same zero-sum strategy of yesteryears. A quick read of statements made recently by US President Joe Biden indicates that the US is not yet prepared to coexist with the global shifts. In a speech at the Oval Office on October 20, Biden spoke a language that perhaps only Americans can fully comprehend:

"We have to remember one thing: We're the United States of America, for God's sake. Think about it. We're the United States." For the

rest of the world, this could only mean one thing: the US' claim to world dominance is based on the sheer virtue of the very existence of the US as a country. For many nations, this logic is implausible. But Biden's words are a rehash of similar statements made by past US presidents, secretaries of state and numerous top US officials throughout the years. "We are (.) the essential nation," Biden repeated in his address to the nation, this time citing a previous statement made by former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. The 'essentiality' here is hard to fathom, let alone analyse. For the powerful, the world is run through sheer interests. For the weak, solidarity is a critical factor.

Oddly enough, it was former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who is often quoted as saying that

"America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests." In other words, American allies - or French, or British allies for that matter - will simply cease to be so if they realise that such an alliance is no longer essential to their national interests, or to the well-being of their peoples. Compare recent statements made by Biden to those made by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. First, Biden. The US President wants to maintain the old world order, based on the following logic: "American leadership is what holds the world together. (.) American alliances are what keep us, America, safe. American values are what make us a partner that other nations want to work with." Second, Putin. The Russian President understands what countries like Niger, Brazil and Iraq are looking. Hence, in his speech at the 2022 Moscow Conference on

International Security, he said that the new "multipolar world" must be "built on international law, on fairer relations, that opens up new opportunities to combat common threats."

Xi, as well, knows that this is not a battle of 'values', but of interests that are based on the respect for the sovereignty of nations and their collective quest for economic prosperity. "Ideological confrontation, geopolitical rivalry and bloc politics are not a choice for us," Xi said on Oct. 18, in a speech at the opening of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. The Global South understands precisely what these words mean. While some nations have already made up their mind regarding where they belong in this new world order, others are still watching and listening, hedging their bets, in anticipation of radical changes that will surely occur.

Gulf News

Muslim women in West in crosshairs of Zionists, white ‘feminists’

Sahar Aziz

FOR twenty-four long days, and with no end in sight, the Israeli government has been committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza with explicit and unconditional support from the US government. On October 7, in response to a terror attack by Hamas that killed some 1,400 people in Israel, its forces unleashed hell on Gaza. The Israeli military started indiscriminately bombing homes, mosques, churches, hospitals and schools in the overpopulated Palestinian enclave, killing Palestinian civilians in their thousands. Israel has also put the Strip under a total siege, preventing the entry of water, food, fuel, electricity or medical supplies, and leaving more than two million people faced with death by starvation, dehydration and disease.

For such war crimes to be committed in plain sight, and with no meaningful contestation from the international community, the Palestinians at the receiving end of Israel's bombs had to be dehumanised, and their allies around the world discredited as anti-Semitic and violent. Such othering occurs through a relatively straightforward mechanism. First, Palestinians as a group are presented as barbaric, violent and over all less than human, so people around the world do not object to them being indiscriminately killed and starved. Then those who do not buy this racist narrative and insist on protesting against the oppression of the Palestinian people are smeared, censored, doxed and criminalised. At the forefront of numerous grassroots, intellectual, and political movements opposing Israel's ongoing war crimes, in the United States and elsewhere in the staunchly pro-Israel West, are Muslim women. Courageous Palestinian, Arab, South Asian, and Black women are leading mass protests, political action campaigns, teach-ins at universities,

fundraisers for humanitarian aid, and writing letters to university presidents, demanding they protect their Palestinian and Muslim students from doxing, harassment, and intimidation by Zionist organisations on and off campus. These Muslim women's civic and political engagement is almost always met with attacks on their own safety, defamation of their character, and threats to their employment - all aimed at silencing their voices. If these threats on their lives and livelihoods do not work, Muslim women who speak up for the Palestinians - especially those holding positions in higher education - are dismissed as "too emotional", "ignorant", "bigoted", or "professionally incompetent" by their pro-Israel peers.

Marginalised simultaneously for their religion, race and gender, Muslim women have long been forced to manoeuvre a triple bind to avoid discrimination, harassment and stigmatisation. They are required to be "good Muslims", "good women", and "good racial minorities" all at once and at all times to avoid being targeted within the coercive assimilationist paradigm that constantly polices their behaviour. Being a "good Muslim woman of colour" entails a daily emotional and psychological tax of trying to fit into myriad clashing identity performance pressures imposed by Eurocentric, Judeo-Christian cultural normativity.

A "good Muslim woman of colour" cannot show emotions such as anger, frustration, or passion lest she be deemed irrational, hysterical, or weak. A "good Muslim woman of colour" must be unconditionally loyal to the US. She must frequently pepper her speech with comments and statements underlining how grateful she is to be in the US. How lucky she is to live in a country ruled by white men and women who uphold liberal values of democracy, equal-

ity, and freedom; irrespective of whether she benefits from these proclaimed values or not. A "good Muslim woman of colour" must never criticise the policies and practices of Western countries that violate international law, indiscriminately kill Muslims, collectively punish Palestinian civilians, or systematically discriminate against Muslim and Arab diasporas in purportedly liberal societies. She must prove that she does not support terrorism in any form, which requires repeated condemnation of any acts of violence by Muslims anywhere in the world.

A "good Muslim woman of colour" can never be a feminist and advocate for Muslim women's rights in the West. White women accept her as a feminist only if she directs her writings and advocacy at Muslim, Arab, and South Asian societies. But when Muslim women in the West speak out about the discrimination they face where they are, or call out white women for their support of wars that kill and maim Muslim women abroad, they quickly transition from "fellow feminists" to "traitors". Thus, a "good Muslim woman" is simultaneously infantilised and patronised, vilified and censored, and depoliticised in a society that is incapable of seeing her as a smart, independent, strong female leader. As soon as her coworkers, neighbours, employers and political representatives discover that she is in fact her own feminist - not their feminist - they defame, exclude, discredit and ignore her as they search for another Muslim woman whom they can point to in their media and political campaigns as the "good Muslim woman of colour".

This triple bind is carried today by the Black, Arab, and South Asian Muslim women at the forefront of advocating for the human rights of Palestinians in the media, politics, grassroots organising, the

courts, and academia in the US and beyond. As they fend off attacks against them, these courageous women must simultaneously protect their own Muslim children from harassment, bullying, and intimidation by Zionists in their towns and schools who have monopolised the conversation about Palestine to declare that only Israelis are human, while Palestinians, in the words of the Israeli defence minister, are merely "human animals".

This triple bind leaves Muslim women in the West asking: "Why aren't the white feminists coming to our defence?" Why are so many white feminists now Zionists first, and busy smearing our reputations by calling us anti-Semitic simply on account of our defence of Palestinian human rights? Why can't the white feminists see our struggle to end the dehumanisation of Palestinian, Arab and Muslim women as a feminist issue? Why do white women only want to save Muslim women from the Taliban, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Arab governments, but not from the US government, the Israeli government, Zionist groups, or white men?

Will white feminists ever look in the mirror to recognise their own anti-feminism as they rebuke strong, smart, confident, and fearless Muslim feminists within their workplaces, their neighbourhoods, and on their faculties for speaking up in support of their sisters in Gaza? The answer to this question is likely a resounding "no" for too many white women too invested in protecting the status quo and their privileged place in society. Yet, Muslim women in the West are not in need of white feminist support anyway. We have learned from our African American sisters. We do not need any approval or permission from anyone to fight for what we know is right. We just need white feminists to get out of our way so that we can do the work of real feminism in solidarity with our Palestinian sisters.

Why Moscow’s electric car revolution is doomed to failure

Vakhtang Partsvania

AT the Russian Energy Week forum held in October, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin told the city authorities to work on ensuring the majority of cars on Moscow's streets were electric. Sobyanin's predecessor Yury Luzhkov proposed a similar initiative in 2007, when he ordered electric vehicle infrastructure to be implemented across the city.

Today, 16 years after Luzhkov's proposal, there are just 3,500 electric cars registered in Moscow (or 0.09% of the city's total passenger car fleet). However, while electric cars were considered exotic in Luzhkov's time, when only weirdos like Elon Musk believed in the transition to their widespread use, today global sales of electric cars are breaking records. Countries and megacities are increasingly planning to ban the sale and registration of vehicles with internal combustion engines in the near future. Moscow is trying to keep up with these trends. But Sobyanin's initiative, similar to Luzhkov's, is also doomed to failure. But for completely different reasons. To fill this city of 12 million people with electric cars, Moscow authorities are mainly reliant on the Moskvitch automobile plant, which was owned by the French company Renault until 2022. But after Russia invaded Ukraine and global automakers subsequently withdrew from the Russian market, the plant was bought out by the Moscow government for just 1 ruble. Its facilities are now used for the mass production of a remodeled version of Chinese JAC cars under the Moskvitch brand.

When it was owned by Renault, the Moscow plant did not produce electric cars. Moreover, it is failing to reach its production capacity today. This is due to large-scale difficulties in organizing the production of electric cars and significant capital investments, as well as in selling them on the market, which is still being formed, and, accordingly, long payback periods for investments. The development of the electric vehicle industry requires specially designed traction batteries, electric motors, integrated circuits and rare earth metals as well as charging infrastructure and battery processing facilities. This technological complexity means there are few reliable and recognized manufacturers of electric vehicle components. Those that do exist are scattered all over the world, which leads to the need to organize logistics of supplies from different countries and build long-term partnerships with global players in the automotive industry.

This complexity is why Tesla, the world's most successful electric car maker, reached its first year-end profitability only 18 years after its founding. Similarly, General Motors and Volkswagen are periodically forced to delay their production plans and limit how many cars roll off the production line. In this regard, the question arises as to how Moskvitch is going to cope with such limitations and challenges and how it plans to achieve the declared production volumes and technological independence. This question is particularly acute because, during the first seven months of 2023, Moskvitch produced only 20% of the 10,000 cars it was expected to make in the whole year.

The Moscow authorities are also pinning their hopes on another player, Electromobiles Manufacturing Rus, which has stated its intention to create Russia's first fully electric, domestically produced truck. The firm has set up production in the Technopolis Moscow business center in the city's southeast. However, a closer look at the company raises doubts about whether it can live up to the mayor's goals. Electromobiles Manufacturing Rus was founded in June 2021 with just 10,000 rubles (\$139 at the time). Its founder is the president of another company that produces sporting goods. In short, unlike Moskvitch, this company has never produced cars before (let alone developed an electric car), has not

been involved in the creation and development of a dealer network, and is unfamiliar with the realities of the industry.

The announced plans look even more unfeasible due to the recent inclusion of Moskvitch and Technopolis Moscow on the US sanctions list of "specially designated persons and blocked nationals" (SDN). This list prohibits people and companies in US jurisdictions from entering into transactions with a sanctioned entity, and also puts third-country companies at risk of secondary sanctions and even criminal prosecution. These risks primarily concern companies from China, which have begun to take

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over economic niches in Russia that were occupied by Western countries that have since left the country. The Chinese automaker JAC, which supplies parts to Moskvitch, lies in the crosshairs of secondary sanctions. Hence, the company needs to decide whether it is ready to assume sanctions risks and expose its global business to the prospect of collapse for the sake of producing several thousand cars in Russia. The large unit assembly technique used at the Moskvitch plant leaves open the possibility for JAC to withdraw without significant losses.

Things are similarly bad for Electric Vehicles Manufacturing Rus, which is dependent on the willingness of various Chinese partners to continue cooperation. Every company that supplies equipment and technical components now falls under the radar of the US sanctions authorities. The development of the electric vehicle industry requires specially designed traction batteries, electric motors, integrated circuits and rare earth metals as well as charging infrastructure and battery processing facilities. This technological complexity means there are few reliable and recognized manufacturers of electric vehicle components. Those that do exist are scattered all over the world, which leads to the need to organize logistics of supplies from different countries and build long-term partnerships with global players in the automotive industry. This complexity is why Tesla, the world's most successful electric car maker, reached its first year-end profitability only 18 years after its founding. Similarly, General Motors and Volkswagen are periodically forced to delay their production plans and limit how many cars roll off the production line.

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The Moscow Times

Where is the ‘responsibility to protect’ in Gaza?

Abdelwahab El-Affendi

ON October 18, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) published an open letter calling for an immediate ceasefire in Israel's war on Gaza, which has put the territory on "the precipice of a humanitarian catastrophe". Within a week, it was signed by more than 460 NGOs from all over the world. Even before the latest Israeli war on Gaza, the GCR2P, which was founded in 2008 to promote the doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), issued five warnings this year about atrocities being committed by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories.

An August 31 report highlighted the "systematic nature of [Israel's] human rights violations and inhumane acts" in the occupied Palestinian territories, amounting to crimes against humanity or war crimes, including collective punishments and the imposition of an "apartheid". Interestingly, some of the most fervent supporters of the R2P doctrine and backers of the GCR2P, the United States and European countries, do not seem to agree with the centre's assessment of the situation in Gaza. Nor are they upholding the "responsibility to protect" in the case of the Palestinian people being indiscriminately killed by the Israeli forces. Rather they are actively aiding and abetting Israeli war crimes, flouting international legal principles they have spent decades rhetorically promoting. The roots of the R2P doctrine can be traced back to the international reaction to the recurrence of mass atrocities in conflicts in Bosnia, Rwanda and elsewhere in the 1990s.

Given that the UN was established on the principle of deterring mass atrocities, such as the Holocaust, the proliferation of such crimes, even in the heart of Europe, rang alarm bells in the "never again" camp. In the run-up to the adoption of R2P, many regional and international actors felt compelled to intervene in civil conflicts. From the early 1990s, the Organisation of African Unity (renamed the African Union in 2002), championed a more proactive stance towards promoting peace, security, democracy and development on the continent. Sub-regional bodies such as ECOWAS in West Africa and IGAD in East Africa were already actively involved in tackling protracted conflicts in their neighbourhoods, often intervening militarily to end civil wars or reverse military coups. In Europe, the NATO intervention in Kosovo in 1999 cited principles of international humanitarianism. The UN has practised international interventions since its inception and continues to do so. However, the idea of R2P went beyond habitual international peacekeeping by making sovereignty, a cornerstone of the UN system, conditional.

This idea was first explored in a 1996 book, Sovereignty as Responsibility: Conflict Management in Africa, published by the US-based Brookings Institution. The lead author was the Sudanese-born scholar and diplomat, Francis Deng. It was further developed in a 2001 report entitled The Responsibility to Protect, pub-

lished by the Canadian-sponsored International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), led by former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans. The report argued that international intervention to protect civilians from mass atrocities, including genocide and ethnic cleansing, should happen only when the relevant sovereign state fails to discharge this responsibility. In such a case, the international community should try to assist the affected state or intervene peacefully. Military intervention should be a last resort proportional measure,

The case of Palestine clearly fits in this definition. For decades, there has been manifest and repeated failure by "national authorities" - in this case, the occupying power, Israel - to protect the population under its authority against the atrocities listed above. The situation in Gaza now should also call for the application of R2P. Israel is committing a growing number of war crimes in the enclave: systematically targeting civilian residences and killing whole families, forcibly displacing over a million people, deliberately bombarding hospitals and schools, and inten-

The resulting dispossession and continued victimisation of the Palestinians have not resulted in resolute international action. In fact, the proverbial "international community" is continuing to punish Palestinians for their misfortune, turning them into permanent refugees, in their homeland and everywhere else. Worse still, members of this international community are subsidizing the Israeli efforts to evict Palestinians from their homes, but then refuse to welcome them as refugees. Today, the international community is complicit in atrocities in Gaza, where civilians have nowhere to go to escape the bombing. There is nowhere to be "ethnic cleansed" to. Those who remain silent in the face of this televised barbarism are complicit. Those who aid and abet the Israeli crimes are directly responsible for them. Repeating and endorsing the genocidal rhetoric of Israel's most extremist government, parroting its incendiary propaganda, and offering weapons, cash and intelligence support for the genocidal assault on civilians are certainly criminal acts.

with good intentions and reasonable prospects of success. In 2005, the World Summit was held at the UN headquarters in New York to address a number of pressing global issues. R2P was among the main commitments expressed in the World Summit Outcome Document, signed unanimously by 170 heads of state and government.

Since its adoption, the doctrine was invoked in quite a few UN Security Council resolutions, starting with Resolution 1706 on Darfur in 2006, followed by Resolutions 1970 and 1973 on Libya, Resolution 1975 on Côte d'Ivoire and Resolution 2014 on Yemen - all issued in 2011.

The resolution on Libya was followed by international intervention in its civil war, which provoked a strong backlash from Russia and China and raised fears that it was used to pave the way for wilful regime change rather than peace enforcement. Article 139 of the Outcome Document stipulates: "We are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council ... should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity".

tionally depriving the whole civilian population of water, food, medicines and fuel. Gaza is practically a ward of the international community. As an occupied territory, with no independent statehood, no recognised government and no army, the state stipulated by R2P as the first line for civilian protection does not exist. The occupying power is the one perpetrating the atrocities, in contravention of all international norms, instruments and treaties.

Additionally, the international community as a whole, and the UN in particular, are doubly responsible for the current plight of the Indigenous Palestinian population. In 1947, the UN passed the resolutions that created Israel, but since then has failed to face up to the consequences of its actions, as Israeli governments have violated every provision in the international rule book. The resulting dispossession and continued victimisation of the Palestinians have not resulted in resolute international action. In fact, the proverbial "international community" is continuing to punish Palestinians for their misfortune, turning them into permanent refugees, in their homeland and everywhere else. Worse still, members of this international community are subsidizing the Israeli efforts

Industrialists protested inflated gas prices

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a bold display of defiance, the Hayatabad Industrialist Association of Peshawar has firmly rejected the recently introduced gas price hikes and called for the retention of the previous rates. The industrialists voiced their concerns during a protest held at the Industrial Estate in Peshawar, which garnered significant participation from the local business community.

Muhammad Ishaq, the group leader of the Hayatabad Industrialists Association and former president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivered a passionate speech during the demonstration. He highlighted a significant point of contention: the fact that their province, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, is a major gas-producing region, contributing substantially to the national gas supply. However, a considerable portion of this gas, roughly 45%, is exported to the neighboring province of Punjab.

Ishaq argued that it was unjust and illegal to apply the new prices of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to their industries when they do not predominantly consume it. He further elaborated that this sudden price increase would hamper their ability to fulfill existing orders and negatively impact the already fragile local industrial sector, potentially leading to substantial financial losses.

He emphasized that the industrial sector is a cornerstone of the region's economy and is actively contributing to the nation's

exports.

A reasonable gas price is vital to maintaining competitiveness and ensuring that the cost of production does not skyrocket, subsequently affecting prices across various industries.

Faisal Kakakhil, addressing the assembled protesters, highlighted the fact that their province is a source of relatively inexpensive gas.

He argued that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have the first claim to this resource. He warned that imposing the new gas prices would not only raise the cost of production but also unleash inflationary pressures, making essential food items less accessible to the average citizen.

In response to this anticipated financial strain, manufacturers might be forced to cut their work-

force and decrease the salaries of remaining employees, potentially aggravating the unemployment situation. The protesters, brandishing placards with slogans against the gas price increases, passionately called on the government to safeguard the economic stability of the region and reconsider the decision to hike gas prices.

The Hayatabad Industrialist Association's strong stance and their extensive protest underscore the urgency of the matter, as the industrialists and local business community rally to protect the economic well-being of their province and its people.

The outcome of their plea to retain the previous gas prices remains uncertain, but it is evident that their concerns have now gained considerable attention and support.

Session on human resource and professional development held



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: OGDCL and Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) organized a day-long Conference and Consultative Session on the present state of qualified and trained Human Resource in the Mining and Mineral Sector of Pakistan. CEOs of Public Sector Mining Companies including

Sandak Metals, PMDC and Pakistan Minerals Ltd along with Chairpersons of Mining Departments of Public Sector Universities participated in the event. Senior Management of the Higher Education Commission and Director General (Minerals) were also present. The event was organized in view of renewed focus of the Federal Government and

SIFC on the Mining Sector for economic growth and prosperity of Pakistan.

The Chairpersons/Deans gave detailed presentations on the existing curriculum, international best practices and training requirement of mining professionals for large scale mining projects. Representatives of training institutes also shared their views on training opportunities and future needs.

MD/CEO OGDCL being host of the event assured the industry and academia of the Company's fullest cooperation in developing a world class human resource to cater for the needs of major mining projects which will be initiated in Pakistan in the near future. MD PPL and GHPL were also present on the occasion and agreed to support Human Resource Development Programme in the best national interest.

The event was the first of its kind where industry and academia got an opportunity to comprehensively discussed Human Resource Development for the sector both in terms of academics and professional development. MD/CEO OGDCL assured that OGDCL will facilitate formulation of strategy and plan for HR Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Higher Education Commission.

Competition Commission of Pakistan appoints 4th Member

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saeed Ahmad Nawaz has joined the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) as its fourth Member. He brings a wealth of experience to CCP, said a press release.

Saeed Ahmad Nawaz holds an MBA from the University of the Punjab with a specialization in finance.

He earned the highly competitive Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in 2002-03, where he studied finance and economics at Boston University in the

USA. Nawaz was awarded the World Bank-sponsored Professional Development Program Award in 2006-07.

He completed his M.Sc in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics, UK, expanding his academic horizons and engaging with public and private sector organizations in the US and the UK.

Saeed Ahmad Nawaz commenced his profession-

al journey as a commissioned officer in the Pakistan Army and was inducted into the District Management Group.

Saeed Ahmad Nawaz has served in various capacities for the Governments of Punjab and KPK, from sub-divisions to provincial departments.

His diverse roles included team leadership and staff officer positions.

At the National School of Public Policy, he served as Directing Staff, Chief

Instructor, and Head of Administration (Director General).

During his service in the Federal Secretariat, he successfully handled a spectrum of critical issues, including COVID-19-related relief measures, industrial policy, corporate governance, poverty alleviation, and social security.

His last assignment was as the Managing Director of Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO).

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Senior Pious Civil Judge (Allah) Qazi Umar at Dargah. Case No. 19/11 Institution 16/10/2023. Date of hearing 20/11/2023. Mohamed Zaid VS Abdullah. Notice to no 30. Fashed Islam s/o Mst Shenu. G.Said Wahid. 7.Jamshad Ali sons of Banjara residents of Muekpur Islami district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 20/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex parte. Given under my hand and seal of the Court.

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Senior Pious Civil Judge (Allah) Qazi Umar at Dargah. Appeal No. 10/11 Institution 31/10/2023. Date of hearing 21/11/2023. Mst. Ghazal s/o VS Zamroz s/o. Notice to no. 5. (Fahim Khan, G.Hazem, 7.Javed, 8.Ibrahim sons of Nouallah, 9.Shar Fawad 10.Youssef, 11.Taj Mohamed sons of Sabin, 12. Jihanzab, 13. Amirzeb, 16. Ahmed Ali sons of Faron, 16.Said Zafar Shah, 18.Ansari Shah 19.Angel, 20.Amen sons of Medar Shah, Saadullah 21. Usman Shah 23.Mor Harraz s/o Abdul Wahid 24/18.Said s/o Mohamed Haziq, 26. Mohamed Khatir s/o Jario, 28. Robel Khan s/o Said Farooq, 27. Mohamed Akbar Khan s/o Asad Khan, 29.Ahmed Ali Khan, 30.Lugman Ali Khan, 31. Rehmat Ali Khan sons of Shamsuddin Khan, 32.Mai Balait Zaid s/o Zamroz Khan, 33.Daveesh Khan, 34.Gul Zada, 35. Nazro Zada, 36. Balait Zada, 38.Shar Zada, 39. Fiaz Zada sons of Shamsi Khan, 40. Farman Ali Khan s/o Wazir Khan, 41. Shamsi Khan s/o Ishaq residents of Kalpani tahsil Gogga district Poonc. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 21/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

SCCI annual general meeting organized

SIALKOT (APP): An annual general meeting of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) was held here on Thursday. The ceremony was attended by leading business and financial tycoons, President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir and others.

Addressing the participants, President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik said, "We have protected the interest of the business community and worked diligently to gain objectives of the chamber".

The president SCCI said: "I feel extremely happy to share that in August 2023, the Chamber was conferred with a national award 'Development Leadership Award' by the government in recognition of the services of the Sialkot Chamber".

Malik said, "There is no doubt that the credit of the current position Sialkot Chamber goes to our Group Leaders Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh, Dr Muhammad Aslam Dar and their associates who worked day and night to bring this institution to this position".

Malik said, we are very

grateful to the chief minister Punjab that he has announced the establishment of "One Window Facilitation Centers" based on industry and business related institutions across the province.

Malik said that the provision of visa appointment facility was ensured on priority basis to the members participating in the international exhibitions especially the exhibitions organized in the USA and Germany.

He said that the certificate of origin facility for Chamber members had been made online.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Lisa, X-Press Bardsey, AAI Evolution, Europa Bay, Porto Leone and Milaha Ras Laffan, carrying Container, Wheat, Coal and LNG berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Donata and Pan Fortune carrying Container and Steel Coil also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during the same day. A total of twelve ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, X-Press Bardsey, MSC Tianping and Lisa left the Port on today morning, while three more ships, Chemroute Oasis, Kenzen and Khaipur are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 217,691 tonnes, comprising 169,046 tonnes imports cargo and 48,645 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,569 Containers (877 TEUs Imports and 2,692 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are fourteen ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, Nakhla Silver, Energy Achilles, PVT Flora and MSC Donata & two more ships, APL Southampton and OXLY carrying Palm oil, Gas oil, Chemicals and Containers are expected to take berths at Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal, Engro Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on today. Meanwhile another containers ship, Al-Safat is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah, Executive Director (designate) World Bank called on Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Ministry of Finance.

Tauqeer calls on Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director (Designate) World Bank (WB), Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah on Thursday called on Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar.

Finance Minister appreciated the contributions of Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah to public service and hoped that Dr. Shah will utilize his experience in fostering strong collaboration between Pakistan and the World Bank, said press statement issued by finance ministry.

Dr. Shah thanked Finance Minister for her guidance and immense support and assured to focus on enhancing Pakistan's cooperation with World Bank.

The Ministers for Privatisation & Energy, Chairman SECP, Chairman FBR, Secretaries of Finance & Economic Affairs & Country Director World Bank were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan adopts NDC: Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Car-eter Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar highlighted on Thursday that Pakistan adopted an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) plan to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50%.

The minister was virtually addressing the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) conference titled "Development Finance for 2030 Agenda: Environmentally Safe Industrialization," held in Geneva.

The minister said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) have also issued guidelines for the adoption of Green Industry practices.

Dr Akhtar stressed on global action to accelerate investment in sustainable development goals while tackling debt distress in developing economies.

Tokyo shares close higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed higher on Thursday, buoyed by gains on semiconductor shares, after the US Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged and triggered buying on Wall Street.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 1.10 percent, or 348.24 points, to end at 31,949.89, while the broader Topix index rose 0.51 percent, or 11.71 points, to 2,322.39.

Investors cheered the Fed's decision, while weak US economic data amplified their belief that the US central bank won't raise rates going forward, at least for the time being. "Caution over a prolonged period of monetary tightening has eased" after the Fed's decision, Iwai Cosmo Securities said.

"Following gains of US high-tech shares, Japanese chip stocks rose sharply, boosting the Tokyo market," they added.

The dollar traded at 150.44 yen against 150.89 yen in New York on Wednesday.

Chip-testing equipment maker Advantest soared 10.00 percent to 3,949 yen while chip-linked Screen Holdings surged 7.70 percent to 8,014 yen.

Chip-making equipment manufacturer Tokyo Electron jumped 3.29 percent to 21,060 yen.

PSX continues with bullish trend — gains 314 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 314.12 points, a positive change of 0.60 percent, closing at 52,656.76 points against 52,342.64 points the previous day.

A total of 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs 14.578 billion were traded during the day as compared to 526,463,387 shares valuing Rs16.512 billion the previous day.

As many as 354 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 194 of them recorded gains and 135 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 39,170,148 shares at Rs 1.31per share,

TPL Properties with 30,394,707 shares at Rs 13.10 per share and Pak Refinery with 25,930,078 shares at Rs 21.57 per share.

Pak Tobacco witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 60.38 per share price, closing at Rs 865.38, whereas the runner-up was Packages Ltd with a Rs.31.72 rise in its per share price to Rs 461.57.

Faisal Spinning XD witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 25.00 per share closing at Rs 325.00, followed by Philip Morris Pak with a Rs 13.99 decline to close at Rs 535.00.

Rupee sheds Rs1.95 against Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed a Rs 1.95 depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 283.42 against the previous

day's closing of Rs 281.47. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.25 and Rs 285 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs2.36 to close at Rs300.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.07, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen increased by 02 paise and closed at Rs 1.88; whereas an increase of 74 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 344.74 as compared to the last closing of Rs 343.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 21 paise each to close at Rs 77.16 and Rs 75.55 respectively.

Envoy for mechanism to resolve trade disputes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vietnamese Ambassador in Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong on Thursday said mutual trade between Pakistan and Vietnam would reach \$1 billion during the fiscal year 2023-24. He said the bilateral trade could be increased further, but there was the need for a mechanism to resolve disputes in advance.

Mutual trade disputes should be resolved within a certain period of time, Ambassador Phong said while addressing a workshop on "Improving capacity to handle trade disputes, removing bottlenecks, expanding opportunities for Vietnam-Pakistan economic, trade and investment cooperation", organized here by the Embassy of Vietnam in Islamabad.

He said that the two countries could take advantage of the Vietnam-European Union Free Trade Agreement and Pakistan-European Union (GSP-Plus), which were very important for increasing bilateral trade.

The Vietnamese envoy said that in the year 2021,

the mutual trade between the two countries was \$790 million and \$940 million in 2022, and was expected to reach \$1 billion in the ongoing financial year.

He said that there was a need for a dynamic partnership between the two countries which would resolve trade disputes in advance by emphasizing only on mutual benefit and make quick decisions.

The public and private sector institutions of both countries needed to come closer and the role of chambers and business associations along with the media was very important for creating awareness about each other's markets, he added.

Memorandums of Understanding should be signed in the regard by the two sides with a mechanism for their implementation, he added.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Vietnam Samina Mahtab, in her remarks, said that the mutual trade volume between the two countries in 2021 was up to \$514 million, which would reach \$1 billion in the current fiscal year.

He said, "We need mutu-

al cooperation at the sectoral level and along with this; the public and private sectors should play their full role for resolving trade disputes."

Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah said a new law for the resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet.

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame.

President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khuram Tariq also emphasized that trade agreements must be strictly implemented.

Other speakers included representatives of trade chambers and associations, including President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce Iftekhar Ahmad Sheikh, and representatives of the public and private sector who stressed on solving the trade disputes to increase the mutual trade between the two countries and asked for the creation of a mechanism for implementation of to resolve the disputes.

Relief to common man govt's top priority: Sami

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) on Thursday reviewed the prices of essential commodities and directed the quarters concerned to maintain food prices to provide relief to the common man.

The meeting, chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed, was attended by Secretary of Planning Ministry Awaiz Manzur Sumra, Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Chief Economist of Pakistan, representatives from all provinces, the FBR, Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders, a news release said.

During the meeting, the PBS officials presented a detailed briefing while sharing price and inflation data, whereas representatives from Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan apprised the forum of the current production and supply of wheat, sugar and other essential commodities which remained satisfactory.

The minister emphasized zero-tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the provincial governments to engage their respective Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates against hoarders. During the meeting, the PBS informed the meeting about its App access to monitor the prices across the country.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items.

The relevant stakeholders were directed to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common man.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items. Relevant stakeholders were directed to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common man.

The NPMC expressed satisfaction over the fall of Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation by 450 basis points as the efforts of the government were paying dividends to the masses.

The minister was apprised that the lowering of prices would further impact inflation in the coming months as prices would

translate into cost reduction in many cases.

The representatives of provincial governments also apprised the meeting about their measures to control the price situation in their respective domains.

Trade deficit narrows by 34.7 per cent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country's merchandise trade deficit contracted by 34.70 per cent during the first four months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year, PBS reported.

The Trade deficit from July-October (2023-24) was recorded at \$7.416 billion as against the deficit of \$11.356 billion in July-October (2022-23), showing negative growth of 34.70 per cent.

During the period under review, the exports increased by 0.66% to \$9.617 billion compared to the exports of \$9.554 billion during the corresponding period of last year, according to the latest PBS data.



In brief

Bob Knight dead at 83

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): American college basketball coaching legend Bob Knight, an outspoken and controversial figure who guided the United States to 1984 Los Angeles Olympic gold, died Wednesday. He was 83. In addition to directing a US squad with future NBA superstars Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing to Olympic gold, Knight coached Indiana University to US college basketball crowns in 1976, 1981 and 1987. "It is with heavy hearts that we share that Coach Bob Knight passed away at his home in Bloomington (Indiana) surrounded by his family," the Knight family said in a statement. "We are grateful for all the thoughts and prayers and appreciate the continued respect for our privacy as Coach requested a private family gathering, which is being honored. We will continue to celebrate his life and remember him, today and forever as a beloved Husband, Father, Coach, and Friend." Knight once hurled a chair across the court during a game to earn an ejection and was fired from Indiana in 2000 after a confrontation with a student.

Table tennis tournament

HYDERABAD (APP): The management of Shaheed Allah Bukhsh University of Art, Design and Heritage Jamshoro Jamshoro has finalized all arrangements to host the Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament Zone-K from tomorrow. The university spokesman informed here on Thursday that the tournament is being organized in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission Islamabad with the participation of ten universities of Sindh. The teams which took part in the tournament included Sindh University Jamshoro, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur Mir's, IBA University Sukkur, Aror University Sukkur, Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, Sufism University Bhit Shah, Quid-e-Awam University Nawabshah, Government College University Hyderabad and SABS University Jamshoro. The Vice Chancellor Mehran University Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali will inaugurate the tournament while the Vice Chancellor Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur Mirs Prof. Dr. Khalil Ahmed Abupoto and Director Sports HEC Islamabad Javed Ali Memon will be the guest of honour at the inauguration ceremony of the tournament which will last for three days.

U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

KARACHI (APP): Zone-VII Whites defeated Zone-II Whites by 83 runs in the second semi final of the A.S.Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium on Thursday. Zone-VII Whites posted a total of 139 all out in 44.1 overs, thanks to Maaz Khan's 25 (3x4), Jawad Zameer's 22 (2x4, 1x6) and Noor Zaman's 18 runs. Huzafa Ahsan (3/30), S.M.Mohtashim (2/20) and Abdul Rauf (2/25) were the pick of the bowlers for Zone-II Whites. In reply, Zone-II Whites were bowled out for just 57 runs in 25.5 overs. Abdul Wahab was the star of the show with the ball, claiming 6 wickets for just 9 runs in 7.5 overs. Muhammad Azaan Ali also chipped in with 2 wickets for 12 runs.

Pak women beat BCB XI Women by 56 runs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan women on the back of half-centuries from Bismah Maroof, Muneeba Ali and Nida Dar defeated Bangladesh Cricket Women (BCB) Women's XI by 56 runs in the one-day match played at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Thursday. Opting to bat first, Pakistan scored 270 for nine in 50 overs, according to information made available here by Pakistan Cricket Board. Opening batter Muneeba top-scored for the side with an 81-ball 63, which included six fours and a six. Muneeba stitched a 74-run partnership for the second wicket with Sidra Amin (35, 55b, 2x4s) and 46 runs with Bismah, who retired out after scoring a well-made 51 off 50 balls, hitting six fours. Captain Nida Dar also retired out after completing her half-century, she scored 53 off 51 balls, smashing seven boundaries. Aliya Riaz, coming to bat at number six, scored a 26-ball 29, which included two sixes and a four.

For Bangladesh

Women's XI, Asrafi Yeasmin Arthy bagged three wickets for 48 from eight overs. In turn, BCB Women's XI were bowled out for 214 in 48.1 overs. Captain Lata Mondol and opening batter Murshida Khatun were the notable run-getters for their side, both scoring half-centuries and retiring out. For Pakistan, off-spinner Umm-e-Hani bagged two wickets for 25 runs from six overs. Pakistan women team's batting coach Taufeeq Umar, who had played a Test match and scored a century at the Shere Bangla Stadium in Dhaka in December 2011, expects the wicket to be a supporting one for the upcoming ODI matches. Talking to PCB Digital, Taufeeq said: "I had a fond memory playing here at this venue where I scored a century. The wickets here are very supportive, there is turn available to spinners as well as runs available to batters. I have talked to our batters and have told them that once a batter gets settled here, there are runs for the batters as the outfield is fast here. "The upcoming ODI series is very important for

us and I am pleased with how the batters have performed in today's one-day practice game. We had good training sessions here in Dhaka and I am confident the batters will play their role in our team's success in the ODI series. "Bangladesh are a very competitive side in their own backyard as they have shown us in the T20I series, but I have full confidence in our batters that the way they have performed in the third T20I, they will continue the same momentum in the ODI series as well."

Pakistan and Bangladesh women teams will feature in ODI series commencing from 4 November.

Scores in brief: Pakistan women beat BCB Women's XI by 56 runs

Pakistan women 270-9, 50 overs (Muneeba Ali 63, Nida Dar 53 (ret'd out), Bismah Maroof 51 (ret'd out), Sidra Amin 35, Aliya Riaz 29; Asrafi Yeasmin Arthy 3-48)

BCB Women's XI 214 all out, 48.1 overs (Lata Mondol 54 (ret'd out), Murshida Khatun 50 (ret'd out), Fargana Hoque 40; Umm-e-Hani 2-25)

Dimitrov cruises into Paris Masters quarter-finals

PARIS (AFP/APP): Grigor Dimitrov eased into the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters on Thursday with a straightforward 6-2, 6-2 victory over Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan. Dimitrov, the world number 17, showed little sign of the effects of his three-hour win against third seed Daniil Medvedev on Wednesday as he dis-

patched Bublik in just over an hour. The 32-year-old Bulgarian reached the semi-finals of the Masters 1000 event in Shanghai in October. He will face either Hubert Hurkacz, the world number 11 from Poland, or Argentinian Francisco Cerundolo in the last eight in the French capital. It will be the first time since 2019 that Dimitrov

has reached the quarter-finals in the Paris indoor event. That year he was beaten in the semi-finals by eventual winner Novak Djokovic. Andrey Rublev also moved into the last eight, beating Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-3. The Russian has already qualified for the ATP Finals in Turin later this month.

Bannu stuns Peshawar in Badminton League

PESHAWAR (APP): Bannu stunned Peshawar Region in the ongoing Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Men Badminton League being played under the aegis of the Directorate of Sports University of Swabi at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsadda on Thursday. District Sports Officer Charsadda and Admin Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Imran was the chief guest on this occasion. Chief Referee of the Pakistan Badminton Federation Muhammad Amjad Khan, international coaches Muhammad Nadeem Khan and Hayatullah and Director Sports University of Swabi Itlaf Hussain, officials and players were also present and witnessed the league matches. In the first singles Hamza Khan of Bannu Region recorded victory against his upcoming young rival Mekaeel Khan

of Peshawar Region in a thrilling 2-1 battle, lasted for one hour and five minutes. The score was 26-24, 21-23 and 21-19. Both Hamza Khan of Bannu and Mekaeel Khan of Peshawar played well and gave each other a tough fight. Mekaeel, also exhibited his classic overhead smashes and some good shorts at the net but overall Hamza Khan dominated the proceeding and after winning the first set, lost the second before facing tough resistance against his rival Mekaeel and marched as victorious before winning the third and decisive set 21-19. In the doubles, Afnan and Hamza (Bannu) beat Malik Faraz and Muhammad Zaid (Peshawar) in straight sets 2-0, the score was 21-19 and 23-21. Afnan and Hamza played well and had good combinations against Malik Faraz and Muhammad Zaid. In the second singles Daniyal Shehzada of Peshawar beat Taimoor

Khan of Bannu by 2-0, the score was 21-18 and 21-17 in straight sets. Daniyal Shehzad did not face any resistance against Taimoor Khan in the straight sets match. In the second doubles Daniyal and Umar of Peshawar defeated Taimoor and Fahad of Bannu in another thrilling match wherein both pairs went against each other to full length. Daniyal and Umar played well and did not give much chance to Taimoor and Fahad of Bannu to strike back, thus leveling the set tally 2-2. It was the decisive singles, the third one in which Afnan Khan of Bannu recorded a thrilling victory against Muhammad Zaid, the current national no. 1 of Peshawar in a marathon 2-1 sets, the score was 27-25, 21-23 and 23-21. The match provided great thrill for the setting spectators who enjoyed it and supported both Bannu and Peshawar teams.

T20 tri-series featuring Pakistan, WI Women-A & Thailand Women Emerging to start today

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Women-A, West Indies Women-A and Thailand Women Emerging teams will feature in a T20 tri-series, scheduled to be played from November 3-8, 2023. The three teams will play each other once before the top two play the final on November 8. All matches will be played at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. This is the first multi-nation tournament in Pakistan involving women's emerging teams. The tri-series was preceded by a three-match one-day series between West Indies Women A and Pakistan Women A, which went in 2-1 in the visitors' favour. Pakistan Women A have been forced to make one change to the squad that played the one-day series with Kaynat Hafeez replacing the injured Tuba Hassan. Kaynat has repre-

sented Pakistan in one ODI in 2019 against England. Rameen Shamim, who will continue to lead Pakistan Women A, was the joint wicket-taker in the recently concluded one-day series. Rameen and off-spinner Anosha Nasir picked six wickets each in the three-match series. Pakistan's squad has six internationally capped players: Rameen, Gull Feroza, Kaynat Hafeez, Omama Sohail, Shawaal Zulfiqar and Sidra Nawaz. West Indies Women A will be buoyed by the one-day series victory as they will continue to be captained by Rashada Williams, who was the leading run-getter in the 50-over matches. Meanwhile, this is Thailand's first-ever cricket tour of Pakistan. Following the tri-series,

the side will also play two T20s against the home team, scheduled for Nov 10-11 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Seven players out of Thailand Women Emerging's 15-member squad have represented the senior side in T20Is. Thailand Women Emerging captain, Thipatcha Putthawong, speaking to PCB Digital, expressed her excitement at leading her side on the tour to Pakistan: "It is an honour to be a part of this series and to be able to play at such an iconic venue. I would like to thank PCB for arranging such a wonderful event. "We have prepared well and we hope to perform to the best of our abilities. We are an up and coming team but we back ourselves to deliver winning performances during the tri series," she added.



MUMBAI: Mohammed Shami celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Kasun Rajitha during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup ODI match between India and Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium.

India thrash Sri Lanka to reach World Cup semi-finals

MUMBAI (Agencies): Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah razed Sri Lanka to 55 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, sealing India's seventh successive win of the World Cup and their spot in the semi-finals.

India's fast-bowling trio was so sensational with the new ball that the scores of Sri Lanka's top five read like a line of binary code: 0, 0, 1, 0, 1. When Shami also had Nos. 7 and 8 for ducks with the score on 29, Sri Lanka were in serious danger of folding for the lowest total in ODI cricket. They were eventually dismissed in 19.4 overs as India completed the fourth-biggest win in the format, and Shami's 5 for 18 made him India's highest wicket-taker in World Cups. It was the third time that India had dismissed Sri Lanka for less than 100 in ODIs in 2023, and their second 300-plus-run victory against them this year.

The very first ball from Bumrah was a portent for the carnage that was to follow. He went wide of the crease, got a full ball to angle in and then swing away late to thump the back pad. Siraj also struck with his first ball, pinning Dimuth Karunaratne lbw. Four balls later, with a reinforced cordon, Siraj had the in-form Sadeera Samarawickrama caught at third slip.

But it was the dismissal of captain Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah razed Sri Lanka to 55 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, sealing India's seventh successive win of the World Cup and their spot in the semi-finals. India's fast-bowling trio was so sensational with the new ball that the scores of Sri Lanka's top five read like a line of binary code: 0, 0, 1, 0, 1. When Shami also had Nos. 7 and 8 for ducks with the score on 29, Sri Lanka were in serious danger of folding for the lowest total in ODI cricket. They were eventually dismissed in 19.4 overs as India completed the fourth-biggest win in the format, and Shami's 5 for 18 made him India's highest wicket-taker in World Cups. It was the third time that India had dismissed Sri Lanka for less than 100 in ODIs in 2023, and their second 300-plus-run victory against them this year. The very first ball from Bumrah was a portent for the carnage that was to follow. He went wide of the crease, got a full ball to angle in and then swing away late to thump the back pad. Siraj also struck with his first ball, pinning Dimuth Karunaratne lbw. Four balls later, with a reinforced cordon, Siraj had the in-form Sadeera Samarawickrama caught at third slip.

unveiled on the eve of this game. The Wankhede waited expectantly, but Madushanka had other ideas, dismissing Kohli 12 short of the landmark. Sri Lanka could have cut Kohli's innings short on 10 had Dushmantha Chameera hung on to a return catch in the sixth over. Shubman Gill was also relieved in the powerplay when Charith Asalanka dropped him on 8 at cover-point. Gill then combined with Kohli to punish Sri Lanka with a 189-run partnership on a hot afternoon. Kohli got cracking with his trademark cover-drives while Gill often stepped out of his crease to manufacture scoring opportunities. Then, when Sri Lanka's fast bowlers shortened their lengths to Gill, he put them away with his rasping short-arm pulls. Legspin-bowling allrounder Dushan Hemantha, who is essentially a like-for-like replacement for the injured Wanindu Hasaranga, couldn't stem the flow of runs either. When Kohli and Gill matched each other shot for shot and moved close to three figures, India's fans were probably entertaining thoughts of double-hundreds from both batters. But Madushanka returned to the attack and didn't even let the batters reach triple figures.

Zaka Ashraf accused of 'flagrant misdoings and unconstitutional decisions'

LAHORE (Agencies): Zaka Ashraf, the head of the PCB, has been accused of "flagrant misdoings and unconstitutional decisions" by a member of his own management committee, as the official end of his incumbency approaches. The four-month tenure of the administration led by Ashraf is due to end by November 5, at the end of this week. But there is no certainty that it will, even as the charges of the management-committee member indicate that alarm and unhappiness with Ashraf's chairmanship is at its peak, both within the administration and outside of it. Zulfiqar Malik, the management-committee member, made the allegations in an email to Ashraf and the management committee. The email, seen by ESPNcricinfo, is copied to the Prime Minister's Office as well as the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) ministry, which has oversight over sports in Pakistan. In his email, Malik has accused Ashraf and the administration of:

Failing its legal, prescribed mandate, which was to manage only the board's daily affairs and not make long-term decisions Ignoring directives from the IPC to hold board elections so that the interim set-up finishes, and a chairman is appointed Failing to provide his degree certificate, which is a prerequisite for becoming a PCB chairman Allowing his son Chaudhry Khan Mohammad to meddle informally in board matters Misusing the office of the PCB election commissioner to carry out political victimisation of opponents and running rigged elections in regions "I have noted some flagrant misdoings and unconstitutional decisions by management that I wish to bring on record," Malik writes. He says the email is an attempt "to absolve myself from the unconstitutional decisions and wrongdoings which have taken place over the period of time without consultation or approval of most mem-

bers". The two most serious issues are the lack of movement on board elections as well as the scope of this administration's work beyond the prescribed daily decision making. "[But] this MC led by Mr Zaka Ashraf has not confined itself to day to day affairs and has taken many long term decisions which violate the mandate given to this MC," Malik writes, going on to cite several examples of the appointments the board has made as breaches of this mandate. "The appointment of Chief Selector (Inzamam ul Haq, who has now resigned) for three years on hefty Rs 2.5 million pm (per month), appointment of several Directors, Consultants, officials, Scrutiny and other Committees, approval of various projects and budget, huge expenses on different heads, hiring of legal counsels on exorbitant rates and removal or sidelining some key officials fall in the categories of long term decisions in violation of the clear cut mandate of the

MC. "Turning deaf ears on IPC Ministry's directives... for holding Chairman election was the most serious violation that Zaka Ashraf and this MC committed". In response, the PCB said, "Every decision is taken according to the constitution." The board also defended the nature of its decision-making, saying, "Any and all decisions have been taken to ensure day to day operations of the PCB continue unencumbered." The email was sent on October 3. A week later, the IPC asked the PCB for a comprehensive report on their operations, including updates on progress towards elections, details of all appointments they have made, and contracts they have signed. The ask was to have been treated as "Most immediate", but the PCB has not since provided a report. "Matters between IPC and PCB are internal and PCB would not like to offer a comment on its dealings with IPC," the board said. "Needless to add that there exists a constant flow of communication between PCB and IPC."

Australia prepare to strike final blow on old enemy England

AHMEDABAD (AFP/APP): Australia can deliver the final blow to old enemy England's dismal World Cup campaign on Saturday with memories of their acrimonious Ashes series still fresh. Jos Buttler's defending champions sit rock bottom of the 10-nation group with one win in six games, requiring a mathematical miracle to squeeze into the semi-finals. On Saturday, they face an Australian team who come into the game at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad with four straight wins. However, the five-time winners will be without two key players in Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh.England's most recent loss was a 100-run thrashing at the hands of unbeaten India in Lucknow where coach Matthew Mott faced down questions over the team's brittle batting line-up and claims of dressing room unrest.Opening batsman Dawid

Malan slammed reports of Mott, who had conceded the World Cup campaign was over for the 2019 champions, losing the confidence of the players."Motty is not the one walking out on the field," Malan told BBC. "As players, we need to take responsibility when we cross that rope. We are being given everything we need to perform. The facilities and work, everything is being done as it always has been." He added: "It is really hard to sum up. We just can't seem to get anything going at the moment or any rhythm or momentum. We're not used to being in that position. "England's only win so far was against Bangladesh. They lost to Afghanistan while in their last two games their batting folded for 156 (against Sri Lanka) and then 129 (India).Defeat to Australia will not only knock them out of contention for a semi-final spot but also put them in danger of missing the 2025 Champions

Trophy.- England 'dangerous' - England must finish in the top seven places to qualify for the 50-over tournament in Pakistan. "I'm pretty sure I'll be done for that but I'd love the guys to play in that," the 36-year-old Malan said. "Hopefully we can find the momentum and finish the World Cup on a high."The two fierce rivals played out an exhilarating and often bitter Ashes this year with the five-match Test series ending 2-2.Australia hold the aces in the 50-over format with 87 wins over England in 155 matches and in nine World Cup meetings the Aussies remain 6-3 ahead. But when they met in the 2019 World Cup semi-finals, England triumphed and went on to win their maiden World Cup.Australia started this World Cup with two losses but bounced back and are fresh from their record 309-run hammering of the Netherlands last week.



In brief

Islamabad City Zone arrests 2,923

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police City Zone has made significant strides in law enforcement, resulting in the arrest of 2,923 individuals, including 295 absconders, for their involvement in various heinous crimes and criminal activities. Recovered items from the possession of these outlaws during the current year included stolen vehicles, motorcycles, drugs, liquor, and an assortment of weapons with ammunition, police said. Islamabad Capital Police has intensified its efforts to crack down on criminal elements, aiming to eradicate crime within the city. In a detailed breakdown, the City Zone police teams carried out a robust operation against criminals engaged in a range of unlawful activities. Their efforts led to the recovery of 70 stolen vehicles, 136 stolen motorcycles, 34.92 kilograms of hashish, 96.35 grams of heroin, 799 wine bottles, 2,278 liters of alcohol, 140 pistols, 1 Kalashnikov, 4 rifles with ammunition, and 15 daggers. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the ICCPO, has urged all senior officials to continue their effective crackdown against drug peddlers and individuals possessing illegal weapons. He emphasized that the performance of the police force in this regard would be continuously reviewed, with no tolerance for any negligence in official duties.

Police arrest two suspects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police station, in conjunction with the Homicide unit police teams, successfully apprehended two individuals linked to a heinous murder case, police said. The incident unfolded on October 31 when the Sumbal police station received an application from a distressed citizen, reporting a tragic incident. According to the applicant, the accused, identified as Deen Muhammad (husband) and Noor Hassan (father-in-law), allegedly set fire to his daughter, Nazia Bibi, leading to her untimely demise upon arrival at the hospital. In response to the grievous crime, the Sumbal police team promptly registered FIR no. 412/23 and established a specialized investigation team. Leveraging all available resources and employing technical and scientific methodologies, the police teams successfully arrested the two accused, Deen Muhammad and Noor Hassan. The investigation into the matter remains ongoing. In light of this incident, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan has issued directives to all senior officials to intensify efforts in cracking down on criminal activities, prioritizing the safety of citizens and their property.

IRSA releases 110,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 110,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 56,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1522.83 feet and was 124.83 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,900 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1201.65 feet, which was 151.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,600 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan sharing details during his visit to the construction of Poly Clinic hospital expansion project.

Cultural Delight Awaits

Lok Mela in Islamabad opens its doors today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The heart of Islamabad is all set to pulsate with a vibrant tapestry of Pakistani culture as Lok Mela-2023 kicked off at Lok Virsa on Friday, depicting the rich cultural diversity of all provinces amid the highlight of unique artistry, music, cuisines and traditions of each region.

The Lok Mela is considered a celebration of the nation's rich cultural heritage as this 11-day (Nov 3 to 13) extravaganza promises to be a captivating journey through diverse traditions, crafts, music, and flavours that define Pakistan.

The festival, organized by the Cultural and Heritage Division at Lok Virsa Islamabad, is an annual event that also brings together artisans, performers, and culture enthusiasts from every corner of the country where visitors can expect a myriad of activities, from folk music and dance performances to traditional crafts and culinary delights. The stalls and pavilions will represent all provinces as the Mela is a testament to Pakistan's commitment to preserving and celebrating its cultural diversity.

The festival, themed "Peace and Harmony through Cultural Diversity," will showcase the richness of Pakistan's cultural heritage through a variety of attractions, including provincial pavilions, shopping and food stalls, musical programs, arts and crafts demonstrations, and traditional skills.

In his comments on the cultural event, Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah said Lok Mela, will be a greater source of establishing national cohesion and promoting cultural diversity besides providing quality entertainment to the people. He had said the rich culture and traditions of all four provinces in addition to the Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir will be presented in the festival in a befitting manner while handicrafts, artwork, leather work will be a great source of attention for the visitors. To enthrall the audience, Jamal Shah said the Lok music of all provinces will be presented. He said food stalls will offer a variety of rational foods from all parts of the country to the people. Terming such festivals as instrumental in projecting the talent of budding artists, the Minister urged to revive the cultural and traditional festivals in all parts of the country.

Expressing sorrow over the massacre of innocent Palestinians by Israel, Jamal Shah announced all the events of the festival will be held in the expression of solidarity with the people of Palestine. The Minister further said a specific stall will be reserved for the collection of funds for Palestine and the Ministry is in contact with the embassy of Palestine in this regard. Jamal Shah said a conference has also been convened of language experts of the country to convert the rhymes, Lok poems songs and literature into attractive videos, animations and illustrated books.

The Minister said infrastructure including theaters will be revamped with the coordination of the Capital Development Authority and the Ministry of Interior to provide quality entertainment to the people. The festival will feature a diverse lineup of performers, including Sufi and folk artist Areeb Azhar, as well as musicians from all over Pakistan, playing traditional and fusion music on various instruments including the suroz, a traditional Balochi musical instrument. The visitors to the festival will also have the opportunity to experience traditional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tea, shop for unique handicrafts and souvenirs, and learn about traditional crafts such as pottery and stone carving.

One of the highlights of the festival would be Sajji Stall. The Sajji is a traditional Balochi dish and prepared with grilled meat.

ANF seizes 1079kg narcotics, arrests 45 drug pushers

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) seized 1079 kilogram narcotics and arrested 45 drug peddlers in countrywide operations.

A spokesman of ANF Headquarters said on Thursday that the ANF has widen the trap around the drug dealers across the country. During separate actions in Khyber 151 kilogram narcotics including hashish, heroin and other drugs were recovered.

The ANF recovered 338 kilogram narcotics including Heroin, hashish, gutka and other drugs during crackdowns in Sindh. As many 40 kilogram narcotics were recovered from Punjab while 507 kilogram drugs were seized in Balochistan.

During crackdowns, 45 drug suppliers and peddlers were arrested across the country.

The ANF confiscated the recovered narcotics and the nabbed drug pushers were being investigated after registering separate cases against them under Drug Act 2012.

‘Brunei Darussalam can take benefit from Pakistan’s investor-friendly policies’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, said on Thursday that Pakistan's investor-friendly policies make it an attractive prospect for potential investments from Brunei Darussalam in various sectors such as energy, agriculture, and education.

The chairman expressed these views during a meeting with the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam who paid a courtesy call to the Chairman of the Senate, as stated in a news release.

During the meeting, both sides called for further strengthening existing relations, particularly in the areas of trade, business, investment, and the economic sector. Sadiq Sanjrani, congratulated High Commissioner PG Kamal Bashah PG Ahmed on his appointment and extended his heartfelt best wishes for his role in strengthening ties between the two countries. The meeting was marked by a strong sense of optimism and hope for an enhancement in diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam.

Sanjrani, expressed his confidence that this appointment would contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two nations. During the comprehensive discussion, the two sides delved into the prevailing regional situation and addressed issues of mutual interest. Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam's strong bilateral relations, deeply rooted in shared religious values and cooperation, were also highlighted.

Both dignitaries emphasized the need to further bolster these relations, particularly

in areas of trade, business, investment, and the economic sector.

Chairman of the Senate also highlighted the profound trust that Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam share on matters related to Islamophobia, cooperation within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and their collective commitment to world peace. A significant point of discussion revolved around the agricultural sector, where Chairman of the Senate underscored the importance of utilizing scarce water resources and modern technology to enhance productivity.

He underlined the vast investment opportunities available in Pakistan and urged businessmen and investors from both countries to explore and capitalize on these prospects for mutual benefit.

Effective strategies in the economic and business sectors were also emphasized as a means to foster growth and cooperation.

The Chairman brought to the forefront the critical issues of Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, shedding light on the alarming human rights violations occurring in these regions.

He urged the international community to play an active role in finding solutions to these longstanding conflicts.

Sanjrani said that finding resolutions for these issues was a challenging test for the United Nations, and he called for a unified plan of action within the Muslim Ummah to end the ongoing cruelty and barbarism in Indian-Occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

Punjab govt launches strict crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles, factories: Director

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Nazia Jabeen Thursday the Punjab government has ordered a strict crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles and industrial units to curb smog in the province as authorities declared smog a "calamity" in Punjab.

Talking to a private news channel, she said action would be taken against all factories causing environmental pollution with district administrations closely monitoring all industries and brick kilns.

She urged all the officers of the environment and allied departments to be active in the field instead of sitting in the offices. The officers of the Department of Agriculture and local government have also imposed strict penalties for burning crop residue and garbage, she mentioned.

She confirmed that the smog control policy has been put in place and accordingly squads and teams have been formed to check violations, adding, that there will be a zero-tolerance policy against smog-emitting brick kilns, industries and stone-crushing plants.

An awareness campaign was also started across the district apprising the citizens of the negative effects of smog and the role they could play in mitigating it, she added.

She said that the citizens should keep an eye on their surroundings and report to 15 about the persons or activities causing smog and provide all possible support to the government institutions in taking measures to reduce environmental pollution. Replying to a question, she said in a bid to protect public health now mandated to wear masks while going outdoors or attending school and offices.

Health Minister inspects FGSH’s expansion project

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Thursday inspected the Federal Government Services Hospital (FGSH) (Polyclinic hospital's) expansion project.

On the occasion, the minister was briefed by the concerned authorities about the project.

Dr. Nadeem Jan reviewed the construction work of Polyclinic G-11/3 expansion project-II. The expansion project consists of 300 beds. This project will be completed in three years. However, the minister directed to complete the project in two years.

He said that slowness and delay in construction work will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that such public welfare projects should be completed on time. The construction of the hospital will not only benefit the citizens of Islamabad and surrounding areas rather, the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan will also be able to benefit.

The minister said that the hospital will provide facilities for diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, maternity care, allergies, bone and joint problems, chest and heart diseases, and skin issues. He said that we were making progress in the short-term mission of reforms. Progress in the health sector was not possible without reforms,

he added. He pointed out that along with the growth of the population, diseases were also increasing, and resources were limited to tackle them. In this context, a revolutionary project has been initiated to reduce the burden on large hospitals, he added.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said 460 primary health centres will be revamped across the country. The foundation of a robust healthcare system has been laid under the agenda of Global Health Security to prevent the spread of cross-border diseases. He said that the Pharma Pakistan project will enhance the provision of medicines permanently.

He said a plan was in place to promote vaccine production in Pakistan. He said that merit and transparency were being promoted in the field of medical education and the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) was mandated to ensure this.

The minister said reforms were underway in the Pakistan Nursing Council. Strict actions were being taken to promote merit and transparency in the PMDC. An online system has been introduced to ensure transparency in PMDC, he added.

He said that a mechanism has been established to monitor the functionality of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). He said that a mobile application has been launched

for the resolution of public complaints. A comprehensive plan has been devised to eliminate counterfeit and unregistered drugs, the minister said.

Dr Nadeem Jan informed that the National Health Task Force was fully active across the country. "Strengthening the Universal Health Coverage is my top agenda." In this context, the Health Card system has been expanded, he added.

He mentioned that the pharmacy system in hospitals was being computerized. A specialized and general medicine department has been formed to control and prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases. He said that efforts were being made to strengthen the health system through the National Health Support Program.

The minister said a comprehensive plan has been formulated to prevent Hepatitis C. He said that for the betterment of the health sector, the Health Advisory Council has been established. "We are strengthening the Border Health Service to keep the public safe from diseases." Dr Nadeem said that effective measures were being taken to uplift Pakistan's dignity in the field of health internationally. He said that projects have been initiated in a short period that will be remembered for centuries.



ISLAMABAD: A view of two trucks collide due to over speed at IJP Road in road accident.

Safe City Islamabad integrates with Sindh Excise Department to issue e-challans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Safe City Islamabad has recently integrated with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department, facilitating the issuance of e-challans.

A spokesperson of Islamabad police confirmed this integration through the Safe City E-Challan system. The integration comes in response to the discovery of numerous vehicles with Sindh number plates violating traffic laws within the federal capital. This posed a challenge as their data was previously inaccessible within the Safe City E-Challan system, hindering the issuance of e-challan tickets.

The collaboration with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department will significantly streamline the process of issuing e-challan tickets for traffic law violators. Stringent measures have also been implemented to address persistent traffic law offenders and individuals who default on their e-challans.

To this end, the Islamabad Capital Police has enforced strict actions, including the suspension of driving licenses for those who default on their e-challans. Modern surveillance systems are being utilized to trace vehicles of defaulters.

Citizens can conveniently check their e-challan status on the official website of the Islamabad Capital Police at www.islamabadpolice.gov.pk or by visiting the following link: https://ict.islamabadpolice.gov.pk:8081/verify_e_challan.php. This can be done by entering their vehicle registration number. In terms of fine payment, individuals can use the Jazz Cash mobile app or JS Bank wallet to clear their e-challan fines. Non-payment will result in legal action being taken against the defaulters.

The Islamabad Capital Police reaffirms its commitment to upholding peace, ensuring security, and safeguarding the lives and property of its citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Head of Mission of Afghanistan Sardar Ahmad Shekib called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti.

Gaza issue: UN Security Council must act: FO

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday stated that UN Security Council must act and fulfill its responsibility of upholding peace Gaza. Expressing concerns over the dire situation in Gaza, the Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Murtaz Zahra Baloch has stated that UN Security Council must act and fulfill its responsibility of upholding peace. She said the world body must call for lifting the siege, protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian corridors for provision of uninterrupted essential supplies to the beleaguered people of Gaza.

“World body must call for lifting the siege, protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian corridors for provision of uninterrupted essential supplies to the beleaguered people of Gaza” she reiterated. Responding a question, he stated that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will embark on an official visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan to participate in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit commencing on Wednesday next.

At her weekly news briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Murtaz Zahra Baloch said the Prime Minister, at the summit, will reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ECO vision 2025 and promotion of cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity. The Prime Minister will present Pakistan's vision for the future work of the organization and promotion of regional connectivity and mutual prosperity.

The Prime Minister will also engage in bilateral discussions with the leadership of Uzbekistan and other participating leaders. Alluding to the illegal foreigners' repatriation plan, the foreign office spokesperson said this applies to all foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan irrespective of their nationality and country of origin. She said this process will continue in an orderly and phased manner. She said this decision is in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws and compliant with applicable international norms and principles. She also clarified that it does not apply to individuals who enjoy refugee status.

When asked about the death sentence awarded to the retired Indian Naval Officers by a court in Qatar, the spokesperson said this testifies the presence of India's network of espionage which has gone beyond South Asia. She said this also shows India's reckless and irresponsible conduct in clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty. She said it calls into question India's reliability as a credible partner. Referring to the arrest of an Indian naval officer in Balochistan, the spokesperson said Pakistan has remained a target of India's state sponsored terrorism, subversion and espionage for a long time.

As regards the situation in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the spokesperson said Indian occupation forces continue to commit human rights violations in the occupied territory. She said that seventeen Kashmiris were killed and ten others wounded in the month of October.

KP government operationalized IMHBS

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a bid to ensure responsive healthcare delivery system in the province, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has operationalized the newly established Institute of Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences (IMHBS) Peshawar which is first of its kind in the province. The caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan formally inaugurated the institute in a ceremony held here the other day.

Apart from providing quality treatment facilities to mentally-ill people, the institute will also offer a comprehensive professional development and academic programs including diplomas and degrees in bachelor, masters and doctorate to all cadres of health providers involved in providing mental health services. Besides emergency unit, OPD, ICU, Psychiatric Unit, Family Counseling, Rehabilitation Centre and other related specialties would also be available in

the institute. Initially, OPD services have been started whereas the rest of the aforementioned services would be started in a phased manner.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of IMHBS; the Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan termed the establishment of the institute as a milestone achievement and a good addition in Health Service Delivery System of the province and said that establishment of such an institute was a dire need of the day and added that people grappling with mental challenges will have state of the art healthcare facilities in the newly established institute.

He said that a separate board would be constituted in order to run this Institute in an autonomous and effective manner. He hoped that the institute will also play key role in legislation and policy making related to mental health as well as develop international linkages for clinical services, research and international accreditation.

He said that globally, mental illness is on the rise and Pakistan is especially challenged, when it comes to mental health; and that's why setting up of the institute of mental health sciences at Peshawar is a good initiative and gift for the people suffering from mental illness.

He urged upon need to change the prevailing social attitude towards these patients and added that unfortunately, the topic of mental health is still a taboo in Pakistan which is giving rise to number of individuals with undiagnosed mental disorder. He remarked that such patients should also be treated and facilitated with all their self-esteem so that they could achieve their potential and be respected as relatives, neighbors, friends, workers and members of society. Advisor to the chief minister for health Dr Riaz Anwar, Director General Health Dr Shaukat Ali and others also addressed the ceremony and highlighted the salient features of IMHBS.

Solangi for joint efforts to protect planet earth

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday called for collective revolutionary measures to avoid the damages caused climate change.

Delivering his speech at the "Pre COP28: Paris to Dubai" seminar here the minister said that the future of the coming generations must be secured. The minister urged the international community to play its role in the countries being badly affected by climate change. The planet, he added faced the dangers of climate change and the government, or any department alone could not solve this problem.

"We need a strategic vision to tackle the challenge of climate change," Murtaza Solangi maintained. The whole society has to realize about climate change issue, Murtaza Solangi said adding: "We are facing many social problems to deal with climate change". Solangi said without bringing about change in society, the dangers of climate change could not be addressed.

Parents, teachers, film, television drama writers, poets, elders in the society must discuss the harms of climate change and there was a need to change the whole culture system. He also said that media must play its role in highlighting climate change issue. For

combating climate change, every body will have to actively participate in plantation campaigns as climate change was a threat to the human existence.

He said that Pakistan was one of the most affected countries by climate change although it had very small role in causing climate change. The minister said that the present generation had a responsibility to take urgent steps to protect the planet from the negative impacts of climate change for the sake for future generations. "Do we want to be known in human history as the generation that was so selfish and self-centered that we want to deplete and destroy planet earth and leave nothing for our future generations", he remarked. He said that protecting the planet for the negative effects of climate change was an existential question for humanity.

Stressing the need for media role in the creation of awareness among the masses over environmental issues, he said that Pakistan Television would establish a special desk for climate change with dedicated staff filing reports on environmental issues. He urged all media houses to come forward and play a proactive role in highlighting environmental issues on their screens and newspapers. He said that the resolution of disputes between the countries of the world and peaceful coexistence was also vital as wars played havoc with the environment

and pushed the entire region into chaos and destruction.

Solangi attends launch ceremony of book on 100 best CEOs, companies: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi attended the CEO's Investment Summit.

The business community's favourite book "100 Best Performing CEOs and Companies of Pakistan," was launched at the event. Founder and President of CEO Club Pakistan Ijaz Nisar presented the book as a gift to the Information Minister. The book contains the success stories of 100 Pakistani CEOs working at the local and international levels who have highlighted the positive image of Pakistan in the world in difficult situations.

Solangi, Kaira offer Fateha for deceased mother of JS MoLB Shafqat Abbas: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and senior Pakistan People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira met Shafqat Abbas, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to extend condolences over the demise of his mother.

Murtaza Solangi and Qamar Zaman Kaira offered Fatiha for the deceased. Both dignitaries prayed the Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Trump Jr. testifies for second day in New York fraud trial

NEW YORK (Reuters): Donald Trump 's son Donald Trump Jr. took the witness stand for a second day on Thursday to testify about the family company's financial statements that a New York judge has ruled were fraudulently inflated to mislead lenders and insurers.

Donald Jr. is one of four family members due to testify in a New York civil fraud trial that could hobble the real-estate empire that built his father's reputation as a business mogul before he entered politics. The former U.S. president is scheduled to testify on Monday — the

latest in many courtroom appearances by the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

New York Attorney General Letitia James is seeking at least \$250 million in damages, as well as a permanent ban on Trump, Donald Jr. and his son Eric from running businesses in the state. Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled that the three defendants and the company fraudulently inflated the values of trophy properties and other assets to win favorable financing terms.

Engoron has ordered the dissolution of companies

that control pillars of Trump's real estate portfolio, including Trump Tower in Manhattan. That ruling is on hold while Trump appeals. In testimony on Wednesday, Donald Jr. sought to minimize his involvement with the company's financial practices, saying the documents in question were prepared by outside accountants.

He drew occasional laughter in the courtroom with self-deprecating quips about his lack of financial acumen, in a contrast to the sharp-edged persona he has cultivated as his father's political attack dog.

129,218 illegal foreigners repatriated to Afghanistan

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The repatriation of illegal foreigners continued via Torkham and Angor Adda borders points from where 129,218 undocumented immigrants repatriated to Afghanistan from October 6 to November 1, 2023.

The spokesman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Department told APP on Thursday that 128,629 illegal foreigners were repatriated through Torkham border in Khyber tribal district and 589 undocumented immigrants through Angor Ada Waziristan tribal district to Afghanistan.

The illegal foreigners repatriated through Torkham border includes 7195 families including 34,639 male, 25,710 female and 68,280 children while 133 male, 148 female and 317 kids returned through Angora Adda border. He said as per Ministry of Interior's instructions, the families and children under 14 years of age of all documented foreigners repatriating on voluntary basis are exempted from NADRA or AVAS scanning and only males above 14 are to be entered/scanned.

The spokesman said only head count of children below 14 and women would be maintained. He said free transport from Landi Kotal holding area upto Torkham border were being provided to illegal foreigners.

Woman gives birth to baby in refugee camp

CHAMAN (PPI): A pregnant woman gave birth to a baby boy in a refugee holding camp situated at the Chaman border, officials said on Thursday.

The illegal immigrant woman who was kept at a refugee holding camp was shifted to the DHQ Hospital on the orders of Deputy Commissioner Chaman City Zohaib as she was pregnant. The woman gave birth to a baby boy at the hospital and according to doctors both the mother and child are healthy. The deputy commissioner said the woman along with her newborn baby would be deported to her country after doctors declared them fit.

The operation to deport illegal immigrants is underway across the country after the deadline set by the caretaker expired on October 31. As many as 7,380 illegal immigrants mostly Afghans registered at Landikotal holding camp on the first day were deported to their home countries via the Torkham border that connects Pakistan with landlocked Afghanistan.

On the first day of the nationwide campaign for deportation of illegal foreigners started on Wednesday, about 7,380 undocumented immigrants were registered at Landikotal camp were later deported via the Torkham border in free transport service.

Meanwhile, the government has established Special Control Rooms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan to oversee the deportation process of undocumented Afghan individuals back to their home country.

An extensive crackdown is currently underway to address the issue of illegal foreign nationals residing in KP and Balochistan. Special transit camps have been set up in Peshawar, Landi Kotal, and Quetta to facilitate the return of these unauthorized residents to their respective countries, in compliance with the nation's legal procedures.

These transit camps, located in the Khyber and Chaman districts, not only offer registration services but also provide essential amenities such as medical care and food to those in transit. In addition, Special Control Rooms have been established in Peshawar and Quetta, staffed by personnel from various law enforcement agencies, including the police, customs, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the NADRA.

These control rooms will maintain records and statistics related to these undocumented foreign individuals. As of the 22nd of the previous month, the government has gathered data on approximately 52,000 foreign nationals who were residing illegally in Pakistan.

Houthis declare war on Israel, but their real target is elsewhere

SANAA: As Israeli attacks on Gaza continue unabated, with Hamas fighters getting just modest armed support from Lebanon-based Hezbollah, another, somewhat unexpected ally has stepped in to help the Palestinian armed group.

Just a few days ago I predicted that the successful interception by the United States Navy of all missiles fired by Yemeni Houthis towards Israel would discourage them from future waste of projectiles. On Tuesday I was proved wrong when the Houthis again launched cruise missiles and drones at Israel. They never had much chance of hitting anything: More than 2,000km (1,240 miles) away, Israel is at the very limit of even the longest-ranged of Yemeni missiles.

And to reach Israel, Houthi missiles must first evade US Navy ships patrolling the region that can shoot them down, and then Israeli Navy missile corvettes stationed in the Red Sea. The Houthis are surely aware of the limitations of their hardware and know that even if a few were to slip through, they could only inflict token damage at their Israeli targets. So why bother?

The answer is simple: By firing cruise missiles they are not fighting a military but rather a political war. And the real target is not Israel but the Houthis' archenemy Saudi Arabia. To understand this, it is necessary to look back at the history of Yemen and at rivalries in the Arabian Gulf region. Yemen underwent a revolution in 1962 that ended centuries of rule by sheikhs of the Shia Zaidi sect. It changed the country profoundly. The predominantly Shia northern highlands pro-

claimed the pro-Western republic of North Yemen; their Sunni compatriots in the south aligned with the Eastern, Communist block as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Fast forward through a couple of civil wars, unifications and further divisions, and by 1990, there was a main cleavage between the by-then-united Yemen and most of the Arab world. Yemen opposed the intervention of non-Arab states to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait after President Saddam Hussein invaded Iraq's smaller neighbour. Saudi Arabia, which backed the US military intervention, retorted by expelling nearly a million Yemeni workers from the kingdom. For Yemen, already a poor nation, this meant additional economic hardship.

Meanwhile, a long-running contest for influence in the Middle East, between Saudi Arabia and Iran, has found a fresh theatre in Yemen, where a full-scale civil war erupted in 2014. Both powers meddled in the conflict: Riyadh openly, sending in a loose Arab-African coalition; Iran not sending its own troops but fully backing the Houthis. Nearly 100,000 children have died from starvation among the 400,000 who have lost their lives from fighting or famine in a war that has proven to be one of the bloodiest conflicts for civilians in the 21st century. That conflict has somewhat abated as of last year, but Yemen still has two competing "governments", neither in full control of the country.

One is the Iran-backed Government of National Salvation, based in the capital Sanaa, which controls most

of the territory. The other "government" notionally resides in the southern port of Aden, but its members spend their days in Riyadh, still claiming to be sole legitimate rulers. Somewhat surprisingly, in March of this year Riyadh and Tehran responded to Chinese-Iraqi mediation efforts and re-established diplomatic relations after seven years. It is likely that both states wanted to defuse tensions in Yemen, but also to use the relaxation to pursue their other strategic interests. Saudi Arabia had a big plan to normalise relations with Israel.

Against this backdrop, the Hamas attack of October 7 on southern Israel was an unpleasant upset for Saudi Arabia. Within days, it reportedly told the US that it was halting plans for the proposed deal with Israel that Washington was trying to mediate. As Gaza was being attacked, the only armed support to the Palestinians, limited and timid as it may be, came from Iranian proxy Hezbollah. The Houthi missile launches of October 19 seemed a one-off. But the repeated, bigger salvos earlier this week, albeit completely inefficient, potentially point to a pattern: another Iranian-backed group joining in the Palestinians' fight.

Meanwhile, the White House said this week that "the Saudi Arabians have indicated a willingness to continue" with work towards a normalisation deal with Israel. Saudi Arabia has not confirmed the White House claim. Yet if there is any truth to the White House statement, the latest missile launches by the Houthis have just made it harder than ever to turn that plan into reality. — Aljazeera

SC's directives regarding election commendable: JJ

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has commended the directives issued by the Supreme Court on election matter, saying the Chief Justice has played a crucial role in eliminating the confusion that had prevailed regarding the poll schedule.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he called for an OIC summit on the Gaza situation, urging the leaders of the Islamic world to take concrete actions to halt the Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip. He stressed that history would never absolve them if the rulers of the Muslim world remain passive in the face of the unjust killings of innocent Palestinians.

Sirajul Haq expressed his admiration for the widespread support shown by people worldwide for the Palestinians. He highlighted that such solidarity persists despite the dominance of social and traditional media by pro-Israeli influential lobbies. He lamented that the rulers had failed to advocate for the Palestinian cause in line with the desires of the nation. He highlighted the overt support of the US for Israeli aggression, resulting in the deaths of over 8,000 individuals, including 6,000 women and children.

The JJ chief questioned why the rulers of the Islamic world, despite full backing from Western governments for the aggressors, were hesitant to take

practical steps to aid the people of Palestine. He said the politics of the ruling parties centered around wealth, with elections being bought to secure positions of power for personal gain. He criticized the rulers for refusing to compromise on their luxuries, which were funded by state resources, burdening the masses with the responsibility of repaying national debts.

Siraj emphasized that the political parties which ruled the country for decades haven't plan for resolution of issues faced by country and masses if come into power again. He said the JJ would stage another pro-Palestine historic rally in Lahore on November 19.



LANDI KOTAL: Afghan refugees onboard truck waiting to cross Torkham border into Afghanistan.

Peace restoring in Kurram as warring tribes agree to vacate positions

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The concentrated efforts made by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs) and jirgas held on government level, have yielded encouraging results as situation in Kurram district was returning to normalcy after skirmishes erupted between the warring tribes over a land dispute.

According to the spokesman for the provincial government, a conflict between tribes over a disputed land continued for days in Kurram district however, due to concentrated efforts on part of the government, the situation

was returning towards normalcy as the warring groups have now agreed to vacate their positions in a phased-wise manner.

During the clashes, at least 26 people were killed and scores of others injured while losses were also incurred to the properties in the conflict area. During the last week, several jirgas were held after intervention and efforts of the provincial government and LEAs to restore peace in Kurram, the spokesman said, adding that due to these efforts, peace was now restoring in the area.

He said now it would be the priority of the government to reopen all the roads in the area within a couple

of days so that routine life could be restored with the supply of food items, medicines and other necessary goods. The spokesman informed that the government has formed a special land commission to address the issue of disputed land in Kurram district on a permanent basis.

Tribal elders from both sides including the Kohat Jirga played an exemplary role in bringing the warring tribes towards truce. Some of the miscreant elements wanted to keep the situation deteriorated in Kurram; however, they will not succeed in their negative agenda and peace will prevail in Kurram district, he said.