

FO flays Israel FM remarks  
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Monday that Pakistan was "appalled" at the remarks made by an Israeli minister wherein he suggested dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza. In a post on social media platform X on Monday, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "We are appalled by statement of an Israeli minister threatening nuclear force against Palestinians".

@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIX

No. 289

Regd. No. 241

RABI-US-SANNI 21 1445 -- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 07 2023

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar examining the health facilities provided by WHO to the Government of Pakistan.

# PM orders strict action against drug dealers

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered the police authorities to take strict action against the drug dealers supplying drugs and narcotics in and around the educational institutions.

Chairing a meeting regarding issues related to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) here, he said protection of life and property of the citizens was the primary responsibility of the state. The meeting discussed in detail the ICT's administrative issues, law and order situation and anti-narcotics issues.

He also directed the concerned authorities to take special measures for the protection of schools besides taking necessary steps on priority basis for the establishment of Dolphin Force in Islamabad. The meeting was briefed in detail about illegal encroachments, the development projects under Capital Development Authority, performance of the ICT Police and other issues.

The prime minister ordered to immediately resolve the problems created by the showrooms established in various parts of the city to trade vehicles that cause problems of traffic and parking in the respective areas. A comprehensive plan of a Car City should be made at a suitable location for the exhibition, auction and sale of vehicles in Islamabad, he instructed.

PM Kakar also said that an effective strategy should be devised to reduce the traffic pressure in the city. The meeting was informed that 160 new buses would soon arrive in the city that would help making the public transport system in the city more effective. The prime minister directed that a central digital system should be made for registration of cars in all cities across the country including Islamabad.

Fitness certificates should be

issued for old vehicles based on the internationally accepted environmental pollution standards, he said. He also directed to make the system of issuance of driving license more effective and transparent across the country. With respect to Margalla National Park, the prime minister said an indiscriminate operation should be conducted against illegal encroachment on Capital Development Authority lands including Margalla National Park.

With respect to the law and order situation in the capital city, PM Kakar was told that during current year, crimes rate had reduced significantly. The prime minister directed to dives an effective strategy to ensure protection of the citizens. The meeting was informed that the e-challan system had been fully implemented in Islamabad by using modern technology and safe city cameras.

The meeting was attended by senior government officials including the caretaker interior minister. After the meeting, the prime minister wrote on X, formerly twitter that the sellers of narcotics were causing detriment to the future generation of the country. He said Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti would personally supervise the efforts to eradicate the use of narcotics at educational institutions.

**Govt to ensure common man's access to basic healthcare:** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the government would ensure the common man's access to the basic healthcare, for it being the right of every citizen.

He, in a meeting with WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala here, appreciated the mobile health body as well as other partners for extending their support in the reformation of country's health sector. He also lauded the WHO's support for upgradation of health facilities across Pakistan including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

He said the mobile health clinics and ambulances provided by the WHO would help in provision of basic health facilities to the people at their doorstep, even those living in remote areas. The prime minister was told that the mega project for upgradation of 464 health facilities would complete in two months.

Besides providing health facilities, the mobile health units would also be linked with the central healthcare system that would also enable them to refer the patients to the major hospitals. Later, the prime minister also witnessed the signing of Letter of Understanding between the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and WHO, and also inspected five ambulances, a mobile clinic and two vaccination vans donated by the WHO.

**PM directs maximum facilitation, swift visa issuance to Sikh Yatrees:** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed the authorities concerned to extend maximum facilities to the Sikh Yatrees intending to attend their religious festivals in Pakistan.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the visa facilities being provided to the Sikh Yatrees by the Government of Pakistan, said the Sikh pilgrims coming to the country to visit their holy places were the guests in Pakistan. He was briefed on the Sikh festivals being held throughout the year, and the facilities for issuance of visas provided to the pilgrims. He instructed the relevant authorities to extend all-out facilities to the Sikh Yatrees for carrying out their religious rituals and visiting their holy places. The prime minister also directed to accelerate the visa issuance process while ensuring the transparency in the system. He said the Sikh Yatrees coming to Pakistan via Kartarpur Corridor must be provided with the facilities of international standards.

## 174,358 illegal foreigners repatriated

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As many as 174,358 illegal foreigners were repatriated through different borders mostly from Torkham to their home countries between September 17 to November 5, 2023. According to Home Department spokesman, it includes 11,481 families including 48,814 male, 37,131 female and 88,413 children.

He said that holding camps were established at Landi Kotal Khyber, Peshawar and Haripur districts. The spokesman said Torkham border that connect Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Afghanistan was the main route through which these illegal foreigners mostly Afghans returned to their home countries.

He said free transport and food services was provided to illegal immigrants from Landi Kotal holding camp. Illegal foreigners coming from Islamabad and Punjab province used Torkham border. Keeping in view of illegal immigrants' rush, emergency were declared in Nowshera, Peshawar and Khyber district. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has estimated Rs1 billion expenditures for smooth process of repatriation of illegal foreigners.

**Our correspondent adds from Landi Kotal:** In the ongoing crackdown against illegal immigrants, 110 Afghans resided unlawfully in different parts of the country were deported to their homeland, Afghanistan via Torkham border after their clearance in Holding Center.

It is worth mentioning here that subsequent to expiry of the deadline on 01 November, 2023, the government has kicked off a crackdown against illegal immigrants across the country.

The police official said that the Afghan national had been detained in various parts of the country and following their verification and data collection process had been done at Holding Center, Nowshera, they were handed over to Khyber police. The local police and security deported them after necessary procedures were carried out at the border, the official said. As per the report last night 6584 illegitimate Afghan citizens crossed the Torkham border to Afghanistan.

## Court grants bail to Sheikh Rashid

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi on Monday granted interim bail to Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in a case pertaining to the violent incidents of May 9. The former interior minister was granted bail against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 in a case registered with the Waris Khan police station in Rawalpindi.

The May 9 riots were triggered almost across the country after deposed prime minister Imran Khan's arrest in the £190 million settlement case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations. During the protests, the miscreants targeted the civil and military installations including Jinnah House and the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. The military termed May 9 "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act.

Resurfacing after a month-long disappearance on October 20, the close aide Khan, however, sought pardon for "commoners" involved in the May 9 incidents. At the outset of today's hearing, Rashid appeared before the court accompanied by his lawyer Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan.

# Anti-terror operation in Tirah Lt. Col among four soldiers martyred



F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army's Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider and three other soldiers were martyred in an exchange of fire with the terrorists during an intelligence-base operation (IBO) in Khyber District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Inter-Services Public Relations said on Monday.

The security forces led by Lt-Col Haider conducted the IBO in the general area of Tirah in Khyber District and killed three militants and injured three others. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider, effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell, while three terrorists got injured," the military's media wing stated.

The soldiers martyred in the operation were identified as Naik Khushdil Khan, 31, from Lakki Marwat District; Naik Rafique Khan, 27, from Charsadda District; and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir, 33, from District Murree.

The ISPR also said that the security forces of

Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, it added.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar expressed deep sorrow and grief over martyrdom of four army personnel, including a lieutenant colonel, while fighting with terrorists in Tirah area of Khyber District.

He offered his heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the families of martyrs and prayed for grant of courage to bear the loss with fortitude. The prime minister said the Pakistan Army soldiers sacrificed their lives for the security of the country in Tirah. "The entire nation, including me, is proud of its martyrs."

He vowed to continue the war against terrorism until the complete eradication of terrorism from the country. The evil designs of the enemies of peace would never be allowed to succeed, he added.

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza

Solangi expressed deep grief and sorrow over martyrdom of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider and three soldiers, including Naik Khush Dil Khan, Naik Rafique Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadeer in the terrorist attack in Tiraah area of Khyber district.

The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed souls of in the highest ranks of Jannah and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity and fortitude. He said the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the protection of Pakistan were the heroes of the nation.

The martyrs had made an unprecedented history of bravery and courage with their blood, he added. The minister said the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army played a major role in the fight against terrorism. The entire nation paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, he remarked. He vowed that the state would uproot the terrorism from the country. The entire nation stood with the Pakistan Army to defeat terrorism in the country.

# Feb 8 sun will rise with PPP's win: Zardari, Bilawal

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The PPP chairman and co-chairman have extended congratulations to the party candidates who won the local body by-elections in different cities of Sindh.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari expressed his gratitude to the people for party's victory in the LB by-elections in Karachi and other parts of the province. The heart of Sindh also raised the slogan of Jeay Bhutto, Zardari said, adding the success of Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad is a special message for PPP's rivals in Karachi.

Asif Zardari paid rich tributes to party workers for victory in by-elections, saying "Every PPP worker should start the election campaign by becoming the ambassador of Ms Benazir Bhutto Shaheed." Zardari said the sun of February 8 will rise with the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. "There are few days left and PPP will end people's problems," he added.

In his tweet, PPP

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also extended congratulations to the successful candidates in the LB by-elections, showering praise on Karachi Mayor and Deputy Mayor Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad, and Deputy Mayor Sukkur Arshad Mughal on their success in the elections. Bilawal said the entire Sindh including Karachi has once again defeated the politics of hatred and divisions. The people have made their decision, now, God willing, the victory of Pakistan People's Party is written on the wall on February 8, Bilawal added.

The Pakistan Peoples Party has emerged as a majority party in local bodies' by-elections in Sindh. According to unofficial results, PPP has secured six out of ten seats in five districts of Karachi division including all the three seats of Union Committee Chairmen in South, Kemari and Malir districts. Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad are among the winners who won a Union Committee

Chairman seat each in Saddar and Gadap towns to meet legal requirements for retaining their respective offices.

**Nawaz, Zardari 'agree to work together to save state':** The PPP and the PML-N have agreed to work together to save the state by taking important decisions, it emerged on Monday. The development came during a telephonic conversation between PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari, according to sources.

The PPP leader congratulated the PML-N supremo on his return to the country on October 21 after ending a four-year self-imposed exile in London. Both the leaders agreed that all stakeholders will play their role in saving the state, the sources added.

The leaders of two major political parties of the country also agreed to take important decisions to provide relief to the inflation-hit masses. The insiders said a huddle between the political heavyweights is likely to take place soon as they both invited each other to hold the meeting.

# Nawaz directs party leaders to start preparing for elections

F.P. Report

LAHORE: PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed the party leaders to begin their preparations for the elections — scheduled to take place on February 8, 2024.

The directions were issued in a meeting at the PML-N's central secretariat in Lahore where the three-time prime minister was welcomed by party presi-

dent Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Senior Vice-President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz and other leaders. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, PML-N Election Cell Chairman Senator Ishaq Dar and Central Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb also attended the meeting.

The PML-N's election campaign has entered a new phase as Nawaz starts his meetings with party mem-

bers, said the party on its official X account, formerly Twitter. In the meeting, the members also discussed the future political activities of the party and the current political situation in the country. Speaking to the leaders, Nawaz said that they will start the journey to development from where it was left off. This was the first meeting of the PML-N supremo at the central secretariat after his return to Pakistan.

Imran's bail plea adjourned

RAWALPINDI (INP): An anti-terrorism court on Monday postponed the hearing of bail pleas filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan in three cases of vandalism registered against him under the provisions of terrorism till November 14 without conducting court proceedings. The court also adjourned the bail petitions submitted by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi till November 14.

(Continued on Back Page)

# Israeli massacre continues as Gaza death toll surpasses 10,000

GAZA (AFP): At least 10,022 Palestinians, including 4,104 children, have been killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza since October 7, the health ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza says. Al Jazeera TV and Hamas-affiliated Al Aqsa radio said on Monday that Israeli forces had targeted a solar panel system at a building in the al-Shifa hospital complex in Gaza City.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa has confirmed that at least 27 people were martyred following a series of strikes across Gaza. At least 15 people were martyred in the strike in the Tal al-Sultan neighbourhood of Rafah in southern Gaza. Meanwhile, at least 10 people were also martyred in Al-Zawaida in the central Gaza Strip, while two others were killed in a strike on a home in the Jabalia refugee camp.

Some areas of Gaza have not been reached by authorities or emergency services due to heavy bombardment and it is likely that the death toll could be higher. The Rafah crossing between the bombarded Gaza Strip and Egypt reopened Monday to allow the evacuation of foreigners, dual nationals and wounded Palestinians, the Hamas government and an Egyptian official said.

The terminal was opened for three days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week to allow dozens of wounded Palestinians and hundreds of foreign passport holders to cross before closing Saturday and Sunday amid a dispute over the passage of ambulances. Sources within the Hamas government said the crossing

reopened after an agreement with Israel — secured with Egyptian mediation — to allow the evacuation of 30 wounded people. A Palestinian journalist, Mohammad Al-Jaja along with some of his family members, was martyred by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City's Al-Nasser neighbourhood on Monday.

Over 31 journalists have been martyred in Gaza while covering Israel's atrocities in the war-torn region. The Israeli army on Monday claimed that it attacked 450 Hamas positions in Gaza including fighters, military compounds, observation posts, anti-tank missile launch posts and tunnels. Separately, the army claimed to have uncovered an opening to Hamas's tunnels adjacent to the Sheikh Hamad Hospital in Gaza.

During a news briefing, military spokesperson Daniel Hagari also played a video which he said showed Hamas fighters shooting at Israeli soldiers from inside the hospital, Al Jazeera reported. However, Hagari's claims have not been verified. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) posted a video on X, formerly Twitter, showing Israeli forces as they "took control of a Hamas outpost in Gaza." The tweet was captioned: "IDF ground forces took control of a Hamas outpost in Gaza tonight. In this outpost, the terrorist organization Hamas had observation posts, training facilities for terrorist operatives, as well as terrorist tunnels. In this operation, a number of terrorists were eliminated."

Israel has been targeting schools and hospitals on the basis of their

## S Arabia slams Israeli suggestion of 'nuking Gaza'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Sunday condemned remarks from an Israeli minister who appeared to voice openness to the idea of Israel carrying out a nuclear strike on Gaza.

The Israeli minister's comments showed the penetration of "extremism and brutality" among members of the Israeli government, a Saudi Foreign Ministry statement said. "Moreover, not dismissing the minister and only freezing his membership constitutes the utmost disregard for all human standards and values," it added. — Arab News

claims that Hamas is using these facilities and civilian infrastructure as shields for its underground operations. Hamas has repeatedly denied the claims, accusing the Israeli army of spreading lies and targeting civilians. Since October 7, Israeli air strikes have repeatedly targeted hospitals, UN-run facilities, refugee camps, schools, mosques and churches, resulting in the killing of civilians, according to local health authorities. In addition to the relentless Israeli bombing all over the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank were busy carrying out raids in Hebron and armed clashes there with Palestinian fighters overnight.

**العبد:** فرمان اللہ و عبد الجعفر نور  
شیخانی ڈاک نمبر : 8790928-8790928



# KP caretaker govt ready for polls: Aamir Durrani



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Local Govt and Rural Development (LG&RD) Engineering (PHE), Engineer Aamir Durrani has said that the caretaker provincial government is ready for the elections and is in contact with various departments in this regard.

Expressing satisfaction over preparations regarding elections by various departments, he said that the caretaker provincial government will play its full role

for holding transparent election, saying the preparations of all departments are complete in this regard.

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting regarding election preparation here on Monday.

Besides, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Daud Khan, Special Secretary Muhammad Masood, Coordinator Local Governments Sajid Gul and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

On this occasion, the

authorities gave a detailed briefing on the measures taken in connection with preparations for the general election in the province, challenges of facilities in the polling station for the election staff and other weather and security measures.

The authorities said that beside security plan, the services of Education, Health, Higher Education, Local Governments and Rescue 1122 will also be obtained. A detailed discussion was also held on sensitive polling stations in the

province.

The authorities also gave a detailed briefing on the transport, food and other facilities for polling staff in remote areas on the day of the election.

Prior permission for rallies and public meetings of political leaders from the Deputy Commissioner concerned also came under discussion during the meeting.

Provincial minister said that soon the Chief Election Commissioner will visit the entire province and review the election arrangements.

The authorities said that there are 14,310 total polling stations in the province, including 5896 sensitive polling stations, 1274 snow-affected polling stations and 120 flood-affected polling stations.

According to the authorities, there are 2,16,00,000 voters in the province, out of which 54% are men and 45% are women voters. According to the briefing, the number of voters from 18 to 35 years is 10,791,77.

The authorities also consulted with the district administration about CCTV cameras, IT staff and universities for the duty of staff on the election day and presented a plan regarding transport and other facilities and security for women staff in remote areas.



PESHAWAR: Delegation of Bajaur Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Chamber Present Haji Lali Shah meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Governor's House.

## PHC converts death penalty into lifetime imprisonment

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) converted death sentence of murder into lifetime imprisonment while partially accepted appeal against the conviction.

According to prosecution, Taj Akbar along with father and brother killed her wife in the name of honor at Uthla area of Swabi district in 2018.

The culprit alleged cut nose, head and ear of the death body. Police registered case on complaint of deceased's son.

The counsel Muhammad Arif Jan advocate argued trial court Swabi convicted

petitioner for death penalty while co accused were acquitted from the allegation on 15th November 2021.

PHC has converted death sentence to lifetime imprisonment of Taj Akbar in murder case in the name of honor by partially accepting appeal plea.

**PHC directs provision of clemency to prisoners:** Peshawar High Court (PHC)'s divisional bench comprising of Justice Ishfaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah ordered provision of clemency to prisoners named Bakhtawar Shah and Tahir Khan under Anti-Narcotics Act.

The counsel Fawad Afzal Safi advocate that both petitioners are charged and convicted under provincial narcotics laws but in 2022 amendment in Federal Law had stopped clemency in contraband cases and jail's officials implemented it upon the inmates.

The counsel argued that stoppage of clemency would be implemented upon federal law neither in provincial case and added that petitioners are liable for relief.

PHC granted clemency to prisoners charged and convicted under provincial laws against narcotics after conclusion of arguments.

## 4000 close circuit secret cameras to be installed

PESHAWAR (APP): In view of the security threats, the authorities have decided to install more than 4000 closed circuit secret cameras in Peshawar under the Safe City project.

In this regard, consideration will be given to installing about 3,000 closed circuit secret cameras in Peshawar City and about 1,000 in Peshawar Cantt. These close circuit secret cameras will also be installed at University Road and Hayatabad.

Official sources said that in view of the security situation, all the bazaars of Peshawar city and cantonment areas will be kept under surveillance and movement of people would be monitored through these cameras.

Under the Safe City Project, it has also been decided to install close circuit secret cameras in all the bazaars of interior city.

It has further been decided that CCTV cameras installed in various markets and hotels will be linked with the monitoring system of the police for constant surveillance.

## FIA arrests two Customs officials for corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): In a successful operation, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle apprehended two customs officials involved in corruption and smuggling.

The arrested individuals were engaged in smuggling mobile phones and elec-

tronic gadgets without paying customs duties.

The suspects in custody include Superintendent Muhammad Ali and Sepoy Sunil Kumar from the Customs Department.

These smuggling activities resulted in a loss of

more than 8.8 million rupees to the national treasury. On Monday, the Special Court canceled their bail, leading to their arrest.

The arrested suspects have been remanded in custody for further investigation by the Special Court.

## Vehicle inspection drive started

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In accordance with directives from Secretary Transport, Ziaul Haq and Director General, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Anwar Khan, the Department of Transport and Environmental Protection Agency have initiated a joint three-day campaign aimed at inspecting vehicles in Peshawar.

During this action, 40 drivers were imposed on-the-spot fines and the staff at vehicle emission testing stations confiscated documents from 35 vehicles.

On the inaugural day of the campaign, the staff of both departments, with support from the district administration and police, conducted inspections at various bus terminals and busy locations within the Peshawar district, examining more than 95 vehicles in Hajji Camp Adda.

VETS Manager, Pir Zubair while discussing the three-day initiative, highlighted its core objective of curbing environmental pollution and reducing emissions from vehicles.

He further emphasized that this campaign, designed to control vehicle emissions, is making successful progress with anticipated positive environmental impacts.

## Five-day literary festival empowers women writers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The inaugural "Peshawar Literary Festival," spanning five days and exclusively dedicated to women writers from the province, took place at the District Council Hall here on Monday.

The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Benazir Women University and Dosti Welfare Organization, with the primary goal of fostering a deeper connection between women and literature.

The distinguished guest of honor, Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali, joined as Chief Guest the ceremony, which was graced by

Parveen Azam Khan, the spouse of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the festival, Vice-Chancellor of Benazir Women University, Professor Dr. Safia, officially welcomed the participants and announced plans for 50 diverse sessions across various locations.

Women writers and literature enthusiasts from across the province enthusiastically participated in this festival.

Notably, special guest Parveen Azam Khan emphasized the diverse linguistic backgrounds of women involved, including Pashto, Urdu, Hindi, and other regional languages.

The significance of such

gatherings was underscored during the event, with renowned TV and radio anchor and writer Bushra Farrukh shedding light on the portrayal of women in literature. The festival featured presentations of works and poems by women poets.

In his speech, Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali noted the city's efforts to create designated parks for women and expressed the intention to continue organizing similar events for women in the future. He acknowledged the indispensable role of women in various social activities and highlighted their achievements not only in literature but across all facets of life.

## AUP, AFRC ink MoU for promotion of research

PESHAWAR (APP): The Agricultural University Peshawar and Agriculture Research Facilitation Complex (ARFC) here on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of research activities in agriculture sector.

Vice-Chancellor of AUP Professor Dr. Jahan Bakht and Director General Land and Directorate GHQ Brigadier Arshad Taufiq signed the agreement.

On this occasion, Director Modern Farming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Brigadier Muhammad Amir Kayani, Professor Dr. Muh-

ammad Arif of Agricultural University Peshawar and Professor Dr. Syed Mehr Ali Shah were also present.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide all types of research resources and resources to the Agricultural University Peshawar by the Military Family Rehabilitation Organization (MFRO) for carrying out research and development activities at the Agriculture Research and Facilitation Complex (ARFC) Chapu Bahawalpur.

Under the agreement, the AFRC would provide internship research opportunities to 20 to 25 students

besides modern agricultural machinery, quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and other facilities to the Varsity.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Jahan Bakht, while giving a briefing about the ongoing curricular and co-curricular activities in the University, said that the students who graduated from the UOA Peshawar were serving in agriculture and livestock and other important fields at national and international level.

He said the AUP is playing an important role in the development of agriculture and livestock.

## Spread of breast cancer: Delayed diagnosis major reasons, says experts

PESHAWAR (APP): The health experts on Monday observed that lack of awareness regarding symptoms and signs of breast cancer and delayed diagnosis are among the major reasons behind the spread of breast cancer.

They were addressing an awareness seminar arranged here to sensitize the communities especially females about breast cancer

and the need to develop new, targeted treatments that would improve survival rates among patients.

Incharge RHC Putwar Bala, Dr Mir Karim Shah, Children Specialist Dr Taj Bahadar Khan and Gynaecologist Dr Hina briefed the participants regarding the symptoms and signs of the breast cancer and the ways to prevent breast cancer including monthly self-

breast examination and how to seek help. Pamphlets regarding breast cancer were distributed among the participants including staff of Putwar Bala RHC, community members and patients.

Incharge RHC Putwar Bala thanked the Northwest General Hospital staff and requested to continue such informative programmes in future for the awareness of communities.

## Mainly dry weather to prevail in KP

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

It said that foggy conditions are expected in Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Peshawar, Swabi and D.I.Khan districts. While, foggy conditions are likely over Motorway (M1)/Highways during morning and night hours.

During the last 24 hours, dry weather occurred over most districts of the province, while cold in hilly areas.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar 29/15, Chitral 25/04, Timergara 27/10, Dir 25/04, Mirkhani 25/05, Kalam 20/00, Drosh 20/08, Saidu Sharif 26/07, Pattan 26/13, Malam Jabba 16/06, Takht Bhai 29/12, Kakul 23/08, Balakot 28/08, Parachinar 16/04, Bannu 28/14, Cherat 22/11, D.I.Khan City 29/19.

The lowest temperature recorded in the province was 0°C in Kalam.



PESHAWAR: VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed (TI) Begum Chief Minister Dr. Parveen Azam and Mayor Haji Zubair Ali in a group photo with other officials during inaugural ceremony of Dosti women's Literature Festival.

## UET holds inaugural consultative workshop

PESHAWAR (APP): An inaugural consultative workshop for the project, "The Transformation of the Construction Sector in Pakistan: A Pathway towards Clean, Green and Sustainable Buildings", organized by CISNR University of Engineering Technology Peshawar held on Monday.

The project is a joint venture of University of Engineering Technology Peshawar, National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, Islamabad, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through GIZ Pakistan, said a press release.

The chief guest, Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director, NEECA said, NEECA had introduced the national Energy conservation code in 2011 but due to lack of awareness among the stakeholders including government, industry and academia, the code was not implemented

properly.

"We are now at a stage where NEECA has got the financial support of BMZ through GIZ, partners including ABAD Builders, Clean, Green and Sustainable Buildings", a major developer in construction sector in Pakistan that helped us in implementing it at the building design stage, he added. He further urged that future as well as the existing buildings in Pakistan need to have the "energy and building code" at the design stage and retrofitting mechanism, adding, NEECA has made it mandatory for the developers to get the energy conservation certificate for buildings.

Prof. Dr. Iftekhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar said, CISNR has completed more than 28 research projects at the cost of 2.8 billion rupees in last ten years focusing over 10 SDGs.

Similarly, a "Building Energy Research Center" will also be set up at UET

Peshawar under the project. Dr. Muhammad Irshad, Project Manager GIZ welcomed the delegates from NEECA, IBAD, PEDO, PDA, LDA, CDA, PHA, NUST, LUMS, representatives from industry, academia and government.

Dr. Gul Muhammad Director CISNR said, it's important to ensure that we have coordination from stakeholders to deal with the problem because the conventional practices will deplete the available energy sources by 2030.

Dr. Naveed Ahmad, Project Lead and expert in energy building said, the project will take consultation from the stakeholders in future to develop an institutional technical framework for designing and implementing the national energy conservation building code 2023 in line with international practices and capacity building of professionals in the field of energy building.

## Rs1b for BRT operations released

PESHAWAR (APP): The Finance Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has released Rs one billion for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) operations and the continuation of the uninterrupted services to the commuters.

The spokesperson of BRT said here on Monday that the budget has been allocated for operations of Peshawar BRT service for November 2023 to February 2024, adding that there was no truth in the rumors of suspension of the service due to lack of funds.

She said that Zu Peshawar was currently providing travel facilities to three lac passengers on a daily basis and the provincial government was committed to continuing the provision of high-quality travel facilities to the people of Peshawar.

## Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO on Monday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on 7th and 9th November from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Consequently, it said consumers of Tehkal, Islamia College, KTH, Commercial, Jahangirabad, University Town, NCB, Airport, PAF Base, Saddar Road, Mall Road, MES 1,2, Old MCS, Babo Ghari, Marble Industry, CAA, Palosi 1, Behri Colony, Tehkal Payan, Bank of Khyber, Scarp 1 feeders will face inconvenience.

This power supply will also remain suspended from Pesco Colony Grid Station on 7th and 9th November from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of ICF, Darmangai, Warsak Road, Shagai, KSM feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Shahi Bagh Grid Station on 7th and 11th November from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. resultantly consumers of Shahgai Naguman, KSM, Industrial Naguman, Bak-hsho Pull, Ghari Hamza, Old Naguman, Shah Alam, Latif Abad, Dalazak, Sarbuland Pura, Samarbagh, New Takht Abad and Khazana feeders.



PESHAWAR: A boy wrongly crossing closed railway track gate needs attention of concerned authorities at Sabzi Mandi.



## In brief

### AWKU Mardan raises tuition fee F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) has increased its tuition fee manifold for the students of Beholders, Masters and PhD courses, it was learnt on Monday. According to the documents, AWKUM has raised its tuition fee from Rs5,000 to Rs35,000. The LLM fee has been increased from Rs54,480 to Rs90,000. The LLB fee has been hiked by Rs15,370. The per semester fee for BS in English, Psychology, Zoology, and Banking has been increased from Rs37,000 to Rs65,000. With an increase of Rs15,000, the MPhil fee has been surged to Rs70,000 from Rs54,480. According to the documents, the per semester PhD fee has been increased from Rs69,000 to Rs100,000. Besides this, the university administration has also raised the hostel fee to Rs50,000 due to which, students are facing severe financial problems.

### National Highway closed F.P. Report

ZHOB: The Zhob-DI Khan National Highway in Sherani district, Balochistan, has been closed since last night due to a landslide, as confirmed by local authorities on Monday. This closure has resulted in significant inconvenience for travelers, who have been waiting in long queues for the road to be cleared. To ensure public safety, people in Sherani district have been advised to avoid travel on the affected national highway until it reopens. The National Highways Authority (NHA) and the district administration are actively engaged in the process of clearing the road, with an estimated reopening by this evening. Fortunately, no loss of life or property has been reported so far, according to the district administration. Landslides can pose serious challenges, but it is encouraging that efforts are underway to address this situation and restore normal traffic flow.

### FESCO refunded 137,000 units

SARGODHA (INP): On the orders of Regional Federal ombudsman office, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) circle office Sargodha refunded 137,000 electricity units to complainants. According to Muhtasib spokesperson on Monday, Regional in-charge Federal ombudsman, Mushtaq Awan had received 27 complaints against Fesco meter readers regarding wrong meter reading of their electricity meters. Mushtaq Awan after personal hearing of the cases, found all the complaints right and after deciding the cases, he ordered to FESCO officials to refund 137,000 units to consumers. He also ordered to FESCO high ups to take stern action against those meter readers who were involved in fake meter reading.

### NAB's complaint arrested F.P. Report

CHAKWAL: A resident of Chakwal namely Hamid Iqbal who was impersonating as NAB officer was arrested by local police. Hamid Iqbal was found to be impersonating as NAB officer and was trying to influence WAPDA office Chakwal for undue favours. Upon suspicion, WAPDA authorities informed NAB and it was found that Hamid Iqbal was not an employee of NAB and was impersonating. NAB lodged a formal complaint with local police and as a result impersonator Hamid Iqbal was arrested.



LANDI KOTAL: Trucks loaded with households of repatriated Afghan families parked in parking lot to cross border to Afghanistan. — F.P. photo

## Negligence of authorities Dengue outbreaks in Mardan

### F.P. Report

MARDAN: Dengue virus has spread its claws in Mardan hundreds of citizens have been affected, the district administration, Health Department and other responsible institutions are silent spectators, the citizens have demanded immediate spraying from the higher authorities and other protective measures.

According to the details, the urban areas of Mardan Dengue virus has spread in Mardan Khas. The number of patients affected by dengue virus is increasing day by day and so far, dengue virus has been confirmed in hundreds of patients.

Poor sanitation and drainage in urban and suburban areas are now present. Stagnant water has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, while the severe lack of anti-dengue spray and other preventive measures by the district administration. Meer Mardan, TMO Mardan and WSSCM is causing the rapid spread of dengue. Dengue safety measures, vaccine and anti-dengue head should be issued in Mardan.

**Employment for widows stressed:** Female member Tehsil Council Rustam Sunny Mukhtiar has said that there are thousands of widows in Rustam Tehsil whose families either do not have laborers or their household stoves are not running due to their employment. If sewing machines are provided to them in the limited resources of the government, these widows can support their families to a large extent, in a press statement.

Lady Councilor Sunny Mukhtiar told caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, Commissioner Mardan Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai and Deputy Commissioner Mardan Abdur Rehman demanded that thousands of widows

in vulnerable families in the most backward Tehsil Rustam of Mardan district. Take practical steps to provide sewing machines to women at the government level so that these women can arrange food and drink for the people in the house in a dignified manner while doing sewing work in their own homes.

They further said that all such at the village council level Data should be collected from housewives who are widows or their financial conditions are very weak, after which sewing machines should be distributed to all beneficiaries in a transparent manner. Lady Councilor Sunny Mukhtiar also demanded Maulana Mubarak Ahmad, Chairman Tehsil Council Rustam, to form a committee at the Tehsil level as soon as possible under whose supervision the survey process should be started, she further said that Women have been neglected in every era, but now all the deserving women will be given all their rights, but also their voices will be raised in every forum to ensure the protection of their rights.

**Worker union protested in favor of their demands:** United Workers Union protested in favor of their demands, the protesters took out a rally from TMA to Press Club. The participants closed the road for all kinds of traffic shouting slogans against WSSCM.

The protesters were led by Provincial General Secretary of Local Government Employees Federation Sulaiman, President of United Workers Union Water and Sanitation Service Company Mardan Akhtar Munir, T. MA Mardan President Munir Khan, Chairman Abdul Hakim and others were doing it.

The protesters kept brooms and shovels on their shoulders and wrote their demands on banners

and placards. Speaking on this occasion, the speakers said that since private companies have been established for cleaning with the cooperation of the provincial government, the employees have been faced with severe problems. For the past several months, the employees have not been paid their monthly salaries on time. He said that the company management, have created self-made posts for themselves and are charging lakhs of rupees. Speakers said that the company collects lakhs of rupees from the public for various services, but still the company does not pay salaries to the employees on time.

**BISE to participate in International Olympiad:** Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan will participate in International Olympiad of Informatics competition for which preparations have been started. And 60 students from the three districts of Nowshera participated. Professor Hazrat Ali, Research Director of the Board and Umar Farooq, Resource Prince of IM Sciences gave lectures and guided the students.

Addressing the participants, Chairman Board Farid Ahmad Khattak said that this is the first time in the history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that an education board is participating in international competitions, which is a matter of pride for us.

The board is ready to do it. The board is using all its energies to develop the personality, character and motivation of the students. Addressing the students, the chairman of the board said that no work in the world is difficult, with strong intentions and hard work, a person can face every challenge. Farid Ahmad Khattak added that the students of Mardan Board will shine the name of their country in international competitions.

## Police crackdown on forgery ring F.P. Report

HANGU: In a significant operation, Hangu Police apprehended a group involved in forging Pakistani identity cards for Afghan nationals in exchange for a hefty sum of 900,000 rupees. The operation led to the arrest of 13 individuals, including the secretary of a village council and several officials. Hangu District Police Officer Nisar Ahmed Khan, along with Assistant Superintendent of Police Amjad Hussain and Sub-Inspector Fiaz Khan, addressed a press conference to provide details of the operation.

The investigation revealed that an Afghan migrant, Matiullah, residing in Khwost, Afghanistan, assumed the identity of Ahmed Zia and was creating Pakistani identity cards. Upon receiving information, the police swiftly acted and arrested Matiullah during a raid. Further inspection uncovered that the Afghan culprit had paid 900,000 rupees to agent Zahoor, alias Sadiqi, who facilitated the process. Involved in this scheme were 14 individuals, including Matiullah, Parvez Khan, Waleed Rahman (secretary of the Village Council), Khalid, and others.

Among the arrested individuals are six Afghan nationals, including Matiullah and Parvez Khan, as well as officials from different offices. Another eight suspects are still being pursued. The case has been registered against the accused under various sections of the Foreign Act, including 468, 471, 162, 164, 109, 419, and 420 of the PPC. The investigation is ongoing under the supervision of City Superintendent of Police Amjad Khan, with the support of SHO Fiaz Khan and the investigative team.

This operation demonstrates the vigilance of the Hangu Police in tackling fraudulent activities and maintaining the integrity of identity documents, ensuring the security of the region.

# ANP for provision of level playing field to all political parties

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Awami National Party central spokesman and party nominated candidate for NA 7 Lower Dir Zahid Khan has asked the Afghan commander to accept the killing of innocent Pukhtun instead of issuing statements against the ANP. He was talking to a group of local journalists at his residence in Odigram here on Monday.

The ANP spokesman said the election commissioner of Pakistan and the caretaker government should provide equal opportunity to all political parties and provide them with a level playing field. He said that elements involved in the May 9 and 10 riots should be properly investigated and sentenced through courts. He said the ANP would oppose banning the Pakistan Tahreek Insaf or abolishing its election symbol.

"It is the ECP responsibility to provide level playing field to all political parties during the general elections," he said, adding the caretaker government had no authority to crack-down workers of a specific

party or issue statements regarding national and international affairs.

He said the ANP would contest the next elections as per its manifesto and party's election symbol. He said there had been no rifts in the party ranks and workers and leadership were on the same page. The ANP leader condemned the repatriation of Afghans without prior planning and said the government should honour international law while repatriating the Afghan refugees.

Meanwhile the ANP district general secretary Malik Muhammad Zeb demanded of the vice chancellor, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan to appoint local youths in the varsity's Timergara campus. Talking to local journalists at Timergara, he said that there were reports that about 350 employees of the AWKU Mardan were being adjusted at the Timergara campus. He said the university should appoint local educated youths against the vacant posts.

He said the ANP would strongly resist the transfer

of AWKU Mardan employees to the Timergara campus. He also demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor Haji Ghulam Ali to look into the matter and resolve it.

**Robbery incidents:** Residents of Ghulamabad locality near the district jail Timergara on Monday complained that incidents of theft were on the rise and police had failed to stop it.

Talking to local journalists they said that a shop near the Timergara jail was robbed and deprived of Rs 800,000 cash while unknown robbers also took away 11 batteries from a mobile phone tower during the last two weeks. The residents said that similarly a car parked on the Khungi road was also lifted by unknown authorities.

They said that all these incidents occurred in the district jail surroundings which are guarded by jail police and a police post as well. They demanded the local police chief to take notice of the incidents and ensure recovery of the stolen valuables.

## Varsities' teachers to move apex court

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) on Monday announced to approach the Supreme Court of Pakistan on flagrant violation of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, abuse of fundamental human rights and misuse of the office and powers by the chairman HEC and VCs of a few public sector universities.

It was decided in a meeting of the core committee of APUBTA, chaired by its president Dr. Sami ur Rehman held at Chakdara here on Monday. The meeting expressed its grave concerns on the role and conduct of chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad who, according to a press release issued by APUBTA, is bent upon to misuse his office, powers, and the very institution of Higher Education Commission to any extent. It said the HEC chairman was not only responsible for depriving over 50,000 BPS teachers of their right to promotion but also trying through all illegal and unconstitutional means to deprive them of their fundamental rights enshrined and guaranteed in the constitution of Pakistan.

The core committee noted that freedom of movement, freedom to peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of expression are the fundamental rights guaranteed by article 15, 16, 17 and 19 of the constitution of Pakistan. It was noted that VCs of a few universities on dictates of chairman HEC had

issued unconstitutional and unlawful orders and notifications in their bid to stop university teachers from participation in a protest sit-in in front of HEC headquarters, Islamabad on Oct 31.

Later, a few VCs initiated different proceedings to victimize the teachers who had participated in that protest. These acts on the part of VCs dictated by chairman HEC were the flagrant violation of the constitution of Pakistan, abuse of fundamental human rights, and misuse of powers and authority, the release adds. It said that such measures had been condemned by all teachers associations including APUBTA and FAPUASA and would not be tolerated at all. "The APUBTA will not compromise on the fundamental human rights of the universities' teachers and those trying to abuse these rights will be brought before the court", it said, adding the core committee had decided to challenge the illegal notifications issued by a few vice chancellors on the dictates of chairman HEC.

The core committee also expressed deep concerns on calling emergency meeting of the syndicate by the Vice Chancellor, University of Kotli, Azad Kashmir. The core committee expressed its determination for exercising the fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution of Pakistan and decided that any action taken by any VC including the Vice Chancellor of University of Kotli will be countered using all legal

means.

The core committee also decided to make a complaint cell as well as a legal committee to deal with all such cases. It will also approach the human rights organizations to counter any illegal action by any one.

**19 POs arrested by police in Dir:** Police during the last month arrested 19 proclaimed offenders and 34 other drug dealers with recovery of more than 20 kg of hashish from their possession.

## Rescue 1122 Pabbi center inspected F.P. Report

PABBI: Director Operation Dr. Mir Alam Khan and newly appointed District Emergency Officer Kashif Khan visited Rescue 1122 Pabbi station and inspected operational preparation of the staff, on Monday.

A contingent of Rescue 1122 lead by Emergency Officer Malak Ishfaq Hussain presented parade of honor to the guest at their visit to the station. He also briefed the officials about operations and delivery of services for public welfare and safety.

Director Operation and District Emergency Officer inspected vehicles including ambulances and fire vehicles. The officials issued orders for redressal of staff demands and grievances regarding services.

## Adjustment orders in education department recalled

### F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: On the directions of the high-ups as well as repeated complaints of people regarding shortage of teaching staff in the schools situated in far-flung areas of the district,

Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Sohail Azhar Khan has cancelled all temporary adjustment orders of teaching and non-teaching staff working in other schools and offices. Instead of their original place of posting in the district and directed to report at their original place of posting with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad was visited government girls elementary school Qila Sahib Sing and found two lady teachers absent from duty and a security guard Muhammad Hafiz was working temporary at government elementary school Qila Shaib Sing.

CEO not only call explanation of absent teachers but also directed the all District Education Officers to ensure implementation on cancellation orders of temporary duty of the teaching and non-teaching staff in the district otherwise they would be faced departmental action.

### One dish to be implemented:

Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad and other officers of district administration mobilized to implement directions of the Chief Minister of the Punjab on timings of marriage halls and one dish in the district. In this regards, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners Hafizabad and Pindi Bhattian inspected different marriage halls.

AC Hafizabad Munawar Hussain fined Rs. 50000/- to owner of a local marriage hall to violate one dish whereas DC and AC Hafizabad visited marriage halls and checked kitchen of the hall to review meal prepared for guests. DC said that marriage halls could hold functions till 10 pm otherwise marriage halls would be sealed and hefty fine would be charged from owners of the halls.

**Admin to protect framers' rights:** District administration will protect rights of famers and no one dealer will be allowed to receive arbitrary prices of fertilizers in the district on the eve of wheat sowing while provision of fertilizers to farmers at official price and in abundance is top priority of the district administration.

These views were expressed by the DC Sundas Irshad while

addressing the meeting of fertilizer dealers. ADCG Hamdullah, AC Munawar Hussain, Deputy Director Agriculture Muhammad Yousaf, Agriculture Officer Fraz Hussain and fertilizer dealers including Maqsood Samoor attended the meeting.

DC said that officers of district administration would visit warehouses of fertilizer dealers and monitor supply of fertilizer on daily basis. She warned the fertilizer dealers that if any dealer would find to receive inflated price of fertilizer not only heavy fine would be imposed but also take legal action against profiteers.

She also directed to dealers to past price list at prominent places at their shops and to bring fertilizer timely from their concerned companies so that farmers could enable to sow wheat crop at the earliest. The condition of more than 25 members including women and children of a wedding party went deteriorated after consuming poisonous meal in Kaleki Mandi town about 16 km from here, on Sunday evening. Rescue 1122 shifted all victims to hospital.

According to rescue 1122, wedding ceremony of daughter of Allah Ditta was arranged at Kaleki Mandi town. When members of wedding party con-

sumed meal served by the host family, the condition of more than 25 people including women and children went deteriorated. On receiving the information rescue 1122 rushed to the scene and shifted all patients to hospital where condition of 8 patients was stated critically. Police and other concerned departments are investigating to determine cause of mixing of poison in the meal.

**IPP to neutralizes political differences:** Pattern-in-Chief Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Jahangir Khan Tareen has said that differences and fight among political parties harmed the country while people of the country are suffering from disappointment but as Muslim we should not desperate and we should believe on Allah almighty whereas people of the country are important for us.

IPP patron in chief was addressing workers convention of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party at Kola Tarar near Hafizabad, ex-MPA Muhammad Mamoon Tarar was host of the convention while President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan, spokesperson of PPI Firdous Aashiq Awan also addressed the convention. Jhangir Khan Tareen said that we shall have to take onboard all political parties for forwarding ahead, our army is

our protector as well as guaranty of integrity of the county and we are proud of our army.

He said we would not make such promise which we could not be fulfilled and we would only promises which we could enable to come true. We shall steer the youth from disappointment and will make practical measures for progress and prosperity of the youth, he said. He said that all government schools of the country would be upgrade equal to standard private schools whereas result oriented measures would be taken to overcome smog and pollution in the country for providing healthy atmosphere to the masses.

Addressing the workers convention, President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan said that Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party is ready to contest general elections and would fielded with full preparation. He said that we would be fixed at least Rs. 50000/- per month wage of labourers, free of cost solar system would be given to farmers having up to twelve and a half acres land and bill of 300 units of citizens would pay our government.

He said that prosperity of farmers was vital for progress and prosperity of the country whereas youth were our future, we would provide interest free loans to

youth for improving their business and women would also be made strong economically.

He also said that petrol would be given on half price to motorcyclists and rupees would be exerted from rich people and would provide relief to the poor. He stressed the people to recognize already tested politician who do nothing for welfare of the masses expect raising hollow slogans. He also criticize the government of Imran Khan and declared his companions were corrupt and incapable people who were imposed on us.

Spokesperson of IPP Fardous Aashiq Awan said in her speech that IPP has written history in Hafizabad and those who were claiming that this is party of leaders, come here and witness rush of the people in this convention. She said that this eagle has come out for flying which would be proved base of bright future, progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

The host of the convention, Muhammad Mamoon Tarar also addressed the convention while Aamar Mehmood Kiani, Hashim Dogar, Ishaque Khan Khakwani, Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, Dr. Murad Ras and other ex-members of parliament were also attended the workers convention.



GAZA STRIP: Palestinians looking for survivors of the Israeli bombardment in the al-Maghazi refugee camp.

## Ukraine orders investigation after Russian attack on ceremony

KYIV: Ukraine has begun a criminal investigation after a group of soldiers attending an "award ceremony" not far from the front line in the southern Zaporizhia region were killed in a Russian missile attack. At least 20 soldiers were reported to have been killed in the incident in Zarichne, according to local media. Zaporizhia Governor Yuriy Malashko said nine civilians were also injured in the attack on the village, which is about 16km (10 miles) from the front line.

"This is a tragedy that could have been avoided," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a speech. "A criminal investigation has been registered into the tragedy," he added, saying the intention was to uncover the "complete truth" about what happened to ensure such incidents were not repeated. The Ukrainian Armed Forces confirmed that several soldiers from its 128th Mountain Assault Brigade had been killed in a missile strike the day before, but did not provide casualty figures. "[Russia] fired an Iskander-M missile at the personnel of the 128th Mountain Assault Brigade, killing the soldiers and causing injuries of varying severity to local residents," the army said. Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov said in a social media statement the same day that he had ordered a "full investigation" into what had hap-

pened. Zelenskyy said Umerov had briefed him on the measures taken to clarify the circumstances of the attack, who was specifically involved and what orders were given.

The New York Times, citing a military official who was not named because they were not authorised to speak to the media, said that any investigation was likely to focus on how Russia had found out about the event and been enabled to attack it. By holding the ceremony in the open, senior brigade members appeared to have breached military regulations, the official added. One Ukrainian soldier said on social media that 22 people from the brigade had been killed, criticising commanders for having held the ceremony. The event was organised to commemorate Artillery Day, which took place. "Everyone is writing that 'Heroes died'. Although it is more appropriate to write 'Heroes became victims'," soldier Ivan Savvitsky said.

"They became victims of military rudimentary traditionalism in its worst form," he said. In its daily updates on battlefield developments, the Russian defence ministry said only that Russian forces had "inflicted fire" on a unit of Ukraine's assault brigade in Zaporizhia, killing as many as 30 soldiers. Russia and Ukraine have often underestimated

their own military casualties in the 20-month-long war and exaggerated the losses they claim to have inflicted on each other. Ukraine's western Zakarpattia region, where the 128th assault brigade is based, will observe a three-day mourning period from Monday, local Governor Viktor Mykita said.

"Our heroes are alive as long as the memory of them and their deeds lives on," he said. Amid little apparent movement along the nearly 1,000km (620 mile) front line, Zelenskyy has rejected suggestions that the conflict is at a deadlock, urging allies to continue their support even as the Israel-Gaza war draws increasing attention. In his statement, Zelenskyy sought to reassure Ukrainians about the conflict. "When we go through weeks like this, filled with pain and difficult discussions, it is important for people to understand that what weighs on their hearts is seen, and the necessary changes will be made," the president said. "This applies to many things, from negligence that can occur to the Soviet legacy and the terrible bureaucracy that prevents Ukraine and many in our defence forces from realising their potential correctly and effectively." Zelenskyy promised that the investigation into the attack would provide "honest answers" for the soldiers' families as well as the wider Ukrainian society. — The New York Times

## Hamburg airport hostage standoff ends with child freed, suspect arrested

HAMBURG (Reuters): Police in Germany's Hamburg city have arrested a man and rescued a child at the centre of a hostage standoff at the airport, ending an 18-hour crisis that had forced authorities to close the busy air hub. A man, who police said was suspected of carrying a gun and possibly explosives, drove a vehicle through the gates of the airport, officers said. Police said the 35-year-old man was with his four-year-old daughter and was thought to be involved in a custody dispute.

"The hostage situation is over," the city's police force wrote on X, formerly

known as Twitter. "The suspect got out of the car with his daughter. The man was arrested by the emergency services without resistance. The child appears to be unharmed." The apparent family drama started in Stade in nearby Lower Saxony, where the man's wife was staying. The woman had contacted the state police about a possible abduction. The Hamburg police wrote on X that they were "assuming that a custody dispute is the background to the operation". The man, 35, held the girl hostage in the car, as she could be heard in the background during the

negotiations which were conducted in Turkish, a police spokeswoman told dpa news agency. The man broke through the airport gate around 8pm (19:00 GMT), shot into the air and threw incendiary devices from the car. His car was then parked next to a Turkish Airlines plane for more than 18 hours. The police tried for hours to end the hostage-taking without bloodshed - finally succeeding. For the Hamburg police, it was "one of the longest and most challenging operations in recent history," according to Andy Grote, the interior senator for

Hamburg, who thanked the police for ending the standoff.

"I wish the mother, the child and her family a lot of strength to cope with this terrible experience," Hamburg Mayor Peter Tschentscher wrote on X. The Hamburg airport said it was working to resume operations as quickly as possible. A total of 286 flights with around 34,500 passengers had been scheduled, authorities earlier said. The episode raised concerns over security at the airport less than four months after climate activists got onto its runway and blocked planes.

## Five killed in Australia's accident

MELBOURNE: Five people, including two children, have been killed and several others injured after a car ploughed into a beer garden in regional Australia. The incident occurred when an SUV mounted a curb and hit patrons outside a pub in Daylesford, about 110km (68 miles) northwest of Melbourne, police in the state of Victoria said on Monday.

Four people died at the scene, while a girl died in hospital after being airlifted to Melbourne for treatment, police said. Five other people, including an 11-month-old boy, are in hospital being treated for injuries. Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton said the car had collided with a "large number of people" at tables outside the pub.

"It's one of the most confronting scenes, I've been told, that experienced officers have been to," Patton said during a news conference. Patton said police had yet to speak to the 66-year-old driver of the vehicle as he was being treated in hospital and the cause of the incident was still unclear. He said the driver had been breath-tested and had no alcohol in his system, and that police were investigating all avenues, including the possibility the driver suffered a medical incident behind the wheel. — Aljazeera

## UN agency heads plea for Gaza truce

NEW YORK (Reuters): The leaders of 18 United Nations agencies have called for an immediate ceasefire in the Israeli-Hamas war, expressing "shock and horror" at the mounting death toll from the conflict. "We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough," the UN heads said in a rare joint statement.

"This must stop now." The UN chiefs, including the leaders of UNICEF, UN Women, the World Food Program and the World Health Organization, described the killings of both Israelis and Palestinians over the past month as "horrific". At least 9,770 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in Israel's bombardment of Gaza, according to authorities in the Hamas-governed enclave. More than 1,400 people, mainly civilians, were killed in Hamas's October 7 attacks on southern Israel, according to Israeli authorities. "For almost a month, the world has been watching the unfolding situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in shock and horror at the spiralling numbers of lives lost and torn apart," the UN leaders said. The UN heads called on all parties to respect their "obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law", including to protect civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools and allow aid into Gaza.

## Why does France have military bases in Africa?

PARIS (BBC): With a wave of coups in former French colonies in Africa, France is finding it can no longer take its military role on the continent for granted. There have been growing protests against France's presence in Africa, where it has previously flexed its military might. French troops have recently been expelled from Niger and Mali and others are considering scrapping independence-era deals that led to at least 30 French direct military interventions between 1964 and 1995.

Since independence, France wanted to "perpetuate and safeguard the stability and durability of certain regimes", says Dr Bakary Sambe, director of the Timbuktu Institute. The former colonial power regarded West Africa and the Sahel as a "space of natural deployment and influence", he says. Prof Bruno Charbonneau, from Canada's Royal Military College of Saint-Jean and an expert on peace and conflict interventions in West Africa, agrees "The French military presence in Africa has also always allowed France to be at the heart of conflict resolution and management mechanisms in French-speaking Africa, particularly at the UN Security Council," he says. Giving military support to friendly African regimes in this manner has meant France can project and protect its own interests, and mount rapid armed interventions, he adds. The French defence ministry says its primary mission via operations in Gabon is to train soldiers in the region and boost their capabilities to combat terror, protect land borders and maritime territory. This involves peacekeeping, intelligence

and logistics. It says these roles are in line with the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities (Recamp) programme, a training initiative set up in the late 1990s involving France, the UK and US. In Senegal, it works to oversee training across all 15 members of the West African regional bloc, Ecowas, plus neighbouring Mauritania. Although their numbers have been cut in recent years, several thousand French troops are still deployed in the following countries:

Chad: Close to 1,000 troops, known as the French forces in Chad (EFT), are tasked with guaranteeing the protection of French interests and nationals. As well as providing logistical and intelligence support to Chad's army, they had also been part of regional and counter-terror initiatives. They have bases in the capital, N'Djamena. Abéché in the east and a detachment in Faya in the north. Djibouti: home to the biggest contingent. At the moment 1,500 soldiers are there under deals from 1977, when the country gained independence, and 2014. Gabon: French forces have been stationed there since its independence in 1960, officially renamed French Elements in Gabon (EFG) in 2014 and made up of 350 troops. According to the French defence ministry, the EFG includes a land unit located at the Charles De Gaulle camp in the capital, Libreville, and an air unit at the nearby Guy Pidoux air base. Ivory Coast: home to French operational control. A Forward Operating Base (Fob) was set up there in 2015 under a defence partnership between the histor-

ically close nations. For the previous 13 years, at least 950 soldiers were deployed as part of Operation Licorne, a French peacekeeping force set up in wake of the 2002 civil war. Senegal: A contingent of nearly 400 soldiers, known since 2011 as the French Elements of Senegal (EFS), provides regional military training. Based at two camps in the capital, Dakar, the EFS can also use the city's military airport. The force also has a high-frequency radio transmitting station near Dakar at Rufisque. Last month, the 1,300-1,500 soldiers deployed to Niger, along with fighter planes and drones involved in counter-terror operations, began their withdraw from three bases at the request of the leaders of July's coup. Africa gives France clout on the world stage it otherwise would not have as a "mid-sized power", argues Prof Tony Chafer, of the University of Portsmouth in the UK. "In an increasingly multipolar and competitive global environment, France has a primary geopolitical interest in maintaining its military presence in the region," he says. Being in Africa militarily "plays a key role in justifying France's permanent seat on the UN Security Council - France is an 'essential actor' when security issues in West and Central Africa are discussed at the UN or the international community", he adds. France has carefully guarded its economic and diplomatic links with Africa too. These persist notably with the CFA franc currencies, that are tethered to the French treasury, and via cultivating close bonds with ruling elites.

## Maternity ward transferred to private hospital

GAZA CITY: A lack of fuel and large numbers of wounded Palestinians arriving at al-Shifa hospital has resulted in its maternity ward being transferred to the private al-Helou International Hospital. "The hospital is fully equipped regarding all services, including neonatal, internal medicine, and surgery," said Mohammed al-Helou, a doctor of obstetrics and gynaecology. He explained that what pregnant women experience in this war is "deeply horrifying".

"People are even afraid of going to the hospital to receive services due to the bombing everywhere and the fact that there are no safe spaces in the Gaza Strip," he said. According to the United Nations Population Fund in

Palestine, there are 50,000 pregnant women in the Gaza Strip who are unable to obtain basic health services. At least 5,500 of them will give birth during the month of October, according to the UN. "A large number of women suffered premature births and many miscarriages due to fear and panic as a result of the continuing Israeli bombing of Gaza," said Abdelhakim Shehateh, a medical director at al-Shifa hospital and an obstetrics consultant. A lack of medical supplies and fuel to operate has sent hospitals in the Gaza Strip into a state of collapse.

Shehateh said that al-Shifa hospital had no choice but to accommodate some of the Palestinians injured in Israeli attacks in its maternity ward because the hospital had run out of

space. As a result, the Palestinian health ministry decided to transfer the ward to al-Helou hospital, which was targeted by Israeli shelling. No casualties were reported. "We perform caesarean sections but are selective due to the lack of resources," Shehateh said. "We need everything, from a syringe to a hospital bed." At least 16 out of 35 hospitals in the Gaza Strip have stopped working as a result of the Israeli bombing and fuel depletion, the health ministry said. Spokesperson Ashraf al-Qudra warned of a "health catastrophe" due to the cessation of the main electrical generator in the Indonesian Hospital, and the imminent halt of the main generator in al-Shifa hospital. — Aljazeera

## ‘Like a prison’: The Palestinians in Hebron living under Israeli lockdown

HEBRON: Across the neighbourhoods of the H2 area of Hebron - the 20 percent of the Palestinian city where some 700 Israelis live in illegal settlements and the Israeli military has full control - the streets are mostly empty of H2's approximately 35,000 Palestinian residents. Patrolling the streets and manning the rooftops, instead, are Israeli soldiers and armed settlers in military uniform on the lookout for any movement from Palestinian homes. Besieged, Palestinian families describe conditions in which they are attacked, deprived of vital supplies and services, and have had their livelihoods cut off.

"This has never happened before where a full lockdown is implemented, even during the second Intifada," said Bassam Abu Aisha, 61, vice president of a local drivers' union and former president of the popular committee for Tel Rumeida, a hill and neighbourhood in the H2 area. "[Back then] we would have the liberty to go buy things and be in the street. But now no one can do that." Several residents who spoke to Al Jazeera said the same thing: "It's like we are in a prison." Following the shocking October 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas, Israeli soldiers came without warning to Palestinian shops in Hebron and ordered their owners and workers at gunpoint to close shop and stay home. In online community chat groups, word trickled across the neighbourhoods of H2: Any Palestinians found outside their homes would be shot. Palestinians in H2 were completely unable to leave their homes for the first four days, living off whatever supplies they already had. Now, they

can only leave their homes and cross checkpoints at a designated. Residents also describe a flurry of attacks and threats that began immediately after October 7. Local activist Issa Amro, 43, was apprehended by soldiers and settlers dressed in military uniform, telling him he was under arrest. Amro explained over the phone that he was taken to the military base in Tel Rumeida. Cuffed and tightly blindfolded, Amro said he was beaten and spat at for hours, with settlers shouting slurs at him. After 10 hours, they let him go. Over the next few days, Amro said settlers in military uniform attacked his home, stealing his house keys at one point. On October 20, soldiers forced Amro from his home, declaring it was a "closed military zone", insisting it was for his "protection". Amro, who is now staying with friends in the H1 area, has not been able to return to his home and is still recovering from injuries to his back, legs and hands. "This is my first live experience to be tortured," said a shaken Amro.

With regular military forces moved to Gaza and the Lebanese border, the city's reserve battalion has taken on primary security responsibility in H2 as well as much of Area C, the 60 percent of the West Bank under full Israeli military control. "During the day they are soldiers, and at night they are settlers," said Emad Hamdan, executive director of Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC), a Palestinian NGO based in the Old City of Hebron. "So they have the same attitude." Palestinian residents say soldiers aim guns at anyone who goes up to their roof or even peers

through their window, shouting at them to stay inside. When they do go outside during the allotted time, residents still risk attacks and threats from settlers, who now wear military uniforms.

"The settlers try to touch our women and daughters," said Abu Aisha. "They hit us; they say all kinds of horrible words in order to provoke a reaction so they have an excuse to murder us." In one confrontation on the street, a reserve soldier - a local settler and paramedic who Abu Aisha has encountered before - was cocking his gun as if to shoot Abu Aisha. A video recorded by a neighbour shows the man fumbling to put a bullet into the gun before it drops to the ground. While the military recently began allowing students to walk outside and cross checkpoints for an hour in the morning and another hour in the afternoon during the school week, parents are not allowed to accompany their children. As a result, children have largely been unable to go to school, due to both the movement restrictions and because their parents fear attacks from armed settlers. A woman from the Jabari family, who resides in Wadi Hussein, a stretch of Palestinian land in H2 that lies between the Israeli settlements of Givat Haavot and Kiryat Arba - where Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir lives - said the 11 children in the family compound are growing restless. They wish they could go to school or at least to a shop to buy sweets, she said. While some families have tried online learning, the internet connection has been too poor for lessons, she added. The Jabari family say

they have been targeted by settlers for years. Among other violent incidents, a family member had been attacked with an iron pole, leaving him with severe head injuries, a female family member told Al Jazeera. The community believes that settlers see the Jabari home as key to ultimately dismantling the Palestinian neighbourhood and connecting the two settlements. The Jabaris say that other than to get food, they have been unable to go out since settlers recently placed couches across from their home, where they sit in wait.

The woman from the family, who did not wish to be identified, said that while they try to tell the children not to worry, they "know something dangerous is happening here". In one instance, a child in the family was chased down the street by a settler, she said. Another time, a five-year-old girl in the family saw a settler on the street and immediately ran in fear, falling and injuring herself. "The children are constantly afraid," the family member said. "They live in fear." For weeks, soldiers have prevented families from bringing in gas tanks for cooking and heating from H1 (the area of Hebron under the Palestinian Authority) into H2. Following lobbying from local and international organisations, the military recently agreed to allow gas tanks in under supervised distribution. The onerous movement restrictions mean residents cannot access basic services or medical treatment, even when they desperately need it. With both the Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) mobile health clinic and the local clinic in Tel Rumeida shuttered - and res-

idents unable to reach them even if they were still open - Palestinians with medical emergencies are encountering a security apparatus entirely unmoved by their needs. In the Jabar neighbourhood, a pregnant Palestinian woman woke up at 5am one morning in pain. According to the woman's mother and a family friend, soldiers stationed outside their home refused to allow her to leave for several hours. At around 11am, they managed to leave in a private car. Doctors at the hospital discovered internal bleeding - the baby had died.

In another case, a woman required an injection at a clinic only 20 metres away from her home. Despite prior attempts at coordination, guns were pointed at her when she tried to leave her home. Despite the insistence of medical professionals, a soldier at the scene decided the injection could wait until the next day. According to the Jabari family member, another member of the family who had been injured while working waited for an ambulance for three and a half hours. It was held up because of the restrictions. In the end, relatives had to carry him all the way to the nearest checkpoint, worsening his leg injury. "Decisions are being made over what is medically urgent or not by poorly trained military reservists," said a humanitarian worker in the area. "It is absolutely surreal." But what might be most pressing for these families is their dwindling cash reserves. Even in the other areas of Hebron, which are suffering because of a movement bottleneck into and out of the city, as well as because of business closures, Palestinians report

dramatic income losses that have pushed families to the brink. In H2, the economic situation is particularly dire. "Most of the families in these areas, they are regular labourers, they are blue-collar people," said Hamdan of HRC. "If they don't work, they have no income. So how can they cover expenses if they cannot go to work?" Families in H2 describe having to dip into whatever savings they have to buy food and supplies. "The families help each other in this time," said the Jabari family member, explaining how neighbours sneak between their houses in her area, comprised of about 100 families, to share food and supplies. But with little to no income, neighbours can help each other for only so long. "We are [financially] better off than some of our neighbours," said Abu Aisha in Tel Rumeida. "But we don't know how even we can sustain ourselves for more than a few weeks."

Already, NGOs are privately discussing possible aid measures if the severe restrictions continue. Monitoring of the situation has been spotty, with international monitoring group the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) leaving when war broke out and remaining civil society organisations finding it difficult to reach families under the movement restrictions. Residents report having their phones confiscated, and photos and videos of incidents are routinely deleted from them by soldiers and settlers. One neighbour was detained for several days for recording soldier activities, according to Abu Aisha. — Aljazeera

The Frontier Post

JALIL AFRIDI  
Managing Editor

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

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001  
Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

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

## Gigantic Agenda of low mandate leaders

**C**ARETAKER Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has recently observed that the provision of the best medical facilities to the public is the top priority of his government. Historically, the provision of state-of-the-art health facilities and essential medical services to the public is a fundamental responsibility of a modern welfare state. The need for such state-owned arrangements to provide poor masses with free of cost necessary medical treatment is of utmost importance in countries like Pakistan where the masses have meagre financial resources and a low monthly income that does not meet costly health expenses in the current highly volatile era.

Unfortunately, public welfare together with medical treatment, education facilities, and social uplift has not been a priority for the rulers in the past as those important sectors failed to grab the attention of the leaders and remained subsidized and under-replenished throughout history. Historically, Pakistan's federal health budget never exceeded 2% of the country's GDP for a nation which does not owe less than 230 million populace.

Over the decades multiple politically motivated and greed-driven recipes have been implemented by the past rulers in the health sectors ranging from privatization of the health sector to the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI) legacy and Sehat Card Plus to the rediscovery of the state-owned health system. However, Pakistani leaders from across the political spectrum failed to introduce such a health system which provides cost-effective, modern health facilities to the public without putting an unnecessary fiscal burden on the national exchequer.

The people of Pakistan are currently helpless in satisfying their healthcare needs as the headline inflation touches near 40%, pushing the nation into extreme poverty and unemployment. The unrestricted price hikes seriously affect all aspects of public life from agriculture to industry and the education sector to healthcare that are now out of reach for poor masses. Previously, the PTI government launched a government-sponsored PCIO health insurance program under the Prime Minister's Sehat Insaaf initiative that was effective in all parts of the country except the PPP-ruled Sindh province. The government-funded several hundred billion rupees while enabling poor patients to get free-of-cost treatment for major diseases including heart surgery, blood dialysis, radiotherapies, and other serious ailments including cancer. Historically, Millions of people benefited from that magnificent project for almost two years until the State Life Insurance Company stopped its operation due to the nonpayment of dues that amounted to several hundred billion rupees and the treasury was unable to pay a bulk amount to private insurer firm.

A shoplift caretaker set up is currently administering the ruins of the government and quango leaders are making long-term decisions regarding sensitive matters relating to the national economy, the country's security and future generations. After auctioning the education sector to private businesses, the incumbent rulers are now eyeing the health sector to fully manifest it into private industry during their short term in office.

Historically, as a nation, we failed to achieve our core national goals of political stability, flourishing democracy, national unity, and sustainable growth, along with the implementation of a model of a socio-economic welfare Muslim state that could not be transformed into a reality due to feudal politics, long dictatorial rules and periodic political instability throughout the past. Unfortunately, the interim rulers carry a huge manifesto of redrawing the entire system of the country, for which they do not possess a public mandate, hence the unelected leaders must uphold their one-point agenda of holding a free, fair and transparent election instead of fondling into other issues.

## Smog, a poisonous element

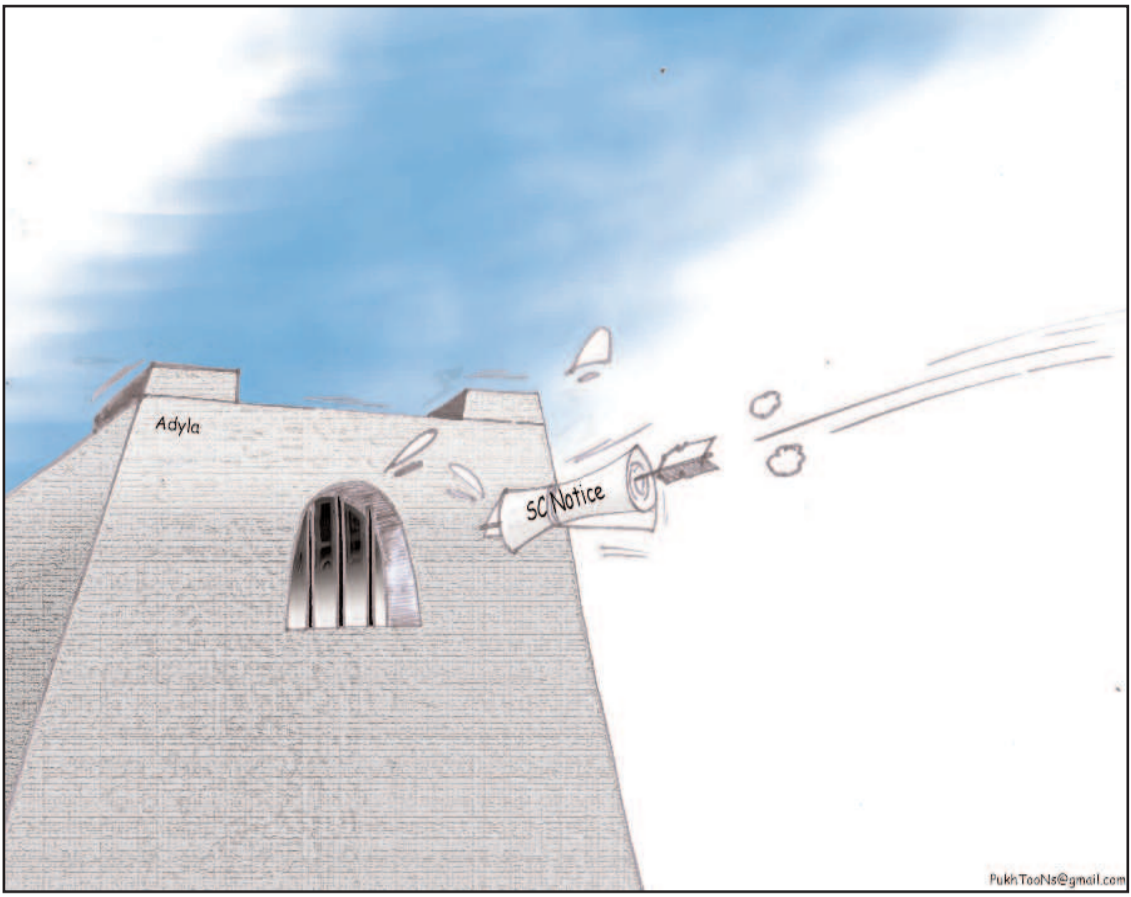
**T**HERE is no respite from smog for the people of Lahore as the city, with the air quality index (AQI) recorded at 393, was ranked as the second most polluted city in the world during the past few days. The Doctors have advised people to take precautionary measures by avoiding travelling unnecessarily, and using facemasks if travelling is inevitable.

Air pollution and smog are environmental issues caused by the release of pollutants into the atmosphere. Certain harmful substances such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds are added to the fresh air due to human activity and cause adverse effects on human health, ecosystems, and the environment. Smog, on the other hand, is a type of air pollution that is characterized by a mixture of smoke and fog. It often occurs in urban areas with high levels of vehicle emissions and industrial activity. Historically, the entire South Asia including Pakistan, India and Bangladesh along with several other nations in different parts of the world are currently at the top of the list of most polluted or smog-hit nations. Similarly, Lahore, New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Dhaka are the most smog-hit cities in the world.

Historically, both air pollution and smog can lead to a range of health problems, including respiratory issues, cardiovascular diseases, and even premature death. They also have detrimental effects on the environment, contributing to climate change, damaging vegetation, and harming wildlife. Efforts to reduce air pollution and smog typically involve implementing clean energy technologies, reducing emissions from vehicles and industries, and improving air quality standards and regulations. Whilst all those practices demand a public-private partnership and core cooperation from the masses, the businesses as well as a kinetic implementation from the government departments. Previously, the Lahore City government has announced the closure of educational institutions and holidays in government offices to reduce the level of smog in the air yet all those recipes are not a long-term solution to this grave problem. The Provincial and Federal governments must initiate a strategy to curb vehicular and industrial emissions along with the introduction of protocols for the disposal of agricultural, domestic and industrial waste so no human activity could disturb the level of fresh air in the cities. Otherwise, no ad hoc measure or a timepass formula could address this poisonous element permanently at any time in the future.

### Important Notice

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



## Why Israel wants to erase context and history in the war on Gaza

Ilan Pappé

**O**N October 24, a statement by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres caused a sharp reaction by Israel. While addressing the UN Security Council, the UN chief said that while he condemned in the strongest terms the massacre committed by Hamas on October 7, he wished to remind the world that it did not take place in a vacuum. He explained that one cannot dissociate 56 years of occupation from our engagement with the tragedy that unfolded on that day.

The Israeli government was quick to condemn the statement. Israeli officials demanded Guterres's resignation, claiming that he supported Hamas and justified the massacre it carried out. The Israeli media also jumped on the bandwagon, asserting among other things that the UN chief "has demonstrated a stunning degree of moral bankruptcy". This reaction suggests that a new type of allegation of anti-Semitism may now be on the table. Until October 7, Israel had pushed for the definition of anti-Semitism to be expanded to include criticism of the Israeli state and questioning the moral basis of Zionism. Now, contextualising and historicising what is going on could also trigger an accusation of anti-Semitism.

The dehistoricisation of these events aids Israel and governments in the West in pursuing policies they shunned in the past due to either ethical, tactical, or strategic considerations. Thus, the October 7 attack is used by Israel as a pretext to pursue genocidal policies in the Gaza Strip. It is also a pretext for the United States to try and reassert its presence in the Middle East. And it is a pretext for some European countries to violate and limit democratic freedoms in the name of a new "war on terror".

But there are several historical contexts for what is going on now in Israel-Palestine that cannot be ignored. The wider historical context goes back to the mid-19th century, when evangelical Christianity in the West turned the idea of the "return of the Jews" into a religious millennial imperative and advocated the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine as

part of the steps that would lead to the resurrection of the dead, the return of the Messiah, and the end of time. Theology became policy toward the end of the 19th century and in the years leading up to World War I for two reasons.

First, it worked in the interest of those in Britain wishing to dismantle the Ottoman Empire and incorporate parts of it into the British Empire. Second, it resonated with those within the British aristocracy, both Jews and Christians, who became enchanted with the idea of Zionism as a panacea for the problem of anti-Semitism in Central and Eastern Europe, which had produced an unwelcome wave of Jewish immigration to Britain. When these two interests fused, they propelled the British government to issue the famous - or infamous - Balfour Declaration in 1917.

Jewish thinkers and activists who redefined Judaism as nationalism hoped this definition would protect Jewish communities from existential danger in Europe by homing in on Palestine as the desired space for "rebirth of the Jewish nation". In the process, the cultural and intellectual Zionist project transformed into a settler colonial one - which aimed at Judaising historical Palestine, disregarding the fact that it was inhabited by an Indigenous population.

In turn, the Palestinian society, quite pastoral at that time and in its early stage of modernisation and construction of a national identity, produced its own anti-colonial movement. Its first significant action against the Zionist colonisation project came with al-Buraq Uprising of 1929, and it has not ceased since then. Another historical context relevant to the present crisis is the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestine that included the forceful expulsion of Palestinians into the Gaza Strip from villages on whose ruins some of the Israeli settlements attacked on October 7 were built. These uprooted Palestinians were part of the 750,000 Palestinians who lost their homes and became refugees.

This ethnic cleansing was noted by the world but not condemned. As a result, Israel continued to resort to

ethnic cleansing as part of its effort to ensure that it had complete control over historical Palestine with as few of the native Palestinians remaining as possible. This included the expulsion of 300,000 Palestinians during and in the aftermath of the 1967 war, and the expulsion of more than 600,000 from the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip ever since. There is also the context of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Over the past 50 years, the occupational forces have inflicted persistent collective punishment on the Palestinians in these territories, exposing them to constant harassment by Israeli settlers and security forces and imprisoning hundreds of thousands of them.

Since the election of the present fundamentalist messianic Israeli government in November 2022, all these harsh policies reached unprecedented levels. The number of Palestinians killed, wounded and arrested in the occupied West Bank skyrocketed. On top of that, Israeli government policies towards Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem became even more aggressive. Finally, there is also the historical context of the 16-year-long siege on Gaza, where almost half of the population are children. In 2018, the UN was already warning that the Gaza Strip would become a place unfit for humans by 2020.

It is important to remember that the siege was imposed in response to democratic elections won by Hamas after the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the territory. Even more important is to go back to the 1990s, when the Gaza Strip was encircled by barbed wire and disconnected from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Oslo Accords. The isolation of Gaza, the fence around it, and the increased Judaisation of the West Bank were a clear indication that Oslo in the eyes of the Israelis meant an occupation by other means, not a path to genuine peace.

Israel controlled the exit and entry points to the Gaza ghetto, monitoring even the kind of food that entered - at times limiting it to a certain calorie count. Hamas reacted to this debilitating siege

by launching rockets on civilian areas in Israel. The Israeli government claimed these attacks were motivated by the movement's ideological wish to kill Jews - a new form of Nazism - disregarding the context of both the Nakba and the inhuman and barbaric siege imposed on two million people and the oppression of their compatriots in other parts of historical Palestine.

Hamas, in many ways, was the only Palestinian group that promised to avenge or respond to these policies. The way it decided to respond, however, may bring its own demise, at least in the Gaza Strip, and may also provide a pretext for further oppression of the Palestinian people. The savagery of its attack cannot be justified in any way, but that does not mean it cannot be explained and contextualised. As horrific as it was, the bad news is that it is not a game-changing event, despite the huge human cost on both sides. What does this mean for the future?

Israel will remain a state established by a settler-colonial movement, which will continue to influence its political DNA and determine its ideological nature. This means that despite its self-framing as the only democracy in the Middle East, it will remain a democracy only for its Jewish citizens. The internal struggle inside Israel between what one can call the state of Judea - the settlers' state wishing Israel to be more theocratic and racist - and the state of Israel - wishing to keep the status quo - that preoccupied Israel until October 7 will erupt again. In fact, there are already signs of its return.

Israel will continue to be an apartheid state - as declared by a number of human rights organisations - however the situation in Gaza unfolds. The Palestinians will not disappear and will continue their struggle for liberation, with many civil societies siding with them and their governments backing Israel and providing it with an exceptional immunity. The way out remains the same: a change of regime in Israel that brings equal rights for everyone from the river to the sea and allows for the return of Palestinian refugees. Otherwise, the cycle of bloodshed will not end.

Aljazeera

## Gaza war exposes an EU devoid of unity and values

Talmiz Ahmad

**W**ITH the gruesome bloodletting in Gaza nearing the mark of 10,000 dead from Israeli attacks, the EU attempted to end the confusion and disarray within its ranks by organizing an in-person summit in Brussels that brought together its 27 members. It was a show of unity and a signal that the EU is an independent player in world affairs, as Josep Borrell, the bloc's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, has frequently asserted.

The principal outcome of the conclave was the EU call for "corridors and pauses" in the ongoing conflict to provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza's beleaguered residents. This was the result of compromise: some members, like Spain and Ireland, wanted a "pause," but others, including Germany, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic, felt this word would be too close to a ceasefire, which Israel has categorically rejected and the US has not had the temerity to insist upon. The "pauses" proposed would be short intervals in the fighting of a few hours, when aid - food, water, medicines and fuel - could be rushed to the needy. Few noted the irony that, after receiving the aid, the needy would soon be once again exposed to the virulent Israeli bombardment that has already taken the lives of several thousand of their neighbors.

The Brussels conference merely papered over the divisions within the EU over the Gaza war. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had earlier rushed to Israel and expressed support for his host, saying: "Brutal terror. The execution of defenseless civilians. Murdered infants. Humiliated holocaust survivors." While backing Israel's right to defend itself, Scholz failed to see the horrific parallels in Israel's own actions in Gaza. Ireland would have none of this. Leader Leo Varadkar has described Israel's actions as resembling "something more approaching revenge ... I don't think that's how Israel will guarantee its future freedom and future security." And Spanish Social Rights Minister Ione Belarra has accused Israel of "planned genocide" in Gaza and of "war crimes."

Divisions within the EU go back to the early days of the Gaza war. Immediately after the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7, European Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varheliy unilaterally announced that the EU would suspend all assistance to the Palestinians. Several states quickly rejected this, pointing out that, given Israel's "complete siege" of Gaza, the need for humanitarian assistance was greater than ever. The assistance was restored. This mishap was followed by the visit to Jerusalem by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, during which she expressed solidarity with Israel and

sharply condemned Hamas' "despicable actions." She expressed full confidence that Israel would, in its response, "show that it is a democracy."

But she failed to insist that, while defending itself, Israel must abide by international humanitarian law and she made no reference to the siege of Gaza. Borrell said that Israel was violating international law by enforcing its "complete siege" of Gaza. Later, Von der Leyen was sharply attacked in the European Parliament by Irish member Clare Daly, who described Israel's bombings as "collective punishment," "illegal" and "war crimes." Anger within the EU about the perceived pro-Israel stance of some of its senior officials was reflected in a joint letter to Von der Leyen that was signed by more than 800 staff members. The letter accused the European Commission of giving a "free hand to the acceleration and the legitimacy of a war crime." It also noted that the commission, in its response to the massacre of civilians in Gaza, had been indifferent to the "values of the EU" and had exhibited "double standards" in describing the Russian blockade of Ukraine as an act of terror, while ignoring the identical actions of Israel against the Gazan people.

Despite these dissenting voices, the Gaza war has affirmed that the EU has little capacity to emerge as an independent player on the world stage. The EU as an institution and the leaders of its major member states remain closely aligned with the US in extending full support to Israel, as they have done in regard to Ukraine. They seem to be going along with President Joe Biden's view, expressed on Oct. 19, that the Gaza war constitutes "an inflection point in history." Biden had then linked the threat that Israel faces from Hamas with that faced by Ukraine from Russia on the specious basis that Ukraine and Israel confront foes that "want to completely annihilate a neighboring democracy." Obviously, for the US, NATO matters more than the EU. On Oct. 9, Biden rallied the major European states - France, Germany, Italy and the UK, all NATO members - and, in a joint statement, they affirmed that "we will remain united and coordinated, together as allies, and as common friends of Israel, to ensure that Israel is able to defend itself."

A practical expression of this oath of Western unity is the silence of these states as Israel mercilessly wreaks death and destruction in Gaza and is actively planning to depopulate the Strip. In the words of an Israeli strategic affairs commentator, Giora Eiland, Israel plans to create "conditions where life in Gaza becomes unsustainable" and it becomes "a place where no human being can exist." Thus, while the EU spins into disarray and sinks into strategic irrelevance, it is NATO, led by the US, that will uphold Western unity and interests.

## How to tackle sub-Saharan Africa's water crisis

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

**W**ATER should be considered a fundamental human right, to which all human beings are entitled, regardless of their background, ethnicity, nationality, religion or race. But consider yourself fortunate if you do have access to clean water around the clock, because it is alarming to see that one in four people globally still do not have access to safe drinking water, while 1.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. One of the regions that has the highest percentage of people that lack access to safely managed drinking water is sub-Saharan Africa.

More than half of the people in Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Chad lack access to basic water services, along with 48 percent in Eritrea, 44 percent in Somalia and Uganda, 43 percent in Angola and 37 percent in Mozambique. It is important to examine the

underlying reasons behind this humanitarian catastrophe in order to be able to efficiently chart a path that could address this critical concern. First of all, poor infrastructure and governance, as well as a lack of investments and financing to set up and maintain reliable and basic water services, are some of the critical problems.

These deficiencies become even more noticeable in rural areas. Eisa Gouedrou, a regional consultant for the World Bank, highlighted in March that rural areas are disproportionately impacted. She wrote: "180,000 children under the age of five die each year in sub-Saharan Africa from diarrheal diseases caused by lack of water, sanitation and hygiene services ... 85 percent of those without water and 70 percent without sanitation live in rural areas." As a result of not having access to basic water services, people are forced to gather water from unsafe rivers, swamps, lakes or ponds.

Another important problem is that water and gender tend to be interconnected in such situations, with women and girls disproportionately affected by this crisis. It is women and girls who bear the burden when there is no access to clean water services, since they are often the ones who have to spend many hours each day fetching water and carrying heavy cans of unclean water in order to provide for their families. In other words, a lack of access to clean water services leads to greater gender inequality. In addition, this crisis is adding extra risks to these women and girls when it comes to being subjected to sexual abuse, contracting diseases and dropping out of school. When they are trying to access clean water, they are often alone and are more vulnerable to gender-based violence. It is thought that at least 17 million girls and women in Africa collect

water every day, often spending more than 30 minutes doing so. So, if there were easy access to clean water throughout sub-Saharan Africa, about 8.5 million hours every day - or 7 million working days every year - would be saved. "Clean water gives women hope, health and opportunity. They have time to start businesses, invest in their families and take charge of their own futures. It means that girls are able to spend more time in school to further their education and aspirations. Clean water gives women a chance to make their dreams a reality," said Julia Anderson of Charity: Water. It is a step in the right direction that Goal Six of the UN

Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is ensuring the "availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Through this framework, governments around the world can work together

to provide universal access to safely managed water services. However, while some progress has been made, much more still needs to be done in order to achieve the SDG target of providing water in Africa and a basic level of drinking water service. This vital process can be accelerated if it includes initiatives such as carrying out water sector reforms, attracting more investments and financing, enhancing the management of water resources and service delivery, and improving governance in sub-Saharan African nations. We should not forget that another important factor that is contributing to the lack of access to drinking water in sub-Saharan Africa is climate change. Long periods of drought in some areas are having a negative impact on water supply, as well as food production. This is subsequently affecting people's health.

In the long term, if the damage caused by climate change, such as water scarcity

and a lack of agricultural resources, continues to increase, freshwater resources will be depleted in some countries. This will have an impact on national security and political stability in the region. It is alarming that the UN estimated in 2016 that two-thirds of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by 2025. In other words, sub-Saharan Africa's water crisis should not be viewed as solely Africa's problem, but rather as a global problem that needs to be resolved through cooperation. In a nutshell, water is life and access to it should be a fundamental right of every human being. However, people in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly women and girls, are significantly impacted by a lack of access to water. Providing more money to improve this region's infrastructure, including carrying out water sector reforms, and tackling climate change are key steps to take.

# Israel has succeeded in turning the world against it

Baria Alamuddin

**ISRAEL feels it has sufficient mandate from the West to slaughter Palestinian civilians by the thousands, including 4,000 children. Immense 1,000kg bombs dropped on densely crowded refugee camps and airstrikes on ambulances, schools and hospitals amply demonstrate utter disregard for civilian casualties commensurate with that of Hamas.**

Israel appears to be doing everything in its power to discredit itself in the eyes of the civilized world. The Gaza massacre, preceded by the attempted sabotage of judicial institutions by Benjamin Netanyahu's cabal of fascists and fundamentalists, makes a mockery of years of rhetoric by politicians on the AIPAC lobby group's payroll about Israel being a democratic, morally superior beacon of progress. In past decades, the only international voice that mattered was Washington's, with European allies in lockstep. But in the multilateral 2020s, emerging powers throughout Asia, Latin America and Africa are queuing up to denounce Israel and downgrade diplomatic ties.

Huge pro-justice constituencies erupted in anger, even in the Western world. Along with electorally crucial demographics of Muslims, Arabs and progressive Jews, universities have become major crucibles for pro-Palestinian activism from newly politicized millennials. As millions pour on to the streets worldwide, right-wingers such as Britain's interior minister have been furiously cracking down on civil freedoms to criminalize pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which she describes as "hate marches." The era when pro-Israel lobbies controlled the narrative is long-gone. Horrifying social media images afford real-time exposure to atrocities, while both sides simultaneously

deluge us in disinformation and propaganda. All this further exacerbates communal tensions, with more than 1,000 antisemitic hate incidents reported to British police in the past month, along with an increase in Islamophobic attacks. Elderly US politicians such as Joe Biden and Donald Trump represent a dying pro-Israel consensus, particularly with large Muslim, Arab and African-American communities in crucial swing states such as Michigan turning against Biden over his Israel policy. Obama warned his successors: "If you want to solve the problem, then you have to take in the whole truth. And you then have to admit nobody's hands are clean, that all of us are complicit." He added: "Israeli military strategy that ignores the human costs could ultimately backfire". Following this current catastrophe Biden will have little choice but to urgently bring Middle East peace-making back from the dead.

The Democratic Party is inexorably trending toward its pro-Palestinian progressive wing, backed by the vast demographics which today are protesting against the Gaza carnage. These progressives will one day have few qualms about vetoing Congress bills for vast sums of Israel military aid once they acquire sufficient legislative power. Comparable tensions have been playing out throughout Europe: Ireland and Spain are outspokenly pro-Palestinian, while figures such as Ursula von der Leyen and Rishi Sunak outdo one another in pro-Israel hyperbole. States such as France and Germany with large Arab and Muslim populations have been compelled to moderate their political rhetoric. Israel fought so vigorously against international

boycott movements because it comprehends how catastrophic global economic isolation would be for a state encircled by enemies.

Such trends are too long-term to offer solace to under-fire Gaza residents, but they dictate that in years to come the Palestine conflict will play out in a context of growing Israeli international isolation. The full spectrum of global bodies, including the International Bar Association, have vigorously advocated a ceasefire, while stressing Israel's non-exemption from universal human rights obligations. The Hamas attack on Oct. 7 was an incalculably large psychological shock for Israel, ultimately compelling recognition that it will continue to face existential threats as long as it rejects peace-making. In this tiny state, sizable populations have been moved out of large areas of southern and northern Israel and other vulnerable areas, some probably permanently, but large population centers are still within easy reach of Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad rockets.

It is the symbiotic actions of rejectionists such as Hamas and Netanyahu that have made a return to the peace table inevitable. Within both Palestinian and Israeli societies there is a need for recultivation of the activist peace camps of the Oslo years who can campaign for justice, peace and reconciliation. Israel's thirst for vengeance has empowered the exterminationist camp, which contends that the Gaza military campaign offers the perfect smokescreen for purging Palestine of Arabs. The former head of Israel's National Security Council, Giora Eiland, urged Israel to "create conditions where life in Gaza becomes unsustainable ... a place where no human

being can exist" so that "the entire population of Gaza will either move to Egypt, or move to the Gulf." Netanyahu has been exerting pressure on Egypt to accept "temporary" evacuation of Gazans to the Sinai, while actively seeking to starve and crush a besieged population into non-existence.

All Palestinians seek is a more nuanced global understanding of their plight. Support for Palestine does not equal support for Hamas. Uncritical Western backing has enabled Israel to conceitedly perceive itself as untouchable, not only in committing crimes against humanity in the occupied territories, but also undermining countless UN resolutions and fundamental tenets of the global order. The 72 UN refugee agency staff in Gaza killed by Israel is a record for such a short period, while Israel simultaneously accused the UN secretary-general of "blood libel" and "justifying acts of terror." It had been a truism among Israelis that time was on their side. Arab states seemed to be losing interest, Palestinians sullenly acquiesced to year-on-year losses of territory, and once the 1947 and 1967 generations had died out wouldn't nationalist sentiment likewise dissipate?

Instead, the new Palestinian generation and their global supporters are in many ways more passionate, determined and politically engaged than those who came before. And justifiably so, because despite all hardships and bloodshed, inexorable global trends dictate that time, justice, demographics and ultimately history are on their side. The question thus becomes how soon far-sighted Israelis begin advocating the compromises necessary for peace, as strategic threats multiply and their state's geopolitical strength ebbs away.

*Arab News*

# There's only one man who can stop a Donald Trump presidency

Fred Bauer

**LESS than a month into his independent run for the presidency, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. shows surprising strength in political polling. That may be a warning sign of the pressure the US political system is under - and the deep frustration of the American electorate.**

Where Kennedy stands in the polls remains somewhat unclear. A Susquehanna poll gives him 6 per cent in a three-way race with President Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump. Most other outlets place him in the double digits. A USA Today poll put him at 13 per cent. Quinnipiac had him at 22 per cent, which is not that far from Biden at 39 per cent and Trump at 36 per cent. These polling numbers suggest the alienation a Trump-Biden rematch would provoke in many voters. Public-opinion aggregators show the two men with near-identical unpopularity: around 40 per cent approval rating, with a disapproval rating in the mid-50s. Numerous polls have indicated that many voters would like to pull the lever for someone other than Trump or Biden.

A Biden-allied pollster even coined the term of a "No-No voter" - someone who dislikes both Trump and Biden - to describe a crucial, disappointed swing bloc. No-No voters helped tip the scales in 2016, and they might play a similar role in 2024. The unpopularity of both men has not necessarily deterred the establishments of either party. Democratic power-brokers have almost uniformly stood by Biden, and many key Republican officials have backed Trump - with some even calling for an end to the Republican primary. At once an outsider and a scion of political royalty, Kennedy may

appeal to voters dissatisfied with a Biden-Trump status quo. Many Trump allies boosted Kennedy during his failed primary challenge to Biden earlier this year, but this effort may have boomeranged now that Kennedy has gone independent. Electoral polling in the United States has grown harder in recent years, so any data should be taken with a grain of salt. Still, multiple polls have shown that Kennedy may draw more from Trump's pool of support than Biden's.

Quinnipiac gave Biden a one-point edge (47 per cent to 46 per cent) in a head-to-head with Trump. When Kennedy was included, this grew to a three-point Biden lead. In USA Today's poll, Kennedy voters said by a 2-1 margin that they would vote for Trump over Biden if Kennedy were not on the ballot. Kennedy's campaign seems designed to appeal to the populist, "radical middle" voters who have been at the heart of Trump's coalition. Echoing the way that Trump zig-zags across conventional ideological categories, Kennedy's campaign website calls for more border security, a minimum-wage boost, the withdrawal of American armed forces abroad, the defence of free speech, new environmental policies, and efforts to tackle the cost of housing.

Just as Trump pits himself against the "deep state," Kennedy portrays the federal government as captured by corporate interests and in need of a fundamental shakeup. On some of these issues, Kennedy may even be able to outflank Trump among the very alienated: he assails the "Covid lockdowns" that characterised Trump's last year in office, and Kennedy is a well-known skeptic of

many vaccines. Illustrating his appeal to voters anxious for something new, a recent analysis by Politico found that many of Kennedy's donors had not previously donated to a presidential campaign in recent years. How all this will cash out in November 2024 remains unknown. Third-party candidates tend to fall to earth as Election Day draws near. Once they kick the tires of his candidacy, discontented voters may decide that he's not what they are looking for. A central political challenge facing Kennedy is ballot access.

If his campaign can't clear the managerial hurdles of getting him on the ballot across the United States (especially in swing states), support for his candidacy will not necessarily translate into electoral consequences. Other third-party candidates more identified with the left, such as Cornel West, could compensate for any votes Kennedy might take from Trump. Since the Second World War, third-party presidential candidates often do best during times of transition and great uncertainty. In 1968, George Wallace racked up 13 per cent of the vote amid the maelstrom of the 1960s and the Vietnam War. After years of stagflation, John B. Anderson mustered 6 per cent of the vote in 1980. Ross Perot's 1992 third-party campaign represented the shattering of the electoral coalition that had given Republicans a near-lock on the presidency for decades; inveighing against NAFTA and other global trade agreements, Perot also anticipated the populist disruption that would consume American politics twenty years later. The 2024 election is a year away, but RFK's poll numbers may indicate similar discontent today.

*The Telegraph*

# We are witnessing the fall of American empire

Tim Stanley

**WHY have the October 7 attacks triggered a culture war in the West? Because parts of our Left are anti-Semitic and the Right is calling them out? Absolutely. But this is also psychological displacement: we're so shocked by the murder of Israelis, distressed by the bombings in Gaza and, unable to comprehend an intractable problem, that we withdraw into the familiar language of domestic politics.**

Marjorie Taylor Greene, a pro-Israeli Republican, put a resolution to Congress to censure Rashida Tlaib, a pro-Palestinian Democrat, as an anti-Semite. Had it passed, which it didn't, Democrats were ready to put a counter-motion calling Greene a racist. This is schoolyard stuff, and while antiwar activists occupy the congressional Cannon House Office Building (300 arrested), and sociopath Brian Mast tells the House there are few "innocent Palestinian civilians" (even kids can be terrorists in their own cute way), it's left to creaky Joe Biden to manage the Middle East from his basement. And he, with curiously little fanfare, has called for a pause in Israel's military campaign. Is this carefully thought-through policy or an old man pulling a random idea out of his hat because he was heckled at a fundraiser? Who knows. But it brings America in line with European opinion and sheds light on the backroom conditions of US support for Israel. The Times of Israel reports (as spotted by Sumantra Maitra of The American Conservative) that Washington ordered officials to permit humanitarian aid in to Gaza: "The Americans insisted," said the defence minister, "and we are not in a place where we can refuse them. We rely on them for planes and military equipment."

Biden is under pressure to get Palestinian-Americans out of the blockade and to ensure that Israeli-Americans aren't killed in the crossfire, but his staff are also weighing up what happens next. Israelis blame Bibi for the security lapses that led to

Oct 7, so the administration is worried that it's dealing with a lame duck prime minister who is - in an unexpected twist - one of the more moderate voices within his government. America and Britain both want to revive the old two state formula, but they can't rely on Israeli conservatives to play ball. In recent days, Israeli ministers have argued over withholding tax revenue to the West Bank, to the alarm of the US. Moreover, the longer the bombings continue, the more radicalised Islamic opinion becomes and the more likely a regional war seems - at a time when America is already overstretched in Ukraine (more on that, below). Biden insists that America can run two wars at once; Janet Yellen says the money is there. This is boomer delusion. Yes, they are the generation that protested Vietnam - but they also grew up in the shadow of VE Day and the moon landings, and share that Kennedy-esque conviction that so long as any cause is just enough, they must and can support it. The good guys always win in the end, right?

Alas, America in 2023 is not America in 1960, and likely does not have the material and moral resources to wage multiple wars across different continents. Never mind failing to learn from history: Biden led a humiliating retreat from Afghanistan just two years ago, yet policymakers are already back to fancying their odds against another Islamist army. Ukraine and Israel threaten to become "no exit" wars: Israel, because no one knows what to do with the Gazan population; Ukraine, because the West's line is that we fight for as long as Ukraine wants to, but Zelensky is determined to get all his land back against an enemy that has dug in and refuses to surrender.

Jeremy Shapiro of the European Council on Foreign Relations notes that Ukraine has "deeply stressed US and Western stocks of certain critical types of ammunition and weapons", and that the US has been forced to delay weapons deliveries to Taiwan while Kyiv is

rationing shells on the battlefield. "The Biden administration decided to ship morally questionable cluster munitions to Ukraine, largely because it lacked sufficient supplies of other types of artillery shell."

It is true that some weaponry sent to Israel will be different from that sent to Ukraine, but what happens, while the US is arming two allies, if China takes this moment to attack Taiwan? Ukraine has become a bottomless pit - and US politicians might start cutting off funds. The new Republican leadership on the Hill is unfriendly; with Mike Pence out of the presidential race, Nikki Haley is the only serious candidate we might call hawkish. The fate of Pax America thus rests in the trembling hands of Joe Biden, who has worsened his country's position by being a terrible, awful, preposterous president. There are parallels with his border policy: initially liberal, it encouraged mass migration - forcing him to u-turn violently, even to rebuild that infamous wall. Likewise, Biden's initial attempts to negotiate with Iran, or to get out of Afghanistan as quickly as possible, gave the impression that America's new strategic posture was "dumb and vulnerable" - and now that killers are pressing their advantage, he must govern once more with an iron fist.

In short, the situation is dangerous because America has both lost authority - it is not seen as decisive and willing to commit - at the same time as it has failed to be ruthless about what conflicts it can and cannot afford to wage. This is end of empire stuff. We have a nation trying to protect several frontiers - Europe, Middle East, East Asia - while burdened with massive debt, and weakened internally by the culture wars I mentioned at the top.

In that sense, the congressional pantomime matters after all. The gradual loss of confidence in the US machine, worsened by partisanship and dragged to the level of satire by the woowoo academic elite, leaves one wondering if America's political class is inching closer to giving up and letting the world run itself.

# Across UK, from prisons to classrooms, I asked people to make speeches

Alan Finlayson

**ON the day last month when Rishi Sunak took an hour to explain why cancelling trains to the north was a good thing, I was listening to a different political speech altogether. In a cluttered and curtailed-off further education college classroom in Banbury, Oxfordshire, a student was arguing for a curriculum and learning styles that adapt to individual students, rather than forcing them into cramped uniformity.**

Her nonchalant teenage audience surprised themselves by nodding in spontaneous agreement. Some even offered up a parliamentary-style "hear, hear". Her voice wavering as she recounted her experiences at school, and made a plea for those "shunned for differences that should have been embraced and nurtured in their youth". That speech was just a few minutes long. Written in under two hours, and lacking the polish that paid professionals could provide, it was nevertheless a more grounded, heartfelt and engaging argument than the one being cheered by the Conservatives in Manchester. I have been teaching, researching and writing about rhetoric for a long time. But my focus is often on political elites - what about everybody else? To answer this question, I spent much of the year travelling the country with colleagues from a national network for studying oratory and politics, and a theatre company, Dash Arts. The Speech! Speech! project saw us go to Brighton and Redruth, Manchester and Sheffield, London, Norwich and Banbury, where we invited prisoners, political activists, men's groups, women's groups, the deaf community, students and schoolchildren to make a political speech.

A good speech - like poetry and theatre - is magic. It is not a monologue, but a dialogue. It allows us

to recognise shared experiences and common needs. It invites mutual action in response. But we mistrust that magic. Words can bewitch. Fearing they will flood our reason and open the gates to demagoguery, we dismiss it all as "empty rhetoric" and close our ears. But then we end up disenchanted by the bland, generic and endless declamations of personal opinion that fill our public life - inducing only inaction. At these sessions, we started by explaining that political speech is not just any kind of speech. Too often we confuse political arguments with diatribes that prosecute "them" for making everything terrible, while praising "us" for our virtue and fortitude. Political speech is about action. It's an argument for doing something now in order to make the future better. But you can't just say why you believe in your proposal. You have to think about what someone else needs to know if they are to understand what it is we should do, how it can be done and why it will be worth it. We also urged people to think of something specific. It's easy to make vague arguments in favour of abstract nouns: "change", "growth" and "greatness". That's why politics is full of them. It is harder to make the argument that there are specific actions we might commit to.

People rose to the occasion for Speech! Speech! They argued for easier access to music lessons, increasing universal credit, employer recognition of the menopause, more foreign aid, animal conservation, and victim support in the criminal justice system. They argued against bankers' bonuses, cuts to mental health services and littering. They argued for reducing food miles, rent control and greater devolution to

Cornwall. Some made general moral appeals. In Coventry, a young man argued for greater tolerance, winning applause for his spontaneous use of rhetorical antithesis: "Their choices only affect their own lives. Your hate will affect millions." Other speeches were idiosyncratic. In Redruth, a goth-styled teenager urged us to consider the ecological benefits of using coffins made from mushrooms. "Mushrooms are your friends," he said, before concluding: "They'll feed you, they'll clothe you, and they'll hold you when you die." Politicians like to tell stories about themselves, hoping that accounts of hardship, illness and meeting single parents in Nantwich will make them feel authentic. Our orators also drew on personal experience, but as evidence in arguments about what is to be done.

One woman proposed that if everyone had first aid training, as she had, lives could be saved and the nation's health improved. A refugee from Syria contrasted national sports cultures and argued for improving access to facilities in the UK. In Sheffield, on an estate sometimes disturbed by gun violence, a young man explained what it was like to fear being caught in the wrong postcode, and called for better policing.

Everywhere people spoke about mental health. In a Manchester prison, women gave powerful and emotional accounts of the addiction, domestic violence and mental illness that had contributed to their being there. They argued that refuge from violent men, access to drug treatment and proper counselling would reduce crime, prison numbers and the cost of the criminal justice system. One prisoner, so nervous that she spoke with her

back to the audience, pointed out that it costs nearly £50,000 to keep her locked away for a year, only a few hundred pounds of which is spent on mental health treatment. She argued that, with the right support, she wouldn't be inside but outside, contributing to society. "I would be! sat with my daughter helping her transition to the teenage years," she said. "Help me to help my daughter. Help me to support society. Help me to save you £50,000." A good speech helps us to understand not just what someone thinks, but why and how they think it. In Sheffield, an older man with mobility issues objected to clean air zones. He wasn't ignorant of environmental crises. Reliant on car travel, he did not trust assurances that he would not be affected, and that the revenue raised would be spent on improving his city's environment. I thought of this argument when another participant, who had appreciated hearing as well as making speeches, said "nobody ever comes and explains things to us".

We are blindsided by the effects of policies that seem to come out of nowhere: closing shops, cancelling appointments, unexpected price increases. Constant upheaval occludes the future, leaving us trapped, uncertain and anxious. Mendacious orators flourish, playing on our fears yet promising only a trainline to nowhere. Our public discourse is fragmented, dominated by words said for money and designed to hold us in an eternal angry present. Regulation and cancellation alone will not get us out of that trap. Better to give more people the time and tools to think and talk aloud, and the power - potentially - to persuade, lighting the way to a future we create together.

*The Guardian*

# Badmouthing China benefits no economies

Otton Solis

**IT is achievable: you can bring to a standstill a 400-meter-long fully loaded oil tanker cruising full throttle in the open sea. But for that, you first need to catch up with the ship with fast, small boats, climb up the vessel using sophisticated devices and innovative techniques, tie all its tools and resources with ropes and cables, and then transfer them to an even bigger ship or lots of smaller ships.**

It can be achieved, but at a very high cost, because productive resources, in this case other ships, skilled and unskilled manpower and technology innovations, would have to be redirected toward stopping the giant. And to the direct cost of the operation, you need to add the massive cost of unloading and loading the cargo and transporting them back on the ship. Needless to say, a small ship can be stopped easily and at a lower cost.

Regardless of the set of data chosen, the Chinese economy is a major driver of global economic growth, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively, given the increasingly high-tech components of the value-added chains in which it participates. All this makes China like that big ship sailing across the oceans of an interdependent world. China is not alone,

certainly, for it shares that space with the United States and other large economies, but its comparative importance cannot be overemphasized.

According to the World Bank, China's GDP in 2022 was about \$18 trillion, second only to the US' \$25 trillion, which means the two countries, together, account for more than 40 percent of the world's GDP. Other major economies such as Japan and Germany are far behind the US and China, in third and fourth places with GDP of \$4.2 trillion and \$4.1 trillion, respectively. However, in terms of purchasing power parity, China's GDP adds up to \$30.3 trillion, almost 19 percent higher than the comparable figure for the US, and nearly three times the GDP (PPP) of Japan and Germany taken together. In terms of international trade, China is even closer to the US. In 2022, China's total exports and imports reached \$6.2 trillion compared with \$7 trillion for the US and far above that of Germany and Japan. Outward foreign investment, which amounted to \$160 billion in 2022, is another indicator of China's vital role in the global economy, although it still has a long way to go to catch up with the US. As a matter of fact, among the

world's four large economies, China is in the last position, with Germany and Japan in the second and third.

This, by the way, should end the argument that China is seeking to influence the world by acquiring foreign assets. In this regard, it seems other countries are the culprits. If there is some truth in the ludicrous argument that foreign investment is a way of controlling other countries' economies and that it is bad for the recipient countries, China would be a victim, for in this respect it is second only to the US. In 2022, inward foreign investment in China was \$189 billion, less than the US' \$285 billion but more than that of Japan and Germany combined. Another way to assess the comparative dimensions of the Chinese economy is to look at its foreign exchange reserves. As of September 2023, its foreign exchange reserves added up to \$3.12 trillion (including \$400 billion from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), almost two and a half times that of Japan (\$1.3 trillion) and more than 10 times that of Germany (about \$300 billion). The US reports a rather low figure (\$240 billion). But given the position of the dollar as the paramount tool of global trans-

actions, the US' reserves of foreign exchange are practically unlimited, which renders irrelevant any comparison. By the way, as part of its foreign exchange reserves, China holds more than \$800 billion in US government bonds. In fact, China is a major foreign holder of US debt and thereby a major financier of the US' accumulated fiscal deficits.

These and the value of production of specific goods - in which China outshines every other country by a large margin - call into question the idea that it can be held back in its quest for achieving higher levels of development. Certainly, its current growth rate of about 5 percent is about half its average growth rate of the 30 years since the launch of reform and opening-up, but it still outperforms all advanced economies and, with very few exceptions, the rest of the Global South. Humanity needs mature adults in the room, not zealous macho populists with a zero-sum mentality. Let there be no doubt that even if the efforts to contain China do not push the world toward confrontation, the costs of merely trying to contain China would be huge, costs that every country, not least those trying to contain China, would have to bear.

*The China Daily*



# PSX stays bullish with gain of 737 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 737.33 points, a positive change of 1.39 percent, closing at 53,860.37 points against 53,123.04 points the previous day.

A total of 546,547,257 shares valuing Rs17.905 billion were traded during the day as compared to 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs15.586 billion the previous day.

As many as 368 companies transacted their shares

in the stock market; 256 of them recorded gains and 97 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 15 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Enercygro Pk with 68,065,265 shares at Rs.4.11 per share, Pak Refinery with 37,317,387 shares at Rs.23.30 per share and Pak Int Bulk with 34,524,000 shares at Rs.5.51 per share.

Colgate Palm witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.65.75 per share price, closing at Rs.1,533.82, whereas the runner-up was

Rafhan Maize XD with a Rs.55.00 rise in its per share price to Rs.8,050.00.

Pak Hotels witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.28.27 per share closing at Rs.471.98, followed by Pak Suzuki with a Rs.18.03 decline to close at Rs.438.26.

**Gold rates dip by Rs.400 to Rs.214,200 per tola:** The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.214,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.214,600 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.343 to Rs.183,642 from Rs.183,985 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.168,338 from Rs.168,653, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,580 and 2,211.93 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$9 to \$2,003 from \$2,012, the Association reported.

## 22nd Shaukat Khanum Cancer Symposium concluded



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 22nd Shaukat Khanum Cancer Symposium concluded. This largest oncology meeting of Pakistan was attended by over 2,000 people and included talks by international and national speakers from 12 different countries.

The topics included breast cancer, oncological nursing, paediatric oncology, pathology, palliative medicine, anaesthesia & pain medicine, oncological pharmacy, infectious diseases in cancer, bone marrow transplant, haematological malignancies, and research.

This was the first time

that the symposium was organised in the historic city of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The plenary talk was delivered by Professor Syed A. Hussain from the University of Sheffield, UK, who spoke about "Precision Medicine in Oncology", sharing the latest updates on liquid biopsies and circulating tumour DNA.

During the session, Dr Aasim Yusuf, Chief Medical Officer of Shaukat Khanum Hospitals, updated the audience about the research at SKMCH&RC and the education and training opportunities offered by the institution. He appreciated the organisers, espe-

cially the event chair Dr Kashif Sajjad from Peshawar and Dr Usman Ahmad from Lahore, and all the attendees for their enthusiastic participation.

Dr Asif Loya, Medical Director of Shaukat Khanum Lahore, presided over the Ahsan Rashid Memorial Research Session, which is the much-anticipated segment of the symposium and named in honour of a great supporter and benefactor of the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust. Six papers contested for the Ahsan Rashid Memorial Research Award. The winner, Ali Islam, presented a study on "Next Generation Sequencing-Unravelling genomic vari-

ants relevant to clinical practice."

Dr Usman Rashid won the Bashir-Alavi Award for his research "Chasing the origin of 23 recurrent BRCA1 mutations in Pakistani breast & ovarian cancer patients." Ms. Tahira Batool won the Begum Mir Research Award in the nursing category for her study on "Family caregivers' experiences of caring for cancer patients in tertiary care hospitals in Islamabad."

On this occasion, Dr Faisal Sultan, CEO of Shaukat Khanum Hospitals spoke to the media and said that he was pleased to receive positive feedback about the event, especially from young students and researchers who expressed their gratitude for this excellent platform on cancer care.

He said that the symposium aims to bring together experts from around the world for effective exchange of knowledge on the subject to enable best possible care for cancer patients in the region.

## New law for resolution of trade disputes to define time frame

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Monday said a new law for the resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through "The Trade Dispute Act 2022."

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing "Ease of Doing Business" to the Import and export business, he told APP here.

President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khurram Tariq, told APP that trade agreements must be strictly implemented.

Earlier, the joint sitting of the parliament passed "The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023" to establish a commission attached with the Ministry of Commerce to settle the dispute between trading parties and "The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2023".

The House passed the bill with a majority incorporating minor amendments.

The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the export and import of goods and services including through E-Commerce.

Clause 61 of the bill described as "All law

enforcement agencies and authorities in the federal and the provinces shall be under an obligation to provide and render full and complete assistance to the Commission as and when the secretariat thereof may require such assistance."

According to objects and reasons of "The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023", "as Pakistan embarks upon trade liberalization and expansion so does the probability of trade dispute arise between trading parties. If left unsupervised and unguided, such disputes could lead to serious conflicts between governments in addition to damaging private sector business interests."

Moreover, the absence of a proper Trade Dispute

Resolution Mechanism in Pakistan is adversely affecting its ranking in ease of doing business. In order to overcome this, a dedicated government body, legally mandated to resolve international trade disputes was approved by the Cabinet of Pakistan under the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF).

The Trade Dispute Resolution Organization has been established as an attached department of the Ministry of Commerce. It is a platform which helps to prevent the detrimental effects of unresolved international trade conflicts and to mitigate the imbalance between stronger and weaker players by having their disputes settled on the basis of rules.

## Pakistan's exports to China increase

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$633.374 million during July-September (2023-24)

against exports of US \$501.000 million during July- September (2022-23), showing growth of 26.42 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 68.57 per cent from \$167.923 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$283.077 million in September 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 42.29 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023, the SBP

data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 4.96 per cent in the first three months, from US \$ 7.385 billion to US \$ 7.018 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 2744.241 million last year, showing a decline of 15.11 per cent in July- September (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 2.92

per cent from US \$855.975 million in September 2022, against the imports of US \$880.972 million in September 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country dipped by 2.14 per cent during September 2023, as compared to the imports of US \$900.289 million during August 2023, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 23.81 per cent, from \$16.355 billion to US \$ 12.460 billion, according to the data.

## RCCI team calls on Eduard-Robert

RAWALPINDI (APP): A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President Saqib Rafiq called on Eduard-Robert PRED A Charge D Affairs/Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romanian Embassy here on Monday.

According to the spokesman of RCCI, Charge D Affaires of the Romanian Embassy appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting trade and diplomatic ties.

He urged Pakistani busi-

nessmen to explore trade and investment opportunities for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Saqib Rafiq during the meeting urged for opportunities in non-conventional sectors including Pharma, IT, Services, Surgical Goods, Machinery tools and parts.

He said that Pakistan considers Romania an important country not only in the context of the EU but also in view of Romania's historical role as a supporter of multilateralism.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors busy bidding of persimmon fruit boxes on whole sale rate at fruit and vegetable market.

## Rupee sheds 89 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed an 89-paisa devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.28 against the previous day's closing at Rs 284.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285 and Rs 287.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.51 to close at Rs 306.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen increased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.90; whereas an increase of Rs 7.01 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.64 as compared to the last closing of Rs 346.63.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 27 and 26 paisa to close at Rs 77.67 and Rs 75.04 respectively.

## NIMS team briefed about LCCI

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar said on Monday stability in Pak Rupee, increase in exports, import substitution, reduction in inflation and mark-up rate and Charter of Economy were essential for sustainable economic development and a solid strategy could help achieve these goals.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the National Institute of Management, Peshawar (NIMS), headed by Faculty Member Muhammad Tayyab, during their visit to the Lahore Chamber here.

The LCCI president said that Lahore Chamber was playing its role to promote trade and economic activities. He said that the chamber was going to organise the achievement recognition ceremony and to encourage the best performing businessmen and an event for women entrepreneurs.

Recently, awareness seminars on breast cancer and other event have been organised, he added.

Kashif Anwar said that the history of Lahore Chamber covers a century and he is the 100th President of Lahore Chamber. This chamber was established in the name of Northern India Chamber in 1923. The number its members have exceeded 35 thousand.

He said that Lahore Chamber provides business opportunities through meetings with heads of diplomatic missions, various federal and provincial departments and ministries. It remains busy in finding the trade and investment opportunities and is also playing the role of a bridge between the stakeholders and the state.

The LCCI President said that the main function of Lahore Chamber is policy advocacy and through its research and development department, it identifies possible solutions to the problems faced by the business community with the input of standing committees related to various sectors.

## Less than 20% of issues find spot in manifestos

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In the wake of upcoming general elections, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has drawn a comparison of manifestos amongst three mainstream political parties - Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - that have been front-runners in formulating governments during the last three tenures.

The aim was to evaluate if the manifestoes have any substance and concrete plan or are these just comprise hollow promises and sweeping statements, without any homework for the future, said in a press release issued here on Monday.

In this regard, PIDE has been proposing reforms in various dimensions for quite a long time. These targeted reform proposals are based on years of research and evidence and are in line with the global best practices. So, PIDE has picked 18 key issues/sectors that it thinks are fundamental.

These include: local

government, parliament, elections, cabinet, police, bureaucracy, budget making, debt management, PSDP, real estate, agriculture, energy, taxation, tariff, trade, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and internet. Each indicator has a maximum of 100 score. PPP scored zero in 17 indicators, PTI in 13 and PML-N in 12.

Overall, the three major political parties scored less than 20%, which means that they talk about or have some solid ideas about only 20% of the key economic and policy issues of Pakistan.

Further dissecting the figure 20% tells us of the country's key issues, only 12% of these find space in the PML-N manifesto, 7% in the PPP manifesto and 1.5% in PTI. This demonstrates that manifestoes don't have any substance at large on key issues of the nation.

This means that political parties don't have any concrete blueprint to work on if they come into power. The lack of substance in manifestoes leads to a myopic approach to governance, ad-hocism and serving

vested interests only, without any regard for doing something for the long-term development of the country.

For instance, strengthening local government is merely a promise and scored as zero. In contrast, allowing the property tax regime to serve as the primary revenue generator for local government is a concrete point. Thus, this point had been given a 25 score.

How did PIDE arrive at such a score? PIDE summarized its proposals in four points for each theme, having equal weightage for each point i.e. 25%, making it 100% for all four points. It then compared it with what each political party proposes against the same theme.

If the manifestoes propose one of the points that PIDE proposes then the score will be 25/100 and if their proposals include all that PIDE proposes, then that manifesto will get full marks i.e. 100/100.

It is pertinent to note that, manifestoes are being evaluated on actual reform intervention, not mere promises, slogans and sweeping statements.

## SNGPL's crackdown against gas theft continued

### F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 87 connections while imposing fine of Rs. 3.47 million and 117 under billing cases processed.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 13 connections on illegal use of gas, another 03 connections on the use of compressor. In Bahawalpur, the regional team disconnected 01 connection on the use of compressor and 30 under billing

cases processed. The company disconnected 03 connections on illegal use of gas and 34 under billing cases have been processed in Multan and amount of Rs. 0.067 Million have been booked against gas theft and under billing cases.

In Sheikhupura, the regional team disconnected 24 connections on illegal use of gas and 37 under billing cases processed. The team also booked Rs. 2.78 million against gas theft and under billing cases.

In Peshawar, the Regional team disconnected 22 connections on

account of direct use of gas and illegal connections and 16 under billing cases processed. The team also booked Rs. 0.59 million against gas theft.

The company disconnected 08 connections on illegal use of gas in Islamabad.

The regional team in Faisalabad, 01 meter was disconnected on the use of compressor and 03 illegal use of gas. The region also imposed fine of Rs. 0.032 million against gas theft under billing cases. In Sahiwal, 08 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas.

## Asia builds on global stocks rally

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Markets rallied again Monday following another strong performance on Wall Street, as below-forecast US jobs data fanned optimism that the Federal Reserve had reached the end of its interest rate hiking cycle.

After a tough year for traders, the bank's decision last week to pause on monetary policy for a second meeting and hint that it would not tighten further has provided some much-needed vigour, and sparked talk of a new year cut.

Those hopes were given a boost Friday by figures showing far fewer jobs than expected were created in October, while other data pointed to a slowing economy, easing pressure on policymakers to lift rates further. "The recent deluge of economic data does not paint a picture of an impending recession," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"Most economic indicators, aside from a notable miss in the ISM manufacturing index, did not signal a recession. Instead, the data seemed to align with a

'just right' scenario, akin to Goldilocks," he added, referring to data that was neither too strong nor too weak.

"The deceleration in job growth... mitigated the risk of overheating or an excessively rapid economic expansion, a key factor holding the Federal Reserve back from officially declaring that it has reached its terminal rate."

All three main indexes on Wall Street jumped Friday after the jobs reading, which also fuelled bet on an interest rate cut by June, while Treasury yields eased back from 16-year highs. Observers now say the road is open for equities to end the year on a strong note. Asian markets tracked the rally in New York, with Tokyo more than two percent higher, while Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta were up more than one percent.

There were also gains in Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore and Wellington.

Seoul piled on almost four percent after authorities reimposed a ban on short-selling.

Still, analysts warned

traders to remain vigilant.

"There's a bit more reason for investors to be more optimistic that the Fed is probably done with rate hikes, but one should not let one's guard down," Vasu Menon, at OCBC Bank Singapore, told Bloomberg Television.

"If the economy proves to be more resilient, if inflation proves to be more stubborn, bond yields could go up once again."

Expectations that the Fed would not lift rates any further also kept downward pressure on the dollar, with the yen holding last week's rally, having come within a whisker of a three-decade low. Oil prices ticked higher after Saudi Arabia and Russia said they would continue with their output curbs into the new year.

Global benchmark Brent crude traded above \$85 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate was near \$81.

The news came after the commodity fell more than six percent last week as investors grew optimistic that the Israel-Hamas conflict would not spill over into a wider war in the crude-rich Middle East.

### Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No. 114/13. Institution 29/11/2022. Date of hearing. 27/11/2023. Sheren Zada etc VS Said Malik etc. Notice to No. 42/3. Hayat Shah son of Maarif Shah resident of Sura tehsel Mandarn Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 27/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

### Court Notice

In the court of Brehna Hameed Civil Judge VI Swabi. Case No: 101/1 institution: 21-07-2023 Next date of hearing 15-11-2023 Case title. Farman Ali Vs Akhtar Hussain etc. Notice to Farooq S/o Muhammad Abbas R/o Punjman. In the above title case the service of you above named defendants is not possible with ordinary means, hence you are hereby informed through this proclamation to attend this court on 15-11-2023 at 8am in person or through appointed agent/attorney or through counsel, otherwise you shall be place and proceed against ex-parte.



## In brief

## FIH Olympic qualifying rounds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan hockey team would feature in the FIH Olympic qualifying rounds to be held from January 15 in Oman. According to the schedule released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), the Olympic qualifying rounds will be played from January 15 to 21 in Oman, said a press release. Apart from Pakistan, teams from England, Germany, New Zealand, Malaysia, Canada, Chile and China would participate in the said event. FIH organized Olympic qualifying round events by organizing pools in different countries. Pakistan has been placed in Pool B. The top three teams from each pool would be eligible to qualify for the Olympics.

## Special children sports gala opens

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A one-day sports gala is being organized by special education department Muzaffargarh for differently-abled children at Faisal stadium from Tuesday, Nov 7. Exactly 53 differently-abled children from across the district would join the athletics competitions, including different distance races, long jump, relay race, wheelchair race, cricket and other games and the best performers would join the provincial level competitions scheduled to be held in Lahore from Nov 20 to 22. Deputy commissioner Mian Usman Ali would witness the sports gala activities at Faisal stadium as special guest.

## Pakistan Tenpin Bowling C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Open Tenpin Bowling Championship, under the auspices of Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation in collaboration with Sindh Ten Pin Bowling Association, will be held at Royal Rodell Club, DHA, Karachi from Tuesday. In the championship, Ijazur Rahman would defend his title, while other players include PTBF Ranking Tenpin Bowling Tournament champion Aneeb Shafi, National Champion Fazil Many, national and international players Hamra Abbas Saldira, Ali Surya, Dunyal Shah, Sikandar Hayat, Shabbir Lashkarwala, Salim Beg and Muhammad Hussain Chatta. Sindh Tenpin Bowling Association President Aleem Agha said players would participate in nine categories of competitions in the championship. The competitions include open singles, amateur, ladies, under22, senior, media, doubles, deaf and mixed team. The championship would continue till November 12 and prizes would be distributed among the winning players at the end of the championship.

## Rashford wants end to 'malicious rumours'

LONDON (AFP): Marcus Rashford has pleaded for an end to "malicious" gossip about his future at Manchester United after he missed the weekend win at Fulham due to an injury. The England forward was forced to apologise to United boss Erik ten Hag after attending a nightclub party following the embarrassing 3-0 derby defeat to Manchester City on October 29. Ten Hag said Rashford's behaviour was unacceptable but added that the underperforming 26-year-old was "very motivated to put things right". Rashford was missing at Craven Cottage due to injury after taking a "heavy knock" in training.



NEW DELHI: Angelo Mathews (3R) speaks with the umpires after he was timed out during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day int'l (ODI) match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

## Arthur seeks divine intervention to save Pakistan at WC

KOLKATA (Agencies): Pakistan team director Mickey Arthur sought "divine help" on Monday as the 1992 champions braced for one last push to squeeze into the World Cup semifinals before piling on the praise for "game-changing" opener Fakhar Zaman.

Pakistan have recorded back-to-back wins over Bangladesh and New Zealand to reignite their campaign with Zaman returning from a knee injury to hit 81 and then a blistering 81-ball 126 not out against the Kiwis.

With eight points from as many games, Pakistan not only need to beat England in their last game in Kolkata on Saturday but also hope New Zealand lose to Sri Lanka in Bengaluru two days earlier or that the match is washed out.

Afghanistan can also edge out Pakistan depending on results in their two last matches. "Who knows how we are going to go in this competition," said Arthur, who is in his second stint in charge of Pakistan after a spell between 2016-2019.

"I have a real feeling we're going to get to the semifinals but let's see what happens. What we do know is that it will in our hands come Saturday.

"With a little bit of divine help, we can get to the semifinal but we have to play well. We played the perfect game once, I think, and that was against Bangladesh." If Pakistan do qualify they will likely set up a mouth-watering clash with arch-rivals India in Kolkata on November 16 for a place in the final.

Arthur hailed the match-winning displays of Zaman. "Since Fakhar has come in he has just been unbelievable," said Arthur of the 33-year-old left-hander. "Sometimes in campaigns like this it takes something to just ignite it and Fakhar certainly ignited that for us.

"We know when he plays well he is exceptional. I have always been a massive backer of Fakhar because I think he can change games." Chasing a daunting 402-run target to beat New Zealand — revised to 342 in 41 overs after rain — Zaman lifted his team to 200-1 before the match was halted with Pakistan 21 runs ahead of DLS system.

Zaman hit 11 sixes and eight boundaries in his 11th ODI hundred, his first in two World Cups.

know is that it will in our hands come Saturday.

"With a little bit of divine help, we can get to the semifinal but we have to play well. We played the perfect game once, I think, and that was against Bangladesh." If Pakistan do qualify they will likely set up a mouth-watering clash with arch-rivals India in Kolkata on November 16 for a place in the final.

Arthur hailed the match-winning displays of Zaman. "Since Fakhar has come in he has just been unbelievable," said Arthur of the 33-year-old left-hander. "Sometimes in campaigns like this it takes something to just ignite it and Fakhar certainly ignited that for us.

"We know when he plays well he is exceptional. I have always been a massive backer of Fakhar because I think he can change games." Chasing a daunting 402-run target to beat New Zealand — revised to 342 in 41 overs after rain — Zaman lifted his team to 200-1 before the match was halted with Pakistan 21 runs ahead of DLS system.

Zaman hit 11 sixes and eight boundaries in his 11th ODI hundred, his first in two World Cups.

"Obviously, Fakhar coming into the side breathed a new lease of life into us. It was tough not having him at the start.

His form coming into the competition was a little bit patchy."

Zaman scored just 65 runs in four Asia Cup matches and 12 against the Netherlands in the World Cup before he was benched. He then had a recurrence of a knee injury that forced him to withdraw mid-way through last year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

"He (Zaman) changes games whenever he bats, the longer he bats the more dominant we become," said Arthur. "So, it is really important for us that we keep Fakhar in this type of form and it's really important that he takes this form and aggression and precision with his batting into the game against England."

Arthur said his team need to bring their best game against England, despite the defending champions' having lost six of their seven matches. "Let's hope we are saving ourselves for a batting, bowling and fielding performance against England and then what will be, will be."

## Sidra fined for breaching ICC code of conduct

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan player Sidra Amin has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Saturday.

Sidra was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match."

In addition to this, one merit point has been added to Sidra's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period, said a press release.

The incident occurred in the sixth over of Pakistan's innings, when Sidra showed dissent on being adjudged leg before wicket. Sidra admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Neeyamur Rashid of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Masudur Rahman and Morshed Ali Khan, third umpire Muhammad Kamruzzaman and fourth umpire Sajedul Islam levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two merit points.

## Inter-Varsity Table Tennis Tournament Zone-K

HYDERABAD (APP): Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro clinched the Inter Varsity Table Tennis Tournament Zone K by defeating Government College University Hyderabad by 3-2.

The tournament was organized by Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro in collaboration with Higher Education Commission Islamabad, the SABS University spokesman informed here on Monday adding that teams from eight universities of the province including Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur Mir's, IBA Sukkur, Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, Sufism University Bhit Shah, Quaid-e-Awam University Nawabshah, Government College University Hyderabad and host SABS University Jamshoro participated in the tournament.

The team of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro comprising Zafar Iqbal, Adnan Shahid, Osama Memon, Anus Rajput and Muhammad Omer Shaikh reached in the final where it defeated the team of Government College University Hyderabad after a thrilling contest. The Incharge Sports SABS University Hina Marvi Khilji and Director of Sports Mehran University Abdul Ghaffar Chandio gave trophies and certificates to winning team members and congratulated them for their marvelous achievement.

## World Cup 2023 Mathews controversially timed out as Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka

DELHI (Agencies): Bangladesh's three-wicket win over Sri Lanka was overshadowed by Angelo Mathews' controversial timed out dismissal in Delhi.

The former Sri Lanka skipper became the first international cricketer to be given out timed out.

Mathews protested that an issue with his helmet prevented him from being in position to face up to his first ball within the required two minutes of the previous wicket, but much to his and Sri Lanka's astonishment, the wicket stood.

That left Sri Lanka 135-5 but a superb century from Charith Asalanka took them up to 279 all out. Batting conditions improved under lights and Bangladesh made light work of the chase with Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan putting on 169 for the third wicket.

Both were dismissed short of their centuries by a fired-up Mathews, who sent Shakib on his way with a tap of his wrist, but despite a late wobble, the Tigers got over the line with 53 balls to spare.

With Bangladesh already eliminated and Sri Lanka needing a miracle to progress, Champions Trophy qualification was set to be the focus of a match that went ahead despite poor air quality in the Indian capital.

However, that all changed two balls into the 25th over of the Sri Lanka innings when Mathews walked out following Sadeera Samarawickrama's dismissal. Under the

International Cricket Council's rules for the World Cup, a batter must be ready to face the next ball within two minutes of the previous dismissal and, while cutting it fine, there was no suggestion of a problem before the chinstrap on Mathews' helmet snapped as he attempted to tighten it.

When he called for a replacement, causing a delay, Bangladesh captain Shakib appealed and a furious Mathews was eventually given out. While Sri Lanka's players and coaches raged off the field, Asalanka kept his cool on it, taking his frustrations out on the bowlers to reach his second one-day international century. He fell for 108 from 105 balls in the penultimate over of the innings as Sri Lanka were bowled out with three balls left unused.

Left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka removed openers Tanzid Hasan and Liton Das early in the Bangladesh chase but Shakib was dropped on seven off the bowling of Mathews and it proved costly. He and Shanto started steadily but the boundaries were soon flowing and Sri Lanka, still seething at a perceived injustice, had no answers.

Mathews gave them hope when he ousted both set batters in quick succession and they proceeded to take another three wickets before Bangladesh sealed the win in the 42nd over.

Defeat confirms Sri Lanka's elimination from semi-final contention on the day in which the country's

sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe sacked the national cricket board following their humiliating loss by India in their last game.

Sri Lanka anger evident in tempestuous second innings

Sri Lanka's anger at Mathews' dismissal was evident and captain Kusal Mendis and coach Chris Silverwood both held conversations with fourth umpire Adrian Holdstock.

Holdstock spoke at the innings break and said "the batter wasn't ready within those two minutes even before the strap became an issue for him", suggesting the helmet delay was not the reason for his unusual dismissal - the first of its kind in 146 years of international cricket.

That explanation did little to calm Sri Lanka before they went out to field and they celebrated the early wickets of Tanzid and Das with gusto.

However, as Shanto and Shakib's partnership grew, so too did the fielding side's frustration. Predictably, Mathews and Shakib exchanged words, as did Samarawickrama and Shanto, and the umpires were also surrounded by six Sri Lanka players midway through the innings as they asked for the ball to be changed.

That fight began to wane as Bangladesh got closer to their target but five wickets in nine overs gave brief hope of a win that would have been so sweet for the 1996 champions.

## WTA Finals: Iga Swiatek beats Aryna Sabalenka to reach final



CANCUN (Agencies): Iga Swiatek will return to the top of the world rankings if she beats Jessica Pegula to win the end-of season WTA Finals in Cancun on Monday.

Swiatek beat Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka, who in September replaced her as world number one after 75 consecutive weeks, 6-3 6-2 to reach the final.

The 22-year-old Pole is aiming to end a second successive season as number one. "It's still a long way away because I feel like tomorrow's match will be the toughest one," said

Swiatek. "We can talk about it tomorrow after the match. I'm just going to continue doing what I've been doing." American Pegula, 29, beat US Open champion Coco Gauff to reach the final in Mexico.

Four-time major winner Swiatek clinched her 10th consecutive victory in a semi-final that was suspended after three games because of rain on Saturday. When it resumed on Sunday, Swiatek immediately broke Sabalenka's serve, saved a break point

for a 4-1 lead and served out the opening set.

Sabalenka, Australian Open champion and US Open runner-up this year, failed to create any further opportunities as Swiatek broke twice in the second set before wrapping up a victory that equalled the 67 wins she achieved in 2022.

Neither Swiatek nor Pegula has dropped a set this week. They have earned £1.2m in prize money and 1,080 ranking points, with the winner set to claim an additional £1.1m and 420 points.

## Zaka Ashraf dispels rumours of rift in Pakistan team

B A H A W A L P U R (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf opened up on the alleged rift within the Pakistan men's cricket team.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, the PCB head cleared the air on the ongoing controversy regarding the national team, who are participating in the ICC World Cup 2023.

Zaka Ashraf categorically denied any rift within the players and blamed "cricket enemies" for spreading the false rumours. "There is no infighting in the team," said Ashraf. "The whole team is united. These baseless stories are created by the enemies of the game."

For the unversed, it was reported in late September that Babar Azam and



Shaheen Afridi got into an argument when the captain expressed his disappointment with the senior players in the dressing room, after losing the deciding Super Four clash of the Asia Cup to Sri Lanka, which led to their elimination from the continental event.

Reports also suggested that things got pretty tense between Babar and Shaheen after the heated argument before wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan

intervened to bring the situation back under control.

Later, the ace pacer Shaheen took to his Instagram account in the evening, sharing a picture with Babar. He captioned the solo picture from a chess game with "Family".

Babar, who was in Dubai, then flew down to Karachi to attend Shaheen and Ansha Afridi's wedding reception in the metropolitan. It appeared that all was well among Green Shirts but their series of losses in the ICC World Cup 2023 reignited the rumours of a rift, especially among the three frontmen of the national cricket team — Babar, Shaheen and Rizwan.

Meanwhile, Zaka Ashraf then extended well wishes for the national team's ICC World Cup 2023 campaign.

## Sri Lanka sacks cricket board days after WC thrashing

COLOMBO (AFP) : Sri Lanka's sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe sacked the national cricket board on Monday, days after a humiliating defeat by India at the World Cup.

Ranasinghe has been at loggerheads with Sri Lanka Cricket — the richest sports organization in the financially stricken country — for months over allegations of widespread corruption.

The country's 1996 World Cup-winning skipper Arjuna Ranatunga has been appointed chairman of a new interim board, Ranasinghe's office said in a statement. "Sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe has formed an interim committee for Sri Lanka Cricket," the statement said.

The new seven-member panel also includes a retired supreme court judge and a former board president.

The move came a day after the board's second-highest officer, secretary Mohan de Silva, quit.

Ranasinghe publicly demanded the entire board's resignations after Sri Lanka's 302-run World Cup thrashing by hosts India last week. Sri Lanka were at one point 14-6 and were all out for 55, the fourth-lowest World Cup total in history, while chasing India's 358 in Mumbai on Thursday. The defeat prompted a public outcry with Ranasinghe saying Sri Lanka Cricket officials had no moral or ethical right to remain in office.

"They should voluntarily resign," he said. Sri Lanka play Bangladesh later Monday and need a mathematical miracle if they are to squeeze into the last four of the World Cup.

## Haaland trains with Man City after injury scare



MANCHESTER (AFP): Erling Haaland has eased fears over his fitness by training ahead of Manchester City's Champions League clash with Young Boys on Tuesday.

The prolific Norway striker has been a doubt for the Group G clash at the Etihad Stadium after twisting his ankle against Bournemouth at the weekend.

Haaland, who has scored 13 goals this season, showed no obvious sign of discomfort as he participated in a training session open to media on Monday afternoon.

Manager Pep Guardiola earlier said the 23-year-old would be given every opportunity to prove his fitness and that Sunday's trip to Chelsea would not influence his thinking.

"Yesterday he told me he felt much better than the day of the game but I don't know," Guardiola told a press conference.

"I will listen to the doctors and himself. If he says he is ready and does not have pain I will consider to let him to play because from Tuesday to Sunday there's a lot of days to recover."

After winning their

opening three games in the competition, Champions League holders City can secure their place in the last-16 with a second victory over the Swiss champions following their 3-1 win in Bern last month.

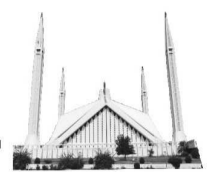
"Tomorrow we have to try to do it, to finish it," Guardiola said. "There will be more opportunities, but we have the chance to finish and qualify for February, for the next stage, and it means a lot for the club."

"Being there is a success and every time we qualify is really good."

Reaching the next stage at the earliest opportunity would potentially allow Guardiola to rotate his squad and prioritise the Premier League fixtures against Liverpool and Tottenham that sandwich their next European outing against RB Leipzig on November 28.

Guardiola, however, said there would be no easing up before top spot in the group has been finalised.

"We are not (definitely) first," he said. "To try to be first, to have the chance to play the second game (of the last-16 tie) at home, that definitely is better."



## In brief

### Dengue cases decreases

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr. Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that dengue fever cases had decreased as only four cases were reported in the district during the last 24 hours. He said that around five to 15 patients had been brought to the allied hospitals of the city during the last 15 days while earlier in September the number of patients was 50 to 60 per day. "This year, around 2,431 cases were brought to the district health facilities while the number of cases was 1,972 in 2021 and 4,488 in 2022," he added. The health official said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered seven FIRs, issued tickets to five and a fine of Rs 4,000 was imposed on violations of anti-dengue during the last 24 hours. He expressed the hope that in the coming days, the dengue cases would witness a further drop as the weather turned cooler, which was not suitable for the survival of the dengue parasite.

### ANF recovers 1788 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a major operation against drug smugglers in Gwadar managed to recover over 1788 kg of drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that a key member of the drug smuggling gang had concealed a huge quantity of drugs in various places. ANF personnel conducted an operation and recovered 1788 kg of drugs including 1740 kg of hashish, 28 kg of Ice drug and 20 kg of morphine. The recovered drugs were manufactured in Afghanistan and brought in Gwadar to smuggle abroad. Some of the drugs were recovered from a hut made of wood and leaves while the rest of the drugs were recovered from tunnels dug into the hills. The spokesman informed that after the recovery, the drug storage places were burnt. A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation is under process.

### Rain with snowfall expected

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorm with snowfall over mountains in upper parts of the country from November 08-09 which would decrease day temperatures from two to three celsius grade. A shallow westerly wave, affecting western parts of the country, is likely to grip upper parts on November 08 (evening/night) and persist in northern areas till November 10 after noon. Under the influence of this weather system, light to moderate rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected in Quetta, Kharan, Hamai, Chaman, Ziarat, Qilla Abdullah, Qillah Saif Ullah, Loralai, Pishin, Zhob, Musa Khel, Sibbi, Mastung, Kalat, Noshki and Chaghi on November 06 (evening/night) and November 07. Light rain-thunderstorm is expected in Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Bhakkar, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Islamabad and Pothohar region on November 07 (evening/night). Light to moderate rain-wind/thunderstorm with hailstorm is also expected at isolated places of Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Kohat, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Waziristan, Bhakkar, Mianwali.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali.

## Women urged to practice 5-min self-examination every month to detect breast cancer

RAWALPINDI (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan on Monday said a five-minute self-examination every month could help detect breast cancer at an early stage, thus saving thousands of the lives of women in the country.

She said 44,000 deaths due to breast cancer in Pakistan was an alarming situation that needed raising constant awareness about early diagnosis of the disease. Speaking at an awareness seminar on breast cancer here at Behbud Association of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, she stressed the need to sensitize the general public about shunning the taboo about breast cancer.

Samina Alvi mentioned that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the detection of malignancy at a late stage.

She said women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were also being diagnosed with breast

cancer. She urged the women and girls to learn the five-minute routine of self-examination and spread the word among at least 20 other women folks in their circle. For the Behbud Mother and Child Hospital, Samina Alvi announced a donation of Rs 500,000 on behalf of her family.

Samina Alvi also emphasized the need to focus on the inclusiveness of persons with disabilities, and mental health and ensuring a harassment-free environment for women.

She called for accommodating the differently-abled persons with facilities of education and employment and mainstreaming them in society. Lt Gen (retd) Nigar Johar, the country's first three-star woman general in the Pakistan Army who belonged to the Army Medical Corps, said one in eight women died of breast cancer in the world, which was a scary figure.

She said the health services of Pakistan were focused on reducing breast cancer mortality by 25 percent as per the global health goal of the World Health Organization (WHO).

She highlighted that at the government level, there was an improvement in diagnostic modalities including radiography, mammography, and gene mutation testing. However, she stressed the involvement of Lady Health Workers in the effective dissemination of the message among women residing in every nook and corner of the country.

President Behbud Association of Pakistan Abida Malik said the non-profit organization had been supporting the generations of the country for over five decades through projects of economic empowerment through skill development, education, and health. She said the association was already providing outdoor medical services while a 100-bed hospital for the underprivileged was in the making. A panel discussion of doctors, psychologists, and a survivor of breast cancer highlighted the significance of early diagnosis, and dealing with the challenges of mental trauma faced by the patients and their families.

## Mushaal concludes visit after highlighting Kashmir issue at Norwegian parliament

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women on Monday concluded her visit to Norway where she effectively highlighted the human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at the Norwegian parliament and brought along "beautiful memories" of love and support. The SAPM, in a video message, expressed her gratitude to the Norwegian people and the Norwegian community, especially the Pakistani diaspora and Norwegian Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Standing Committee Member Dag-Inge

Ulestein for organizing a "powerful" seminar on the Kashmir issue at the Norwegian Parliament.

"It was a historical event. I presented my case there on human rights, on the case of Kashmiris, the plight of Kashmiris and interfaith harmony," she remarked.

At the seminar, her daughter also appealed to the world through the Norwegian Parliament that her father Yaseen Malik should be saved.

"I'm taking with me a lot of beautiful memories of unconditional love, support and prayers from the Norwegian people, the politicians, the civil society, the human rights

activists... And yes, I enjoyed moving around to the museums, to the Church of Oslo. I met the bishop. I went to the Islamic Cultural Center," she said. Mushaal, who also visited a mosque there, said she felt at home there and the world should follow in the footsteps of Norwegians and respect humanity regardless of caste, colour, or creed.

She called for campaigning for her husband's release who was locked up in a death cell in India.

"Unfortunately, India plans to hang him. Please save him. Please campaign for my husband and for humanity. I have a lot of hope in the Norwegian people," she appealed.

## Rawat vegetable & fruit mandi to accelerate business activities at regional level: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta attending an event organized by the fruit and vegetable market committee Islamabad as chief guest said that Rawat vegetable and fruit mandi would help accelerate business activities at the regional level.

He informed that on the instructions of the Punjab government, the first vegetable and fruit market of Rawalpindi was established in Rawat to facilitate the citizens.

Rawat mandi would facilitate the three million population of the Rawalpindi, he added. No rent would be charged for the stall space in the vegetable and fruit market for three months, said the Commissioner.

The establishment of vegetable and fruit mandi would further increase the business activities of the traders of the twin cities, he said.

The first vegetable and fruit mandi in Rawalpindi would help provide more opportunities to the business community to increase their businesses, he added.

The traders of the fruit and vegetable mandi of Islamabad could also benefit from Rawalpindi's vegetable and fruit mandi, Liaquat Ali Chatta said.

"I invite the business community to start business in Rawalpindi's vegetable and fruit mandi and the administration will provide full support to them," said the Commissioner. The vegetable and fruit mandi in Rawat would make it possible for the farmers of the region to sell their commodities at reasonable rates and earn more profit, he said.

An industrial zone would be established along the Rawalpindi Ring Road, which would speed up the business activities, the Commissioner informed.

The construction of Dadocha Dam would help solve the water shortage problem in the twin cities, he said adding, the ongoing projects would help increase business activities in the district.

The market Committee representatives commended the efforts being made by the Commissioner to boost business activities in the region.

## IRSA releases 113,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 113,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 51,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1519.18 feet and was 121.18 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,300 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1197.40 feet, which was 147.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,700 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 50,800, 37,500, 35,100 and 7,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Rural zone police nab 2,269 accused

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police (Rural Zone) has reported the arrest of 2,269 individuals, including 149 members of 59 criminal gangs, over the course of the ongoing year.

The arrests were made in connection with various heinous crimes and criminal activities and the police also successfully recovered stolen vehicles, motorcycles, drugs, liquor, and weapons with ammunition during these operations, police spokesperson said.

This intensified crackdown against criminal elements was initiated following the directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, with the aim of eradicating crime from the city. The police teams conducted extensive operations resulting in the apprehension of a significant number of criminals and the recovery of substantial amounts of illegal goods and weaponry. Notable recoveries include 19 stolen vehicles, 61 stolen motorcycles, 95.66 kilograms of hashish, 76.91 kilograms of heroin, 207 bottles of wine, 1,316 liters of alcohol, 277 pistols, 24 rifles with ammunition, and eight daggers.

## WHO, health ministry join hands to upgrade 464 hospitals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and the World Health Organisation on Monday joined hands to refurbish 464 health facilities across the country as a step forward to achieving the government's "top agenda" of Universal Health Coverage.

In this connection, a ceremony for the signing of Letter of Understanding between the health ministry and the world health body was held at the PM House which also marked the handing over of health equipment worth over Rs 2 billion including mobile health clinics, ambulances, and mobile vaccination vans.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan witnessed the ceremony as Secretary Health Iftekhar Ali Shallwani and WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala signed the document.

Being executed with the WHO's support, the project will have zero financial implication for the Government of Pakistan. Under the project, the WHO would support Pakistan in renovation of 464 health facilities across the country including 41 in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, 131 in Balochistan, 64 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 26 in Punjab and 202 in Sindh. The WHO would support the upgradation of 21 health facilities, 14

labour rooms and six EPI training centers in AJK and GB; 99 health facilities, 26 labour rooms, and six EPI training centers in Balochistan; and 36 health facilities 21 labour rooms and seven EPI training centers in KP.

The project also consists of refurbishing 15 labour rooms, nine EPI training centers and two nutrition stabilisation centers in Punjab; and 150 health facilities, 46 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in Sindh. The WHO support for upgradation of the health facilities throughout the country will contribute to meeting the objective of Universal Health Coverage besides creating a better image of the government in the public for provision of decent health care services to them.

This support will also contribute to the SDG 3 for good health and also SDG8 which is decent work environment and economic growth. The project will help strengthening the primary healthcare system and promote the referral system mechanism besides reducing the burden on major hospitals. Under the plan, the primary health care facilities would be computerised and equipped with around 70 modern facilities. The upgradation of such a huge number of health facilities is a first in the country's history that would ensure the provision of healthcare facilities to the masses at their doorstep.

## Chairman Senate applauds Pakistan-China friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday highlighted the enduring and deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China and commended the substantial contributions made by Chinese institutions and organizations operating within Pakistan, underscoring their significance in strengthening the bond between the two nations.

In his message lauding the remarkable achievements of '10 Years of CPEC' during a report launching ceremony titled 'Thousands of Miles with CPEC', he emphasized the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The ceremony was held at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary

Services and distinguished guests in attendance included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, Chinese Ambassador Zaidong, the Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute Mustafa Hayder Sayed and Chairman of the All Pakistan China Enterprises Association Yang Jianduo.

A heartfelt message on behalf of Chairman Senate, was read out to the audience by the Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hayder Sayed. In his message, the chairman emphasised the enduring friendship between the two nations and commended the significant contributions of

Chinese institutions and organizations operating in Pakistan. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties, fostering not only government-to-government relations but also nurturing the invaluable people-to-people connections that underpin this exceptional friendship. "The deep-rooted and historic friendship between Pakistan and China transcends borders and cultures, serving as a model for the world".

He in his message lauded the visionary leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping, highlighting his remarkable vision and unwavering commitment, which had propelled China into an economic powerhouse, inspiring nations worldwide.

## World Science Day to be marked on November 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, like other parts of the world, will celebrate World Science Day for Peace Development on November 10 (Friday) through several activities highlighting the importance of scientific developments for the benefit of mankind. Different public and private departments will arrange various activities including seminars, conferences, rallies, discussion programmes and competitions highlighting this year's theme "Building Trust in Science".

The role of science in shaping the collective future of mankind can only be fulfilled when there is trust in science.

It is trust in science that fuels the development and application of evidence-based solutions to our world's multifaceted challenges. Trust in science is a complex issue. It affects how scientists operate and the way science is perceived by society. Also, enhancing trust in science strengthens science-based policy decisions and society's support for their application.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development, celebrated every year on November 10 was established by UNESCO in 2001 to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging and important contemporary issues relevant to science.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and

Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable. The day offers the opportunity to mobilize all actors around the topic of science for peace and development – from government officials to the media to school pupils.

Since its proclamation by UNESCO in 2001, World Science Day for Peace and Development has generated many concrete projects, programmes and funding for science around the world. The Day has also helped foster cooperation between scientists living in regions marred by conflict - one example being the UNESCO-supported creation of the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO).

The rationale of celebrating a World Science Day for Peace and Development has its roots in the importance of the role of science and scientists for sustainable societies and in the need to inform and involve citizens in science. In this sense, a World Science Day for Peace and Development offers an opportunity to show the general public the relevance of science in their lives and to engage them in discussions. Such a venture also brings a unique perspective to the global search for peace and development.



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in construction work near Tramri Chowk in the Federal Capital.

### Rents rise in Nangarhar

JALALABAD (Ariana News): With the surge of Afghans returning from Pakistan, the cost of housing has sharply increased in eastern Nangarhar province over the past few weeks. Returnees say they cannot afford to pay the steep rents charged by landlords and have asked the government to step in. “The rent of houses that was 4,000 or 5,000 afghanis has increased to 8,000 and 9,000 afghanis. It has even increased to 10,000 afghanis,” says Ketab Khan, a resident of Nangarhar.

### Returnees find comfort

TERINKOT (BAN): Afghan refugees who were expelled from Pakistan have expressed their happiness and comfort upon returning to their home country. Some of these returnees, now back in their hometown of Uruzgan, have expressed their faith in the IEA's ability to address their challenges. Governor Uruzgan Mawlawi Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmed said that the local administration has set up a camp for those refugees who do not have their own homes.

## Not to force Afghans to react: Stanikzai



KABUL (TOLONews): Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the meeting on the “Future Economic Development of Afghanistan” warned Islamabad to treat Afghan immigrants appropriately and not to force Afghans to react against their actions. Stanikzai said that the reaction of Afghans has been recorded in history and now Afghanistan has a strong defense force and

plenty of weapons. Stanikzai also criticized the deportation process of Afghan immigrants and considered it a unilateral decision by the interim government of Pakistan. According to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pakistani soldiers are looting the property and assets of Afghan immigrants during their deportation from the country. The official of the Islamic Emirate emphasized that Pakistan has

ignored the demands of the United Nations and the world for the departure of Afghan immigrants, while for years it has earned money and high privileges from the presence of immigrants in its soil.

Referring to the construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs assured the neighbors of Afghanistan that their water rights to the Amu River are being respected.

He clarified that the Islamic Emirate is determined to control the country's water, but it has no plan to destroy or harm the country's neighbors.

According to the information of the Refugees and Repatriation Department of Kandahar province, in the last five days, 4,533 families, which reached 31,547 people, have returned from Pakistan.

The Pakistani government gave a deadline for undocumented Afghan immigrants to leave the country by November 1.

### Zarghona dedicates medal to victims

KABUL (Khaama Press): Zarghona Nouri, a Taekwondo athlete in the 49-kilogram weight category from Afghanistan, won a bronze medal after securing two victories in the Asian Games, and she dedicated her medal to the earthquake victims in Herat.

On Friday, she won a bronze medal by defeating opponents from Pakistan and Indonesia in Taekwondo. She shared that she started her Taekwondo journey thirteen years ago with a coach from South Korea and has since competed in many international and world-level tournaments.

Zarghona emphasizes that, like many other girls in Afghanistan, she is striving for her goals in the face of inequalities and injustices, even in the foreign land of migration. She believes that being an immigrant in a foreign country brings a sense of “statelessness” and displacement, and it is only through the freedoms available there that she can pursue her dreams.

Zarghona says that she feels anxious all the time due to the rising deportations of Afghan migrants from Pakistan.

She also mentions that Afghan migrants face less welcoming conditions compared to migrants from other countries.

This Taekwondo athlete, who considers the future of Afghanistan and its girls as “uncertain and unknown,” urges other girls not to give up on their goals, to fight against all odds and inequalities, and to be a source of pride for Afghanistan.

She dedicated her medal from these competitions to the earthquake victims in Herat.

She aspired to participate in the World Championships and raise the Afghan tricolour flag with a gold medal.

She acknowledges that no Afghan girl can compete internationally now, but with determination, she wants to represent Afghanistan in international competitions.

It's worth noting that in the Asian Games Taekwondo competition, 315 Taekwondo athletes from 23 countries participated. Despite limitations, Afghan sportswomen have secured various medals in various competitions.

## Baradar meets Chairman Iran's Security Council



TEHRAN (Ariana News): Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, met with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the Chairman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council in Tehran.

During their meeting, both sides engaged in discussions pertaining to political and economic relations, effective coordination between the respective nations, water resource management, transit agreements, and the enhancement of Afghanistan's imports and exports through Iran.

Baradar emphasized positive historical ties between Afghanistan and Iran in the realms of security, politics, and economics. He highlighted the collaborative efforts that have been ongoing for the betterment and progress of their relationship.

Baradar underscored the potential for Afghanistan and Iran to be strong economic partners due to their strategic positions, emphasizing the necessity for increased bilateral cooperation and the formation of technical teams to pursue this goal.

Baradar also expressed gratitude to Iran for its hospitality in hosting Afghan refugees, acknowledging Iran's commitment to Islamic values, humanitarianism, and the rights and norms concerning refugees.

Meanwhile, Ahmadian, Chairman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, in his speech, stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the two nations across various domains.

He inquired about the challenges faced by Afghan refugees residing in Iran and assured that they would

receive proper care and assistance.

Regarding transit issues, Ahmadian pointed out that Iran and Afghanistan play a crucial role in China's One Belt and One Road project, which connects China to Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the Mediterranean through Afghanistan, ultimately extending to Europe.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed to capitalize on the opportunities at hand and ensure that no external factors negatively impact the strong relationship between Iran and Afghanistan.

## Fall semester exams held while excluded girls look on



KABUL (TOLONews): As the final exams of the fall semester are held in government universities, some female students said that they are currently in despair. They want the Islamic Emirate to provide them with educational opportunities in the country like boys. 23-year-old Malika, who was a student of the Dari Persian Language and Literature Faculty, laments her inability to attend the fall exam and said that she has once again lost hope and wants to reopen educational institutions for girls.

“I hoped that one day we would receive good news and we would be able to

participate in this exam, but when we did not hear any answer from higher education, we became very upset,” said Malika.

“Fall semester exams have started again at the universities and only the males go to schools and universities freely and it is a pity that the gates of education are closed for girls,” said Maryam, a student.

Some women's rights activists also expressed concern about the absence of female students in universities and said that the Islamic Emirate should consider social justice for its survival.

“Social justice is the survival of a government. If

governments do not respect social justice, a social crisis will arise, which will cause the downfall of the same system,” said Fazila Sarosh, a women's rights activist.

At the same time, some officials of private universities said that more than 60% of their students were girls and now they are faced with challenges.

“We had almost 65% of the female category [students], who are all at home, and the remaining 45%, most of them were governmental staff who were either expelled from the country or they could not afford to live, they could not continue either,” said Gul Rahman Qazi, head of the private university.

The reopening of schools and universities for girls has been one of the constant demands of the citizens of the country as well as from the international community to the current government, but the current government has repeatedly emphasized that schools and universities will be opened to girls when the conditions are met.

## Afghan Cultural & Social Association launches to foster inclusivity, education

TORONTO, Canada (Khaama Press): The newly established Afghan Cultural & Social Association, named in honor of the esteemed Sayed Nadir Shah Al-Hussaini Kayani, has commenced its operations in Toronto.

This initiative strives to cultivate an understanding of Afghan cultural, social, and educational relations both within Canada and internationally.

With aspirations to extend its reach, the association plans to open branches worldwide, aiming to provide cultural and social services to Afghan immigrants globally.

In line with the values of its namesake, ‘Sayeed Kayan’, a revered Ismaili

leader and scholar, the association dedicates itself to the preservation and promotion of Afghan culture and social values.

Recognizing that cultural and social tolerance is essential for peaceful coexistence, the association intends to introduce and celebrate the diverse cultural and social customs of various Afghan communities.

This effort will foster social pluralism and mutual respect among different groups, thus enriching the Canadian multicultural landscape.

Emphasizing the critical role of education in contemporary times, the association acknowledges the educational service gap that

exists for Afghan children and youth.

It supports universal education and is committed to enhancing educational services both within Afghanistan and in the diaspora, aiming to make a positive impact on the future generation.

The association is also poised to contribute to the literary and cultural richness through its online presence, which includes a website, a YouTube channel, and social media platforms.

These channels will serve as a conduit for publishing articles on social, cultural, and literary topics, furthering the intellectual and artistic discourse among Afghan writers,

researchers, and cultural figures.

The Afghan Cultural & Social Association invites collaboration with media outlets, other cultural and literary associations, and individuals. Through inter-media and inter-association dialogue and cooperation, the association seeks to benefit the Afghan people, both at home and abroad.

Under the banner of “Dialogue and Cooperation for the Expansion of Tolerance and Understanding,” the association envisions a world where diverse Afghan communities can live peacefully and cohesively, contributing to the broader narrative of harmony and inclusivity in society.

## Affected families in Herat complain about lack of healthcare facilities

HERAT (Ariana News): Families in the earthquake-affected areas in western



Herat province have complained about the lack of facilities and medicine in

the area. Health teams are busy providing services in all the

affected villages, but some of the earthquake victims say the assistance provided is not enough.

With winter fast approaching, children across the province are coming down with seasonal diseases, residents say. According to doctors, however, they say they have enough supplies and medicine to provide basic healthcare services.

One earthquake survivor, Ibrahim, says he was only discharged from hospital a week ago and is still in great pain.

He lives in a tent after having lost his home and three brothers in the quake. While Ibrahim survived, he was seriously injured in the

tremor. “It's been a week since I was discharged from the hospital, and they told me that you will be treated in your tent, and the doctor will provide you with anything you need,” said Ibrahim, a resident of Herat's Zinda Jan district.

“We want our patient to be taken care of because our patient's one arm and leg does not work,” said Maryam, a resident of Herat's Zinda Jan district.

The string of earthquakes that rocked the area last month caused mass devastation and while government medical teams, volunteers and NGOs have been assisting the survivors, challenges have

been enormous. Doctors say that all the wounded who were hospitalized in the seminary hospital are now being treated in their areas under tents.

“Since we came here, all the wounded were in the hospital, but now they have discharged the wounded from the hospital, and now the wounded are being treated and cared for in their tents,” said Ahmadjan Rahimi, the head of one of the medical teams in the earthquake-affected areas of Zinda Jan district of Herat.

But some affected families say that there are not enough facilities and medicine in these areas, and they have to transfer their

patients to the hospitals in the city center.

“My son is sick here under the tent; no one gives medicine; they only give one packet of tablets, and that doesn't really help, and I had to take my son to the city for treatment,” said Faqir Ahmad, a resident of Zinda Jan district of Herat.

Currently, health volunteer teams from the women's and men's departments are busy providing services in all areas affected by the earthquake. Psychologists are also working with patients with mental health problems.

“I am a vaccinator myself, I work in the vaccination department, and the

vaccines that we apply here are generally the vaccines that are applied in the clinics of the city, including tetanus vaccines for women,” said Marziya Ebrahimi, a health volunteer.

“We go and check the people in every tent closely and invite and encourage people to come and participate in the meetings and use the principles of psychological counseling,” said psychologist Mohammad Elias Khairkhwa.

With the cold weather, seasonal illnesses have increased among the affected families, and doctors say that most of these patients are treated in these health centers.



HERAT (TOLONews): While the construction of nearly 2,000 houses for the earthquake victims of Herat province has started, the local officials of the province said that the earthquake victims need 8,000 houses. According to them, more than eight thousand houses in dozens of villages of Herat province were completely destroyed in successive earthquakes.

“According to the statistics obtained by the Red Crescent and other organizations, we need at least 8 thousand houses for the victims,” said Abdulla Akbari, head of the urban development department in Herat. “Everything has arrived for these people and now it is the issue of building settlements, you can see that the process has actually started in various places,” said Hayatullah Muhajir Farahi, deputy of the Herat governor.

Meanwhile, in a number of destroyed villages in the Zinda Jan district of Herat, the construction of settlements by businessmen and philanthropists continues. “We decided to build 100 houses at our own expense for the survivors of the martyrs,” said Bashir Ahmad Khawafi, head of the charity foundation.

The residents of Kushak Herat vil-

lage, who lost their shelter in the earthquake, are happy that a house will be built for them, but they want the construction of their houses to be good enough to withstand earthquakes. “Winter is on the way, the nights have become very cold, and it is difficult to spend under the tent, if it is built before winter, that will be very good,” said Abdulla, a Herat resident.

“At the moment, if it is in this

state, it may be damaged because the work is in progress,” said Shukorullah Akbari, an engineer.

As a result of dozens of earthquakes and their aftershocks in the last month, dozens of villages in Zinda Jan, Injil, Robat-Sangi, and Gulran districts of Herat have been completely destroyed. The residents of these villages have lost their shelter and are living in tents.



GAZA: Palestinians searching valuable items in their destroyed homes after Israeli airstrikes.

## Solangi assures all possible coop to Chinese enterprises

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi here on Monday said that as China-Pakistan cooperation was proceeding to greater depths, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding and cooperation on the areas of common interests.

Delivering his speech at the launching ceremony of the report on ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor by All Pakistan China Enterprises Association and Pakistan China Institute, he said that the Ministry of Information and its associated organizations like Pakistan Television, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan were already engaged with their counterparts in a structured framework to enhance the media cooperation.

Appreciating the Pakistan-China Institute for hosting such a timely and important event, he said, "This event is important in the sense that it will highlight the significance and outstanding work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to the world". He said that the PCI's commitment to promotion of the sustainable endeavors of Chinese enterprises had been pivotal in enhancing the understanding of the public regarding the work of the Chinese enterprises.

"Not even a day passes when we don't hear about development by Chinese enterprises on CPEC projects in the media", he said. The minister said that the professionalism and

consistency through which Chinese enterprises continued work on CPEC despite a global pandemic when almost every project in the world had hit the snag, had been lauded by the governments of Pakistan and China as well as international media, which was flooded with stories regarding the resilience of a project of such magnitude.

The minister noted that over 201-member companies of APCEA have so far, invested \$ 25 billion in Pakistan and employed over 85000 locals, which affirmed the notion of CPEC being a game-changer and demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative. He said in the report, he had also noted that Chinese enterprises had devised sustainable development strategies and have not only remained confined to brick and mortar projects like motorways and power plants, but have also contributed significantly to the empowerment of local communities in previously neglected areas like Thar in Sindh and Gwadar in Balochistan.

He said in one of the documentaries produced by the Pakistan-China Institute, he observed that women were driving dumper trucks on the Port Qasim Coal Power Plant. This was the change, the minister said that the world should be told about.

Similarly, Faqeer Primary School and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, he believed, were the seeds of change being brought by Chinese enterprises. Solangi also appreciated increasing cooperation between Pakistan and China in green development, special economic zones, textile sector, agri-

culture, and digital economy.

On the special invitation of President Xi Jinping, he added, Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar attended the Belt and Road Forum meeting. During the visit, Solangi said, both the countries reaffirmed their commitment to the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and deepened their cooperation across various sectors.

They underlined their support for each other on key issues and emphasized the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in promoting global economic growth, said the minister for information. In the BRI forum, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was recognized as a pioneering project under the BRI, and the two sides agreed to further enhance its development. Additionally, they signed numerous agreements, MoUs and protocols covering various areas of cooperation, including infrastructure, mining, industry, green development, health, space cooperation, digital economy, and many more. The two countries, he said also expressed their joint commitment to regional peace, stability, and the resolution of long-standing disputes. The minister said that Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar invited President Xi Jinping to visit Pakistan, underscoring the strength of their bilateral relations. Solangi said that the continuity of friendly consultations and high-level contacts over the past 70 years had consolidated political consensus between the two countries and deepened mutual trust between the two iron brothers.

## NADRA cancels over 18,000 illegal ID cards

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has canceled over 18,000 illegal identity cards through a robust system, coordinating with other stakeholders, says in media reports.

The step has been taken to address the issue of counterfeit identity cards and fake documents, which pose a threat to national security. New measures include biometric verification of parents and relatives during the processing, SMS alerts to family heads, and two-stage verification for data access. Disciplinary actions are also taken against facilitators of forgery. NADRA has also strengthened its accountability and inquiry system, leading to penalties and dismissal of those involved in illegal practices.

## SC rejects Punjab IG's plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) threw out Punjab IG's appeal against the dismissal of constable Aslam—who was accused of engaging in indecent activities off-duty with a woman. CJP Qazi Faez Isa said that the woman involved in the case claimed that Constable Aslam was her husband.

Additional Advocate General of Punjab appeared before the court. Justice Athar Minallah questioned whether the police can conduct searches of private residences without a warrant. Justice Athar Minallah also questioned whether the Supreme Court should endorse such illegal actions by the police.

The CJP also sought an explanation from police officers who appeared before the case and inquired about their expenses and travel arrangements. A three-member bench led by the Chief Justice of Pakistan gave a verdict in favor of Constable Muhammad Aslam, as the Supreme Court upheld the ruling of the Lahore High Court, which had reinstated him.

## Siraj lands in Tehran

TEHRAN (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq arrived in Tehran on Monday on a four-day visit to discuss the Palestine situation in the wake of aggression of Israeli forces. According to the Secretary Information JI Qaiser Sharif, the JI chief during his visit will meet Iran's political and religious party leaders.

The meetings will focus on the Palestinians' genocide by the occupation forces of Israel in Gaza. Sirajul Haq will also attend different programs meant for the unity of the Muslim Ummah. Meanwhile, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman held a farewell meeting with Hamas leader Khaled Mashal and others in Qatar.

According to Aslam Ghauri, JUI-F spokesperson, Maulana Fazlur Rehman along with a delegation held different meetings with the Hamas leadership in Qatar.

# We are prepared for polls: Sharjeel

F.P. Report

KARACHI: People's Party leader Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that the enemies are seeking to harm Pakistan. The attacks on Pakistan Army soldiers in Pasi and the Air Base in Mianwali were cowardly acts. After the incidents of terrorism, there has been toxic propaganda against the Pakistan Army on social media. We salute all the men of the armed forces.

He mentioned that PPP's stance is that elections should be held either today or tomorrow, we are prepared. The opponents of the People's Party have suffered a significant defeat across Sindh. PPP has never had a level playing field.

Sharjeel Inam Memon, during a press conference at Bilawal House Karachi, along with PPP leaders Saeed Ghani and Surrender Vilasai, mentioned that PPP has achieved great success not only in the elections in Sindh, Kashmir, and Balochistan but also in LG elections. PPP have had a clean sweep across Sindh and expect to do the same



in the upcoming general elections.

He stated that PTT's narrative was against the country, the nation, and its institutions. People do not vote for this ideology. The People's Party struggled against martial law but never attacked the institutions. He said that one party does not want elections, but our position is quite clear that whether elections are held today or tomorrow, we are ready. One party also wants to take credit for making the country a nuclear power, but in fact, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto made Pakistan a nuclear power, Asif Ali

Zardari, who initiated CPEC, deserves recognition.

Sharjeel Inam Memon mentioned that every political party has discussed polarization in the country, but PPP has kept the people united. There is a party advocating for unity. While every party has engaged in divisive politics, Asif Ali Zardari raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khape." He pointed out that in Sindh, those who were critical of MQM's alliance with the People's Party are now forming alliances with MQM. New alliances being formed are not a significant concern.

## ‘Pakistan’s debt burden mounts to \$63.966b’

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's International debt burden continued to rise and reached a whopping \$63.966 billion, at the end of August in FY2023-24, sources said on Monday. According to media reports a briefing session related to the country's debt was held, during which it was revealed that the foreign debt had surged to \$24,174 billion by the end of August, while the local debt had reached Rs 39,791 billion by the same period.

The data presented in the briefing showed that, over the past year, the total loans had witnessed a massive increase of Rs 14,506 billion. It is pertinent to mention here that, in August

2022, the volume of loans was a comparatively modest Rs 49,571 billion. However, the foreign debt of the country stood at \$18 trillion, meanwhile, the local debt was stood at Rs 32,152 billion during the same time period.

Earlier to this development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded tax collection plan of Rs 6670 billion till June 2024 from Pakistan. An IMF review mission reached Pakistan on Wednesday night to review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year—from July to September.

The lender has demanded tax collection report of

all sectors in its projection report. The talks for the next installment of \$700 million tranche began on Thursday. Sources said that the IMF team has stressed that "the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will avoid shortfall in tax collection revenue targets."

The IMF team has also summoned report on Monday from the FBR over progress in tax cases pending in courts, sources said. The FBR has shared details of one million new taxpayers in the tax net with the IMF team. The IMF has demanded details of tax the FBR collecting from each sector. The taxation officials also discussed increasing number of taxpayers to 10 million from 4.9 mln.

# 9 Congo virus patients shifted to Karachi

QUETTA (PPI): One more person, a pharmacist at the local civil hospital, has been confirmed to have contracted Congo virus fever and has been subsequently transferred to Karachi for treatment, the Young Doctors Association (YDA) said on Monday.

Dr. Arif, the YDA spokesperson, revealed that the number of patients affected by Congo virus who have been moved to Karachi for medical care has now reached nine. He expressed concerns about what he perceives as a lack of serious attention from the government toward this matter.

A total of 16 confirmed cases of Congo virus have been reported, and Dr. Arif noted that two more patients are scheduled to be transferred to Karachi for treatment, raising significant concerns within the province. In response to the growing crisis, the

Balochistan government issued a red alert due to the alarming spread of Congo virus fever, which has already claimed 16 lives. The Caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki, has instructed the health and livestock departments to take immediate action to curb the disease's progression.

The chief minister emphasized the importance of swiftly sharing information about the virus with the general public and called for immediate anti-viral spraying in livestock farms. He also underscored the potential severity of this new strain of Congo virus fever and urged prompt medical attention for patients displaying symptoms. Tragically, a doctor diagnosed with the Congo virus succumbed to the illness while being transported to Karachi for treatment. This year, the Fatima Jinnah Hospital in Quetta

has received at least 41 patients with Congo virus, with 16 of them tragically losing their lives.

## 2 brothers killed

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Two teenage brothers were killed while making tiktok video in Ghamkol Sharif area of Kohat on Monday. Police said that while making tiktok video, a teenage accidentally shot dead his youth brothers.

Fearing the wrath of parents, the other teenager also shot him dead with the same weapon. The deceased hailing from Khanawal were aged 11 and 12 years respectively and their bodies were shifted to Divisional Headquarter Hospital for postmortem. The police registered a case into the incident and started an investigation

## PTI Senator Sania Nishtar’s resolution rejected by Senate

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate of Pakistan on Monday rejected a resolution of Senator Sania Nishtar of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for setting up a cross-sectoral task force to identify gaps in financing for the food system.

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, on behalf of the minister concerned, urged the mover to defer the resolution as the minister wanted to respond to it personally. Sanjrani said that the minister could not attend the session due to some government obligations. However, Senator Sania Nishtar insisted to proceed with the resolution and called for a vote. The outcome of the vote showed that only 11 senators voted in favour and 22 against the resolution.

The resolution reads as: "Acknowledging that Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stipulates that the State shall secure the well-being of the people and

provide them with necessities of life, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living; "Observing that in pursuance of Goal No. 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan has committed to achieving "zero hunger"; "Noting with concern that despite being an agrarian economy, Pakistan is far from reaching this goal, with the country being positioned at number 84 out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index 2022 and currently facing record food inflation of 46.8%; "Recognizing Pakistan's growing vulnerability to climate change, which will further threaten food security, as demonstrated by the devastating 2022 flood which resulted in an additional 7.6 million people experiencing food insecurity with 48 percent of households losing their stored cereal stock; "Acknowledging that apart from the good work done in the shape of formulating the National Food Security

Policy of 2018, Pakistan needs an action plan to unify, consolidate, and streamline all efforts toward the goal of ensuring adequate, affordable, safe, and nutritious food for all through sustainable food production, improved land use and reduced food wastage; "The Senate of Pakistan, therefore, urges upon the Government to immediately create a cross-sectoral task force in the country to identify gaps in financing towards our food system and develop a clear understanding of the country's financing needs in line with Pakistan's global commitments ahead of COP-28; "The House also demands that Pakistan should engage with global partners to unlock investments from public, private, and multilateral development banks and philanthropic sources to shift to good food finance and to actively participate in the co-investment platform for food systems transformation that is to be launched at COP-28."

# Israeli massacre continues as Gaza death toll surpasses 10,000

(Continued from Page 1)

There were clashes, according to Al Jazeera, in Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Jenin. Additionally, raids and armed clashes occurred in Tubas. An explosive device was reportedly used against the Israeli military by Palestinian groups there during that raid. In west Ramallah, raids have been carried out in the village of Qatana, and in occupied East Jerusalem seeing an uptick in activity. In the Shu'fat refugee camp, there has been one of the heaviest Israeli military incursions we've seen, with an estimated 300 [Israeli forces] going into the camp. In the town of Anata, Ma'rouf al-Rifai, the adviser to the Palestinian Authority governor of Jerusalem was arrested as a result of raids.

Moreover, a prominent Palestinian activist Ahd Tamimi was also arrested during overnight raids in the occupied West Bank for "inciting terrorism". The Israeli military on Monday identified a soldier who was killed in a gun battle with Palestinian fighters in Gaza. The soldier, identified as Shahar Cohen Mivtach, served in the 9th battalion of the Armoured Corps, according to Israeli forces.

At least 30 Israeli soldiers have been killed since Israel started its ground invasion of Gaza, Al Jazeera reported. Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital,

which was bombed by Israel a few days ago, received 500 bodies after an Israeli strike hit a camp at the beach, according to Dr Ghassan Abu Sitta, a multi-award-winning British-Palestinian plastic surgeon volunteering on the frontlines. Abu Sitta took to X, formerly Twitter, on Monday to make the revelation and later posted a tweet saying: "As of this afternoon, 6 of Shifa hospital's operating rooms will cease to work in order to conserve fuel." His tweets highlight the severity of the current situation in Gaza. The heads of several major United Nations (UN) bodies on Monday made a united call for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza as Israeli strikes intensified nearly one month into the conflict. The 18 signatories include Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths. "An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and places of worship. This is unacceptable," they said in a joint statement. "We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now."

Griffiths on Friday called for humanitarian "pauses" in Israel's

bombardment of the densely populated Palestinian enclave to help aid deliveries, which are far below pre-conflict levels. Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansour responded that Griffiths should call for a full ceasefire. "You should be saying clearly and loudly in line with IHL (International Humanitarian Law) that a ceasefire should take place," Mansour said. "Saving lives should take place. An immediate cessation of all of these hostilities should take place. This is what I expect from you." Israel has rebuffed mounting international pressure for a ceasefire, saying hostages taken by Hamas fighters during their rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7 should be released. Journalists in Gaza have been going through a tough time like any other Gazan as they are witnessing the endless pain the Gazan families are suffering at the hands of the Israeli forces. While they are the sole communication source between Gaza and the world, busy delivering the truth from the frontlines, they have sacrificed their leisure, peace and even their families.

Many journalists have been martyred or are waiting for their turn as Israel continues bombing facilities where innocent Palestinians and journalists take shelter. When asked what they would do when the Israel-Gaza war is over, many journalists said that

they will "forget about the world" and "never return". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had tough discussions in Turkey on Monday aimed at calming down one of Washington's most strategic, yet challenging allies, regarding the recent bloodshed in Gaza.

This was Blinken's first visit since Israel's retaliation against Hamas for the Oct 7 attack that has stirred up anger towards both Israel and the West, which is evident from the protests on the streets of Turkey and in the palace of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse hundreds of protesters who marched on an air base housing US forces in Turkey's southeast hours before Blinken's arrival Sunday, AFP reported. Erdogan himself was travelling across Turkey's remote northeast Monday in a seeming snub of Washington's top diplomat.

Blinken's closed-door talks with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan in Ankara would have been packed with problems even before Israel launched a relentless bombing and expanding ground campaign aimed at eradicating Hamas. The war threatens to have broad repercussions on Washington's relations with Turkey — a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member with a muscular foreign policy and stakes in conflicts

across the Middle East.

**Opponents of ceasefire in Gaza are 'endorsing and justifying death':** Queen Rania of Jordan on Sunday urged a collective call for a ceasefire in Gaza and said those who are opposed to a truce were "endorsing and justifying the death of thousands of civilians." In an in-depth interview with CNN's Becky Anderson, Queen Rania responded to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's rejection of a ceasefire while in Amman.

After meeting Arab leaders on Saturday, Blinken said a ceasefire in Gaza would only enable more Hamas attacks. Queen Rania said: "There has to be a collective call for a ceasefire and I know some who are against a ceasefire argue that it will help Hamas. However, in that argument they are inherently dismissing the death, and in fact endorsing and justifying the death of thousands of civilians. That is just morally reprehensible, short-sighted and not entirely rational."

"If [Israel] manage to eliminate all of Hamas, the root cause of this conflict is its illegal occupation, routine human rights abuses, illegal settlements, disregard to UN resolutions and international law. If we do not address the root causes, you can kill the combatant but you cannot kill the cause." Queen Rania denounced the "catastrophic humanitarian situation"

in Gaza, and asked: "How many more people have to die before our global conscience awakes? Or is it forever dormant when it comes to the Palestinians?"

She noted that there had been nearly 10,000 deaths in Gaza since the war began, almost half of them children. "These are not just numbers. Each one of these children was somebody's everything," she said. "There's an acronym in Gaza, W.C.N.S.F.: Wounded Child with No Surviving Family," she added. "That's an acronym that should never exist, but it does exist in Gaza."

When asked about Israel's claims that civilians were being used as human shields, Queen Rania stressed that while the use of human shields was "criminal," under international law, Israel had a responsibility to avoid civilian deaths. "Before firing any bullet, before dropping any bomb, it is the responsibility of the nation to weigh the risk to civilian life. And if that risk is disproportionate to the military target, then it is deemed unlawful." Her Majesty said. Although many of Israel's evacuation orders are issued online or on television, Her Majesty said she does not believe that these orders are for the benefit of the Gaza civilians, given the fact that electricity in the Gaza Strip has been cut off for weeks.